

Finance & Economic Development Committee

September 24, 2020 at 9:00 am

County Board Room

Present: Mike Belin, Laura Nagro, Pat Kinney, Ron Sztynodor, Martin Vitek

Others: Clark Schroeder, Lori Schmidt, Brittany Goudos, Gary Mertig, Tracey Hoglund, ? Maday, Betsy Harries, Lissa Radke, Chris Hoffman, Sue Misun, Amber ?, Rich Huber, Sherry Machones, Mary Pardee, Terry Barningham, Mary Jo Gingras

Mike Berlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and roll call was taken. Motion by Ron Sztynodor, second by Laura Nagro to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. There were no public comments at this time.

Motion by Martin Vitek, second by Ron Sztynodor to approve the August 27, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The 4th quarter request for AADC was presented at this time. Motion by Laura Nagro, second by Pat Kinney to approve the 4th quarter request in the amount of \$6,250 to AADC for economic development. Motion carried.

Betsy Harries gave an update regarding area businesses dealing with Covid. Betsy stated that some are struggling while others are booming. The Science Center is on pause at this time. Discussion followed. Clark Schroeder gave an update on the Revolving Loans. There is a balance of \$508,391 which will be used for roads as previously approved.

Clark Schroeder discussed Forestry and County owned land. The stumpage has been reduced in the 2021 budget by \$250,000 . Clark asked the Committee how they would feel about investing in forest lands. Chris Hoffman explained how this would work, it would take time and money from the County in order to do this. Pat Kinney stated that he is in favor of doing research on this. Motion by Pat Kinney to direct the staff to research purchasing lands and the cost related to the land coming off the tax roll. Second by Martin Vitek. Motion carried.

Clark Schroeder then held discussion regarding the 2021 budget. The levy can only be increased by \$24,322. Clark stated that he is proposing creating a new bill removing the court systems from the County levy and to have it be a levy of it's own such as the libraries. The proposed budget will go the full Board on October 6, 2020 for action.

Regarding Administrator updates – Clark Schroeder stated that he is applying for a DOJ grant of \$58,000 to help with some of the Covid costs. A temporary closure of bars/tavern will begin on September 25, 2020 at 12:01 and end on October 11, 2020 at 11:59, restaurants will remain open but their bar sections will be closed. Clark also gave an update on a gas station in Glidden that the County has taken back on unpaid real estate taxes.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Motion to adjourn by Martin Vitek with a second by Laura Nagro. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Lori Schmidt,
Administrative Assistant