

**JOINT MEETING OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE/LABOR RELATIONS & EMPLOYEE
SERVICES COMMITTEE
MAY 11, 2020
Minutes**

Committee members present: Chairman Dave Hintz, Alan VanRaalte, Ted Cushing, Bob Mott and Billy Fried.

Call to order: Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible. Hintz welcomed Alan VanRaalte to the Administration Committee.

Approve agenda: Motion by Cushing/Mott to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All aye; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Mott/Fried to approve the minutes of March 9, 2020. All aye; motion carried.

Property Tax Relief Alternatives including Act 185 – Fried presented two handouts created by the Treasurer's Office regarding Act 185. Fried stated that it is his opinion that this would not be a good fit for Oneida County. Fried explained that Act 185 would allow people to delay their second payment until October 1, 2020 with no interest and no penalties. Fried stated that if the County were to pass Act 185 it would still need to be passed by all of the towns so there would be the potential to have different delinquency "books" for each delinquency date. Fried stated that another concern would be the confusion for residents and the possibility that someone would think they could pay late, however, if their town doesn't pass it they would then have a late fee. Fried stated that he has spoken with Finance Director Darcy Smith and Treasurer Kris Ostermann about what options Oneida County does have to help with residents and one option would be to drop the .5% penalty that Oneida County charges as long as taxes are paid by October 1st, however the taxpayer would still need to pay the 1% interest. Cushing questioned if the plan Fried presented would need to be approved by the towns. Fried stated that this would not need to be approved by the towns as they wouldn't be impacted by this. Ostermann stated that as of right now \$15.5 million is still owed in property taxes. Ostermann stated that in 2019 there was approximately \$150,000 paid in penalties. Discussion regarding what happens when someone can't pay their taxes. Ostermann stated that as of right now she has only heard of 4-5 counties that are implementing Act 185. Hintz stated that if the committee wants to proceed with the proposal to waive the penalty then this would need to be one through a resolution that would go before the full County Board.

Motion by Mott to waive the .5% penalty in lieu of accepting Act 185 for 2020 - 2021 tax payments. No second. Smith reported that the county has budgeted \$435,000 for penalties and interest and has already collected \$66,000. Ostermann would like to see the end date of the resolution to be September 30th. Mott amended the motion to waive the 2019 tax penalty on taxes not paid by September 30th. No second. Discussion that this would actually be from February 1st through September 30th penalties. Discussion regarding how this would be handled for the people that have already paid a penalty due to having paid the first installment late. Ostermann clarified that ideally this would be implemented for tax payments that are delinquent after August 1st through September 30th. Cushing stated that he does not want refunds of past penalties made. Motion by Mott/Cushing to direct Corporation Counsel to draft a resolution in line with the proposal made by Supervisor Fried and Treasurer Ostermann. All aye; motion carried.

Vouchers, reports, purchase orders, line item transfers and updates:

Finance –

- **2020 Budget Update** – Smith stated that there are several sources of revenue that will be impacted this year. Smith reported that sales taxes, property tax payments, investments and fees charged by departments. Smith presented a graph that showed the actual sales tax by month for 2018, 2019 and the beginning of 2020. Smith stated that for the month of March it appears that the sales tax shortage was \$30,000 and the proposed shortage will be around \$650,000. Smith reported that general interest earnings for the first 3 months of 2020 interest was \$280,000 and therefore she is projecting that we will meet budget for 2020. Smith presented the interest in penalties for 2020 property taxes. Smith presented graphs showing potential revenue from fees charged by Planning and Zoning fees, Register of Deeds fees, stumpage sales and prisoner revenues. Smith reported that Register of Deeds and Planning and Zoning fees are down so far, however, it is unknown if this will be made up when the Courthouse reopens. Smith reported that stumpage sales for 2020 were budgeted at \$1,286,500 and through March the County has already received 46.4% of the budget (\$597,000). Smith reported that prisoner revenues were up in January and for the last few months there have been 110 prisoners and the County is being reimbursed for county prisoners that should have been transferred to a state prison. Smith reported that if prisoner revenue continues as it is the prisoner revenue should make the budgeted amount.
- **Impact of COVID-19** – Smith gave an update on unemployment and that savings that are being seen. Smith reported that there are an average of 18 full-time positions being furloughed right now. The wages and fringes for those employees would cost \$16,500 and after paying unemployment and fringes/benefits the county is currently saving around \$9000/week for the furloughed employees. Discussion regarding essential employees. Smith reported that all departments are individually tracking additional expenses due to COVID-19. Smith reported that the Health Department has a number of positions that are grant funded, however, those positions have been working on COVID services and therefore won't be able to receive grant funds for those hours. Smith gave an overview of some of the additional funding that may be available to help cover additional costs incurred due to COVID. Discussion regarding the Human Service Center and how that budget is looking. Fried questioned if there is a plan in place for when the order is lifted with staffing levels and if some of the staff will stay furloughed. Hintz would like to see that topic on the next LRES meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 20th at 9:30 a.m.
- **Cash Flow** – Smith reported that she planned when funds would be needed for Capital Improvement Projects for 2020. Smith reported that there will be about \$1.1 million that will be maturing with PMA and she has asked that they not reinvest those funds this year. Fried asked if County Board approval would be needed for short-term borrowing. Smith stated that county board approval would be needed, however, it will be another month or two before it would be clearer if this will be needed in 2020.
- **2021 Budget Planning** – Hintz reported that prior to COVID-19 we were aware that budget planning for 2021 would be difficult, however, with COVID-19 it became more difficult. Hintz reported that the CIP Committee will have a difficult time this year preparing a CIP Budget. Hintz would also like to see the Funding Opportunities Committee recommendations reconsidered this year.
 1. Budget Calendar – Smith presented the 2021 budget calendar. Smith stated that items three and four on the calendar address CIP Committee

and preliminary budget guidelines which will be very important in the 2021 budget planning. Fried would like to see a meeting scheduled to look at the current 2020 budget and what could be revised.

2. Capital Improvement Program Committee – Hintz stated that Jensen, Fried and Sorensen have served on this committee in the past and he would like to see Fried and Sorensen continue in 2020. Discussion regarding the 2020 projects that have been started and what has been completed.

Public comment/communications: None

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings: The next administration committee meeting will be scheduled at a later date and will include the election of the vice chair.

Adjourn – Hintz adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Hartman, Recording Secretary
Oneida County Clerk