

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023
MINUTES
FOLLOWING COUNTY OFFICES MEETING**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Dave Meinhold, Autum Jones, Jim Baumann, John Krug, Denise Durst all present.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of June 14, 2023, minutes

Motion to approve June minutes made by Jones, seconded by Durst. There were no corrections made. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

None

5. Approval of Claims

a. Approval of July 2023 Claims

Motion to approve July claims made by Krug, seconded by Baumann. *Motion passed.*

6. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Andres gave the Treasurer's report. Two of the accounts – MDP and Tort Judgement – appear to be overdrawn. This happens every year because of the way the bills are paid and the disbursement of the taxes. These accounts are no longer overdrawn. All fund balances are doing well. The one revolving loan account made two payments in June. The Premium and Claims account is now over \$700,000 which is where it usually is. The ARPA report is updated each month. That fund is receiving around \$106 a month in interest. ARPA funds must be obligated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. While we have passed an Ordinance to allocate ARPA funds to, that Ordinance does not constitute an official obligation. An executed agreement with a company is an official obligation. Discussion on the Sheriff's projects and where they stand. We have flexibility with what was allocated to the Highway. The new Highway Building was budgeted for over several years. If ARPA funds are available to help offset the building costs, then the budgeted money can be put back into the Highway 13 project and fixing county roads. The sales tax money continues to come in. As of July 1, the 1 cent grocery tax was reinstated so tax revenue will continue to grow. The Treasurer has no concerns about any of the accounts.

7. Budget

a. IT discussion/update

The department heads met with two different companies and heard presentations from them on what they could offer the county. After speaking with the State's Attorney, an RFP needs to be written to hire IT. The RFP will restrict it to local companies and techs who have government experience. After the presentations, the department heads discussed what they wanted. They felt one company was too small to handle our needs. The department heads want someone on site. They did not feel that they would receive

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this with either company. They felt that Facit would just be a replacement for Heart as they would not have a person on site. This would just be a lateral move. There would be no one to handle the phones. Department heads really want someone on site and feel a tier 1 tech would be sufficient. We would still have Heart, but also have a tier 1 on site. The committee asked the department heads how many days a week to they want someone on site? Do we want to hire, or do we want a company to hire? Who do they report to -- the county or the company? Companies try to do everything remotely. Companies take care of the company, not the county. No matter who we hire, they probably won't have all the certifications that are needed. That is where the company would come in. The tier 1 tech may not have the right certificate, but someone in the company would. If we hire a tier 3, they won't do tier 1 work. We also must remember that this tech will not just be in Eureka. We have sites in Roanoke, Germantown Hills, Minonk, etc. that need to be serviced as well. It was brought up that when the jail was built the county didn't have any input -- they trusted the vendor. Well, things weren't done the way the county would have liked. We need someone to look out for the county. The Sheriff is currently having problems with the GPS tablets. He has been sending them home with the deputies and having them try and work on them. This is something a tier 1 tech could do. If we hire a tech and he goes on vacation, we would have no one on site. A company could provide another tech to cover the vacationing tech. Our contract with Heart has built in tech 1 work. Heart is tech 3. Our contract with Heart would decrease because we would be removing the tier 1 work. Because none of the department heads or board members are IT people, we need to call other counties who have on site techs and ask them what we need to be looking for. It is hard to write an RFP when we don't know what the department heads want. Mr. Nagel and Mr. Meinhold will work together to write RFP. We don't necessarily have to do a contract, can do pay for fee. It was mentioned that we could work with a college and see about getting in intern tier 1 and they would receive college credit. The problem with that is you must have certain licensing to work in certain government components. Our Heart contract is up in December.

b. ARPA Status

A request was sent to entities asking for ways they could use ARPA funds before the restrictions were lifted allowing the county to ARPA funds on needed projects. Several of those entities have continued to advocate for their cause. Secor made a request for water upgrades. They have no funding and no businesses for tax revenue. El Paso and Eureka Rescue and Fire Protection districts have made requests for supplies for their ambulances. Caterpillar Water district has requested help in connecting to a main water line. These entities have continued to advocate for their cause. It was brought up that before the restrictions were lifted, letters were sent to those entities that did not qualify telling them that they did not qualify. Had those letters not been sent, more entities may have stayed diligent to their cause. Some committee members would like to move forward and give some monies to the four entities that have been diligent. It was brought up that we have until 2024 to obligate the funds. We need to hold off on giving other entities funds until we know the exact amount of the projects the county has. Plus, if we start handing out money now, others will come forward wanting funds. We need to set

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up criteria for allocating funds to outside entities. While one entity has already bought and paid for the equipment they wanted, they do not have a situation of need. Water, however, is an essential need. Once it is decided that we will allocate funds to an entity, how do the board members respond when asked why one entity received funds and they did not. The best way to answer would be to say the funds were applied to the most needed. There will always be times when money is spent in one district but not another. If we are talking about the greater good of the whole county, that would be putting the money for road repair work. We will hold off on allocating any funds at this time.

c. Approval of Resolution 2022/23 #067 Increasing the Salary of the Public Defender

This is set by state statute. Motion to approve the increase in the Public Defender made by Jones, seconded by Durst. *Motion passed.*

d. ARPA Funds for Election Equipment (Approved by Ordinance 2021/22 #013)
The election equipment was approved in Ordinance 2021/22 #013, but the County Clerk has held off purchasing. She must have one voting booth for every 75 registered voters. She has to have 350 voting booths throughout the county. She is working with the township road commissioners and supervisors to see what kind of booths work for them. She is confident that it will come in under \$100,000 but will bring that quote back later.

8. New Business

9. Unfinished Business

10. Other

11. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote

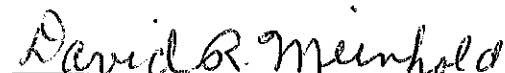
12. Any action coming out of Executive Session

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Krug, seconded by Baumann. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman


Dave Meinhold, Chairman
Finance Committee