

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Tuesday, May 5, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Wood County Courthouse – Room 114

PRESENT: Ed Wagner, Donna Rozar, Lance Pliml, Adam Fischer, Mike Feirer

OTHERS PRESENT (for part or all of the meeting): Bill Clendenning, Dennis Polach, Lisa Keller, Kim McGrath, Kelli Quinnell, Ed Newton, Peter Kastenzholz, Heather Gehrt, Brandon Vruwink, Jonette Arms, Michael Loy, Steve Kroll, Lance Leonhard, Adam Fandre, Tim Deaton, Phillip Steele, Shawn Becker

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wagner.

Wagner requested to postpone the Developers Agreement with Savion and discussion of Adult Protective Services proposal items on the agenda until Corporation Counsel Kastenzholz could attend the meeting. There was no objection.

Wagner called for nominations for Vice Chair. Pliml nominated Rozar.

Motion by Fischer to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Rozar Vice Chair of the Operations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no discussion on any items in the Consent Agenda.

Motion (Feirer/Fischer) to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Rozar gave a brief update of the status of the County Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued.

Motion (Fischer/Pliml) to have a resolution for the County Strategic Plan to come before the Operations Committee at a special meeting preceding County Board on May 19, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Finance Director Newton presented a resolution to amend the 2019 Norwood Health Center budget. Supervisor Clendenning questioned the origin of the resolution. Discussion ensued. It was determined that the resolution originated from Finance and was therefore appropriate to come to the Operations Committee.

Motion (Fischer/Rozar) to approve the resolution to amend the 2019 Norwood Health Center budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Newton presented a resolution to amend the 2019 Coroner budget.

Motion (Feirer/Fischer) to approve the resolution to amend the 2019 Coroner budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Newton presented a resolution to amend the 2019 Transportation and Economic Development budget.

Motion (Fischer/Rozar) to approve the resolution to amend the 2019 Transportation and Economic Development budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Newton presented a resolution to amend the 2020 Sheriff's Department budget.

Motion (Rozar/Feirer) to approve the resolution to amend the 2020 Sheriff's Department budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Gehrt discussed Act 185 with the Committee. Gehrt stated that she doesn't feel it would be beneficial for the County to pass a resolution under Act 185 at this time. Gehrt asked the Committee how they would like to proceed. Discussion ensued.

Motion (Rozar/Pliml) to authorize County Board Chair Pliml to send out a press release stating that Wood County will not be participating in the provisions under Act 185. Motion carried unanimously.

Wellness Coordinator Fandre gave an update on Wellness activities. The current focus is on helping employees navigate through the current pandemic and finding resources for them. Rozar thanked Fandre for the work that he has been doing assisting employees.

Fandre explained that, due to the current pandemic, it is challenging for employees to complete biometric screenings. Fandre put the deadlines on hold for the Wellness Program, but would like direction from the Committee going forward. Discussion ensued. The consensus of the Committee was to put this topic on the agenda for the June meeting.

Human Resources Director McGrath gave the Committee an update on the Finance Director recruitment. McGrath explained that the final candidate the former Executive Committee selected is still very interested in the position, however, recruitment continues for the position. Discussion ensued. The consensus of the Committee was to continue to pursue the final candidate that was previously selected and to continue recruiting at the same time.

Rozar explained the four recommendations of the Adhoc Health Insurance Committee:

- 1) Repay the General Fund \$1.5 million
- 2) Eliminate the Retiree Health Insurance Plan and only offer COBRA
- 3) Look into a PEHP buy-out
- 4) Consider paying employees to not take the County Health Insurance

Discussion ensued on how to approach paying back the General Fund.

Motion (Rozar) to pay \$500,000 back to the General Fund from the Health Fund as soon as possible. Motion died for lack of a second.

The Committee discussed taking a slower approach to paying the General Fund back due to the uncertainty surrounding the current pandemic and the potential impacts on the Health Fund that could occur.

Motion (Rozar/Pliml) to pay back \$250,000 to the General Fund from the Health Fund every quarter until \$1.5 million is reimbursed beginning Quarter 2 of 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding eliminating the Retiree Health Insurance Plan ensued.

Motion (Pliml/Rozar) to eliminate the Retiree Health Insurance Plan effective October 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee decided not to address the other two recommendations from the Adhoc Health Insurance Committee at this time.

Tim Deaton of The Horton Group gave a presentation on the Health Insurance. Mr. Deaton informed the Committee that he will be attending the Adhoc Health Insurance Committee meeting on May 19, 2020 with pre-renewal projections as well as some projections for potential low, medium, and high impacts due to COVID-19. Mr. Deaton stated that Wood County is currently in a good place financially and that the County will most likely see a decrease in premiums for the next year.

Corporation Counsel Kastenholz discussed the work he has been doing on the Developers Agreement with Savion. Discussion ensued. The Committee directed Kastenholz to continue working with Savion on an agreement.

Jonette Arms, Executive Director of the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC), presented a Due Diligence Report to the Committee on taking over Adult Protective Services (APS) for Marathon, Lincoln, and Langlade Counties from North Central Health Care. Discussion ensued at length. Marathon County Administrator Lance Leonhard and North Central Health Center Chief Executive Officer Michael Loy participated in the discussion as well. Questions were raised on the allocation of funds as Wood County would not be utilizing the ADRC for APS. The consensus of the Committee was to have Corporation Counsel Kastenholz work with the ADRC to discuss the contract.

Philip Steele of Cerity Partners gave a presentation on their offerings for a Deferred Compensation Benefit. The consensus of the Committee was to consider this further after more research is conducted.

Break at 12:15 p.m. Reconvene at 12:26 p.m.

Human Resources Director McGrath gave a brief recap of the events of the last few months in relation to the wages for the County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer. Fischer expressed that his opinion is that a wage needed to be set by April 15, 2020 in order to be in effect for the next term of office for those elected officials, and because the resolution never made it to County Board, they cannot be part of the pay plan. Pliml expressed that he disagrees with Fischer's opinion and he believes that the current resolution allows the elected officials to stay in the pay plan and receive a cost of living adjustment (COLA) every year. Corporation Counsel Kastenholz stated that his interpretation of the law is that the elected officials cannot be put into the new pay plan and need to remain in a continuation of the current plan. Discussion ensued at length. The consensus of the Committee was that further information is needed.

Rozar explained that money was requested by UWSP at Marshfield on a CIP for 2020. There is documentation that the amount was requested, but it was never entered into the budgeted. The amount carried over from 2019 is \$37,000 and the total amount requested for 2020 with the carryover was \$52,000. They are requesting \$15,000 out of contingency to cover the budgeting error.

Motion (Rozar/Feirer) to add \$15,000 to the budget via a resolution that will be brought before the Committee at the special meeting prior to County Board on May 19, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Clendenning requested that the Committee consider placing a discussion of elected official wages on the agenda for the special meeting prior to County Board on May 19, 2020. Pliml indicated that placing it on the agenda is not necessary and he would connect with von Briesen & Roper, s.c. separately about this topic.

Items for next regular agenda: Wellness Deadlines
Presentation from Bob Moore

Items for special meeting agenda: County Strategic Plan Resolution
UWSP at Marshfield Greenhouse Resolution
Update on Elected Official Wages

The next regular meeting of the Operations Committee is Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

There will be a special Operations Committee meeting preceding the County Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Motion (Rozar/Fischer) to go into closed session at 1:07 p.m. pursuant to §19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats., to confer with the HR Director, Sheriff, and Corporation Counsel regarding a settlement offer in the Reichert litigation.

Roll call vote: Pliml: yes, Rozar: yes, Wagner: yes, Fischer: yes, Feirer: yes. Motion carried.

Motion (Fischer/Pliml) to return to open session at 1:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion (Rozar/Fischer) to go into closed session at 1:14 p.m. pursuant to §19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats., to review offer to purchase of land south of Avon Street Parking Lot.

Roll call vote: Pliml: yes, Rozar: yes, Wagner: yes, Fischer: yes, Feirer: yes. Motion carried.

Motion (Fischer/Pliml) to return to open session at 1:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Kelli Quinnell. Minutes in draft form until approved at the next meeting.