

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

March 21, 2017

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., in the County Board Room, located on the Third Floor of the Courthouse, 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present included: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, Fred Clary, Bob Bellman, Linda Gentes, Buford Marshall, Larry Sebranek and Don Seep.

Others present included: Victor Vlasak, County Clerk; County Board Supervisors Bryan Myers and Kerry Severson; Bob Simpson; and county elected officials, department heads and employees.

Committee Chairman Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order.

The Clerk verified that the meeting had been properly noticed. Copies of the agenda were sent by email to all Committee members, WRCO and County department heads, a copy was posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board and a copy was faxed to The Richland Observer.

Motion by Gentes, second by Bellman that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Seep, second by Sebranek that the minutes for the March 7th meeting be approved. Motion carried.

The agenda item regarding Richland Center Tax Deed Parcel Number 276-2100-1781 was brought on to the floor for discussion. The parcel had been appraised at \$1,000.00 by the Property, Building and Grounds Committee. An escrow in the amount of \$4,000 was required of the purchaser to assure the removal of the building, proper disposal of the building and its contents and that the site is cleaned up to the County's satisfaction. No written or oral bids were received at the January 3rd tax deed sale. A bid was received from Rich Wanless, Wanless Construction, in the amount of \$9,250.00 for the removal of the home and basement and disposal of the materials. Bob Simpson has come forward expressing interest in purchasing the parcel and cleaning up the site. Corporation Counsel Southwick has advised that the Property, Building and Grounds Committee can appraise the parcel at \$1.00 and require an escrow to assure proper cleanup of the parcel. Motion by Clary, second by Sebranek to grant authority to the Property, Building and Grounds Committee to reappraise the parcel for \$1.00 and require an escrow of \$9,250.00 to assure removal of the house and basement and disposal of the materials and grant authority to the Property, Building and Grounds Committee to sell the parcel. Motion carried.

Register of Deeds Sue Triggs addressed the Committee recommending that the employment of Deputy Register of Deeds Melony Walters continue at regular status at the completion of her probationary period of employment. Motion by Sebranek, second by Bellman to approve the recommendation. Motion carried. The change in employment status will take place on April 19, 2017.

Strategies for increasing revenues and reducing expenses were discussed.

Sheriff Bindl provided an update on projected revenue increases resulting from increasing fees relating to the electronic monitoring program. Discussion followed regarding the effectiveness of the program.

The Committee ranked the following category of items committee members would support as a strategy for reducing expenses and increasing revenues. The items were prioritized by the Committee members as follows:

The highest ranked category was employee benefits. That category included:

- Payment by employees of 100% of the dental insurance premiums.
- Phase out or reduction of the cap for banked sick leave hours.
- Increased percentage of health insurance premium that the employees pay.

The second highest ranked category was:

- Resolution requiring 2018 departmental tax levy allocation reductions of 15%.

The third highest ranked category was staffing levels and hours worked. That category includes as follows:

- Imposition of a hiring freeze.
- Reinstatement of furlough days.
- Reduction of hours worked per week to 32 hours.

The fourth highest ranked category was;

- Referendum to exceed the tax levy limits.

Others items discussed by the Committee included:

- Hiring a county administrator and or financial director for more oversight of county finances.
- A study of staffing patterns to determine any duplication of services and possible reductions of staff.
- Explore economic development with the city or another entity.

Chris Glasbrenner, Pine Valley Human Resources Director, reviewed proposed changes to the Pine Valley Addendum to the County's Handbook of Personnel Policies and Work Rules. Motion by Seep, second by Sebranek to approve the proposed changes. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshall, second by Gentes to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Victor V. Vlasak
Richland County Clerk