

**Administration Committee – Budget Hearings**  
**October 11, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Chairman David Hintz, Ted Cushing, Sonny Paszak, and Jerry Shidell. Excused: Denny Thompson.

**Others present:** Margie Sorenson (Finance); Freeman Bennett, Brian Dutcher and Lisa Jolin (Solid Waste); Karl Jennrich and Denise Hoppe (Planning & Zoning); Lisa Charbarneau (LRES); Anna Kazda (Animal Shelter); Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts); Mike Romportl (Land Information); Sheriff Grady Hartman, John Sweeney and Ken Korten Hof (Sheriff's Department/Emergency Management); Supervisor Bob Martini; Erica Brewster, Lynn Feldman and Tim Brown (UWEX); Supervisor Bob Mott; Kyle Franson (Register of Deeds); Lynn Grube (ITS); Jonathan Anderson (media) and Kerri Ison (Recording Secretary).

**Call to order:** Chairman David Hintz called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse noting the meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

**Approve agenda:** Motion Cushing/Paszak to approve today's amended agenda as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Sorenson provided an overview of actions take thus far in the budget hearings.

**Solid Waste:** Freeman Bennett, Brian Dutcher and Lisa Jolin were present to discuss the Solid Waste 2014 proposed budget. Bennett provided a year-to-date summary and reviewed in detail. Discussion followed regarding the need to repair the scale shack, future need to replace end loader, current revenue streams, etc. Shidell noted Bennett's salary is paid by the Highway Department but he spends 30% of his time on Solid Waste duties and Dutcher uses a truck which is paid for by the Highway Department. Shidell believes these should be paid through the Solid Waste budget.

- Motion by Shidell/Hintz to transfer \$38,000 from the Solid Waste budget to the Highway Department to cover the cost of Bennett's salary and the cost of the use of the truck, thus decreasing the Highway Department levy. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Cushing/Paszak to tentatively approve the amended 2014 Solid Waste budget and forward to County Board for their approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**Other budgets:** Sorenson received a request for funding from the Rail Commission which is not included in the budget. Discussion followed. Motion by Hintz/Paszak to support the Rail Transit Commission in the amount of \$500. All ayes; motion carried.

**Planning & Zoning:** Jennrich and Hoppe were present to discuss the proposed 2014 Planning and Zoning budget.

- Motion by Cushing/Hintz to add \$10,000 to 56140.468300 (P&Z revenues). Lengthy discussion followed regarding permits, fees, projects and future technology upgrades. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Paszak/Hintz to tentatively approve the proposed 2014 Planning & Zoning budget and forward to County Board for approval. Jennrich provided departmental history including permits, revenue and staffing levels. Lengthy discussion followed regarding staffing levels versus revenue. Ayes-three; nay-one. Motion carried.

**LRES:** Charbarneau was present to discuss the proposed 2014 LRES budget. Discussion followed.

- Motion by Shidell/Cushing to tentatively approve the 2014 proposed budget and forward to the County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**Other budgets:** Discussion was held regarding the Sundry General Government account (accrued compensated absences) which is used for PTO payouts. Sorenson noted this is approximately 68% funded and discussed trends/policies for PTO payouts.

- Motion by Shidell/Cushing to reduce 51990.511208 (accrued compensated absences) by \$7,000. All ayes; motion carried.

Further discussion was held on other budgets including revolving loan, debt service, airport commission, health insurance trust.

- Motion by Cushing/Shidell to approve the other budgets as listed: County Board, Commissions and Committees, Libraries, Central Postage, Center Telephone, Central Duplicating, Finance Department, Independent Audit, Cost Allocation Plan, Central Purchasing, Sundry General Government (as amended), Regional Reference Library, North Central Regional Planning, Reserve for Contingency, Revolving Loan, Debt Service, Airport Construction and Health Insurance Trust. All ayes; motion carried.

**Animal Shelter:** Kazda was present to discuss the proposed 2014 budget for the Animal Shelter. She noted the City of Rhinelander has agreed to fund the Shelter at \$46,000 for 2014. Discussion followed.

- Motion by Cushing/Shidell to accept the Animal Shelter budget request of \$40,000. All ayes; motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding levy limits.

**Register of Deeds:** Franson returned to discuss the redaction project and funding sources. Franson spoke with Grube (ITS) regarding a time line. He also spoke with other Registrars regarding use of funds for county salaries and fringe benefits. Desmond reviewed the State Statute and Act regarding these funds. He felt the funding is not restricted and the redaction project would be a viable option to use those funds. Lengthy discussion followed regarding employee time (ITS and Register of Deeds) devoted to this project.

- Motion by Hintz/Cushing to use state funds to fund the redaction project in the amount of \$5,000. All ayes; motion carried.

**Clerk of Courts:** Behrle was present to discuss the proposed 2014 Clerk of Courts budget. She provided history of citations and number of cases filed by type. Lengthy discussion was held regarding decreased revenues, staffing levels and services provided.

- Motion by Cushing/Paszak to tentatively approve the proposed 2014 Clerk of Courts budget. Discussion followed.
- Motion by Cushing/Paszak to reduce 51220.523312 (jury fees) from \$26,000 to \$24,000. Discussion followed. All ayes; motion carried.
- Original motion was amended to tentatively approve the Clerk of Courts budget as amended and forward to County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**Land Information:** Romportl was present to discuss the proposed 2014 Land Information budget.

- Motion by Cushing/Hintz to apply \$2,000 from 101.342011 (continuing appropriation remonumentation) to 521901 (remonumentation). All ayes; motion carried.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding Land Information fees, projects and using fees to offset personnel costs.

- Motion Cushing/Hintz to increase 59990.483100 (sale of county property) by \$1,500. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by to Paszak/Hintz to tentatively approve the 2014 Land Information budget as amended and forward to County Board for approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**Recess:** The Committee recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

**Sheriff's Department:** Sheriff Hartman, Sweeney and Kortenhof returned with tentative account adjustments to the 2014 budget as requested. Lengthy discussion was held regarding these adjustments, past budgets and shared services, noting public safety is a priority. Shidell suggested alterations be made with the jail setup to possibly reduce staff hours and would like staff and the Public Safety Committee to explore these ideas. Discussion followed regarding funding for the computer crime project. Sorenson suggested the Administration Committee make a separate motion as this transfer of funds would normally take place with a line item transfer.

- Motion by Cushing/Paszak to transfer \$90,000 from the Phase II Radio project to the Computer Crime project. Ayes-three; nay-one. Motion carried.
- Motion by Paszak/Cushing to adopt the changes offered by the Sheriff's Department in the amount \$100,000 (line items may be adjusted) as presented by the Sheriff's Department. All ayes; motion carried.

Shidell discussed law enforcement costs of special events (i.e. Hodag County Festival).

- Motion by Shidell/Cushing to assess \$25,000 to the Hodag Country Festival to cover law enforcement expenses incurred. Paszak felt other events would need to be included such as motorcycle ride and Beeforama. Shidell disagreed as Country Fest is a private event held on private land. Discussion followed. Hintz felt this should be evaluated by the Public Safety Committee.
- Motion by Cushing/Shidell to refer the issue of charging Hodag Country Fest \$25,000 for law enforcement expenses to the Public Safety Committee for their consideration. All ayes; motion carried.
- Motion by Cushing/Hintz to forward the amended Sheriff's Department budget to County Board for their approval. All ayes; motion carried.

**UW-Extension:** Brewster was present to discuss the 2014 proposed budget for the Fair and UW-Extension. Brewster provided a financial report for the 2013 Fair and reviewed in detail. She noted there were an enormous amount of volunteer hours that were committed to the event and the desire to hire a paid Fair Coordinator. This would be a contracted position funded by increased revenue.

Discussion followed regarding carry forward funds.

- Motion by Cushing/Paszak to tentatively accept the 2014 proposed Fair budget and forward to the County Board for approval. Discussion followed.
- Motion amended by Shidell to apply \$5,000 of the carry forward account and apply to the budget. Motion failed due to no second.
- Ayes-three; nay-one. Original motion carried.

Brewster discussed the UWEX proposed 2014 budget in detail. Shidell referenced the Efficiency Report done several years ago noting UW-Extension is a non-mandated service (desirable service). He doesn't believe this is a needed service as the Internet and technology are supplanting the

department's service; therefore the department could be eliminated completely. He noted his comments are not personal. Feldman spoke to youth issues. Discussion followed.

- Motion by Hintz/Cushing to tentatively accept the UWEX 2014 proposed budget and forward to County Board for their approval. Ayes-three; nay-one.

**ITS:** Grube returned to discuss the VOIP (voice-over IP) project and projected savings discussed at earlier in the budget hearing process. Lengthy discussion followed. Grube agreed that the projected savings of \$15,000 is a good estimate for 2014. Discussion followed regarding cell phone usage/costs.

**Review of entire 2014 County budget:**

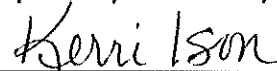
- Motion by Shidell/Paszak to reduce the OCEDC contribution by \$5,000. Lengthy discussion followed. Roll call vote: Shidell-aye; Hintz-nay; Cushing-nay; Paszak-nay. Motion failed.

Sorenson reviewed action take during the hearings. The increase in the tax levy is approximately \$400,000 (2.67%), thus increasing taxes by \$6.00/\$100,000 home. Currently the budget is under the levy limits and Sorenson recommended general fund money be applied to the ambulance levy to assume the increase in the levy limits.

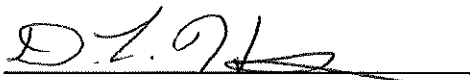
- Motion Cushing/Hintz to apply \$216,000 general fund money to the ambulance levy. Lengthy discussion followed. Shidell understands Sorenson's recommendation but believes it is best to hold the levy limits and restrict future tax increases. Roll call vote: Shidell-nay; Hintz-aye; Cushing-aye; Paszak-aye. Motion carried.
- Motion by Paszak/Hintz to forward the 2014 budget with a gross tax levy of \$15,350,848 to the County Board for approval. Ayes-three; nay-one.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Cushing/Paszak to adjourn at 3:28 p.m. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary



David Hintz, Chair