

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 17, 2020  
**TIME:** 8:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Wood County Courthouse – Conference Room 114

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

**OTHERS PRESENT** (for part or all of the meeting, in person or via Webex): Dennis Polach, Jake Hahn, Ken Curry, Joe Zurfluh, Allen Breu, Al Thurber, Ed Newton, Marissa Laher, Kathy Alft, Lisa Keller, Amy Kaup, Shawn Becker, Sue Kunferman, Reuben Van Tassel, Jason DeMarco, Trent Miner, Jordon Bruce, Mary Solheim, Mary Schlagenhaft, Jo Timmerman, Jodi Liegl, Brandon Vruwink, Jason Grueneberg, Nanci Olson, Erik Engel, Steve Kreuser, Lori Heideman, John Peckham, Chad Schooley, Roland Hawk, Craig Lambert, Heather Gehrt, Cindy Joosten, Tiffany Ringer, Brent Vruwink, Jason Hausler, Kim McGrath, Bill Voight, Andy Barnett (McMillan Memorial Library), Jill Porter (Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library), Darla Allen (Charles & JoAnn Lester Library)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wagner at 8:00 a.m.

There were no public comments.

Chair Wagner provided an introduction to the budget overview and briefly reviewed the parameters that were set for the budget process. Finance Director Thurber shared a brief overview of the 2021 budget as a whole as of the current date.

**Budget Meetings**

Health: Health Director Kunferman presented the Health budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Veterans: Supervisor Rozar presented the Veterans budget. No questions or discussion.

Edgewater Haven: Human Services Director Vruwink presented the Edgewater Haven budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Norwood: Human Services Director Vruwink presented the Norwood budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Human Services: Human Services Director Vruwink presented the Human Services budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Sheriff: Sheriff Becker presented the Sheriff budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Dispatch: The Committee reviewed the Dispatch budget. No questions or discussion followed.

Communications: Communications Director Engel presented the Communications budget. Discussion regarding priorities and desirables in the Communications budget followed. The Committee decided to place the oscillators as high priority and the new truck as desirable/optional.

Coroner: The Committee reviewed the Coroner budget. No questions or discussion followed.

Humane Officer: Humane Officer Olson presented the Humane Officer budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Emergency Management: Emergency Management Director Kreuser presented the Emergency Management budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Highway: Highway Commissioner Hawk presented the Highway budget. Question and general discussion followed.

Parks & Forestry: Parks & Forestry Director Schooley presented the Parks & Forestry budget. Discussion regarding differentiating between maintenance and CIP requests ensued.

Clerk of Courts: Clerk of Courts Joosten presented the Clerk of Courts budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Circuit Courts: The Committee reviewed the Circuit Court budgets. No questions or discussion followed.

Criminal Justice Coordinator: Supervisor Fischer presented the Criminal Justice Coordinator budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

District Attorney: District Attorney Lambert presented the District Attorney budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Corporate Counsel: The Committee reviewed the Corporate Counsel budget. No questions or discussion followed.

Register of Deeds: Register of Deeds Ringer presented the Register of Deeds budget. Ringer stated that there is a discrepancy between the budget that the Judicial & Legislative Committee approved and what was given to this Committee. Finance will correct the discrepancy. Questions and general discussion followed.

Child Support: Child Support Director Vruwink presented the Child Support budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Break at 9:50 a.m. Reconvene at 9:59 a.m.

UW Extension: Area Extension Director Hausler presented the UW Extension budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Planning & Zoning: Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented the Planning & Zoning budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Transportation & Economic Development: Planning & Zoning Director Grueneberg presented the Transportation & Economic Development budget. Grueneberg explained that the CEED Committee feels it is important to invest more in the Economic Development of Wood County because of COVID and the closure of the Verso mill, which is the reason for the increase in the budget. Questions and discussion followed.

Maintenance: Facilities Manager Van Tassel presented the Maintenance budget. No questions or discussion followed.

Information Technology: IT Director Kaup presented the IT budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Land & Water Conservation: County Conservationist Wucherpfennig presented the Land & Water Conservation budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Treasurer: Treasurer Gehrt presented the Treasurer budget. No questions or discussion followed.

County Clerk: County Clerk Miner presented the County Clerk budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Human Resources: Human Resources Director McGrath presented the Human Resources budget. No questions or discussion followed.

Finance: Finance Director Thurber presented the Finance budget. Questions and general discussion followed.

Ho-Chunk: The Committee reviewed the Ho-Chunk budget.

Contingency: Finance Director Thurber presented the Contingency budget and stated that they are recommending \$450,000.

PILOT: The Committee reviewed the PILOT budget.

Marshfield Fairgrounds: The Committee reviewed the Marshfield Fairgrounds budget. Questions and general discussion ensued.

UW Marshfield: Supervisor Rozar presented the UW Marshfield budget. No questions or discussion due to flat budget.

Break at 11:08 a.m. Reconvene at 12:46 p.m.

Wood County Libraries: Andy Barnett, Director of McMillan Memorial Library, presented the Wood County Libraries budget on behalf of the Library Committee. Discussion ensued at length regarding the reimbursement requested from the Library Committee and the expenses that the libraries incur. The Committee requested to see budgets detailing operational expenses for the libraries. Mr. Barnett indicated that he will provide that information to the Committee.

Finance Director Thurber stated that his team needs to do some work now to determine what the levy limit is and he will need about two weeks to get through it. Thurber stated that it will be prepared for the next regular Committee meeting in October and he will place it on the agenda.

Chair Wagner adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

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