

**Minutes of the  
Bayfield County Executive Committee Meeting  
4:00pm, March 14, 2019  
Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Bayfield County Annex, Washburn, WI**

**Members Present:** Brett Rondeau, Jeff Silbert, Jeremy Oswald, Dennis Pocernich, Fred Strand

**Members Excused:** Tom Gordon

**Others Present:** Mark Abeles-Allison-County Administrator, Kris Kavajecz-Assistant, Bill Bailey, Kim Lawton-District Attorney, Andy Mika-Deputy Sheriff, Kellie Pedersen-UW Extension Educator, Judge John Anderson, Charles Babineau-Citizen

Meeting Called to Order at 4:00pm by Rondeau.

**Public Comment:** None

*Motion Pocernich, Oswald to approve Minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion Carried*

**Solar RFP release:** This is a three-community solar effort including the County, City and School. Each entity applied for funding individually. Funding through the RECIPI grant was rejected the first time, but an amended application was re-submitted. If received, the grant will fund about 1/3 of the project at about \$100,000. Award notification is anticipated in about 30 days. Request permission to release request for proposals in conjunction with the City and School for the anticipated project. Cost to the county would be about \$200,000. Proposed return on investment is about 7%.

*Motion Strand, Oswald to authorize release of Request for Proposals for the solar project, but not award the project unless grant funding is received. Motion Carried (5-0).*

Consensus of the committee was to allow opening the public comment session to allow the District Attorney and Judge to address the committee.

Lawton reported on the Community Safety Funding Act which, in part, provides for 60 additional Assistant District Attorneys, adjusts the wage system and assistance for public defender costs. Governor Evers budget proposals includes a .6-time Assistant District Attorney for Bayfield County.

Judge Anderson supported the comments of District Attorney Lawton and explained the increasing costs of court appointed attorneys due to lack of public defenders.

This topic will be added as a specific County Board agenda item for March.

**Housing Planning and CDBG Housing Planning Grant:** Kellie Pedersen was introduced as the UW Extension Community Resource Educator. Pedersen reported that WHEDA spent time in the Northern part of the state in early 2018 on the topic of housing. Scatter Development is the concept where several smaller housing developments throughout the county could be combined to request a single multi-jurisdictional grant. This would require many jurisdictions to work

together on development projects simultaneously. A group has been formed to compile a Planning Grant to assist in this process.

**K9 Program Presentation, Sheriff's Office:** Deputy Andy Mika reported that fundraising will begin in April. Sheriff is open to creation of a potential foundation to support the K-9 program. Under a foundation, no future administrator can use the money. It is a 501c-3 non-profit. No county record-keeping required. One of the cons is that the Sheriff's office cannot use monies from the foundation for anything other than the K-9 program. December 2019 is the estimated date to receive a dog and begin training with the handler. Training on the various aspects would cover approximately a year with periodic trainings throughout the year. 7-10 years is the average expectancy for law enforcement usefulness of the dog.

**2019 Construction Project RFP:** Abeles-Allison reported that the 2019 budget includes funds for Office-Buildout for Department of Human Services, Paving design for 2 Highway Department Parking Areas and Jail Renovation to add holding cells. Proposals were received from 6 firms for design and engineering for these projects. A summary of the proposals was reviewed.

*Motion Strand that upon verification of credentials and ability to do the job, the proposals be awarded to the lowest bidder for each project.* Discussion took place regarding the 2 low bidders for the jail project and experience of each of the bidders.

Strand withdrew his motion

*Motion Strand, Rondeau to authorize the award of the lowest bid for the Highway Department Parking Lot Design and Human Services Office Build-Out Design projects and to authorize the County Administrator to evaluate the 2 lowest bidders for the Jail Renovation design and award the bid to the firm most qualified for the project. Award to C&S Design is contingent upon confirmation that engineering, and construction inspection costs are included in their bid price. Motion Carried (3-2) with Pocernich and Silbert opposed.*

**Social Media Policy:** Abeles-Allison explained that the county utilizes several forms of social media. The Information Technology Department and Tourism Department have endorsed this policy. Corporation Counsel has not reviewed the policy. The portion of the policy referring to endorsing businesses, etc. was questioned. Suggestion was made to define the difference between endorsing and promoting. Discussion was held regarding whether the county should be able to screen posts before they can be viewed.

*Motion Pocernich, Silbert to approve the Social Media policy with a modification allowing Tourism related social media to promote local businesses. Motion Carried.*

**Highway 5-Year Financial Plan, 2020 Financing Discussion and recommended directions for 2020 Budget:** The committee reviewed several options to address funding needs for highway improvement projects going forward. Long and short-term borrowing was discussed as one of the most attractive options with the lowest impact to taxpayers. Suggestion was made to add the short term borrowing topic to the annual budget survey.

**Bayfield County Passport Program:** Abeles-Allison reported that a letter was received from the Department of State announcing that the Bayfield County Passport Program will be discontinued. Suggestion was made that this topic should be publicized so that the public knows they will no longer be able to obtain their passport at the Bayfield County Courthouse.

**Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer Report:** County bank balance is down approximately \$2 million from this time last year, primarily due to highway funding allocations.
- b. **Financial Report, end of February:** Report was reviewed. Budgets as of the second month of the year are looking good.
- c. **Superior Days Thank You** was received from Douglas County.
- d. **UW Madison Intern Program**
- e. **Governor's Budget:** No PILT change. The proposed budget does include some increases for Medicaid services.
- f. **CCS program Update:** A summary was provided with the meeting packet. Ashland and Bayfield Counties are working with New Horizons North to try to get services back on track.
- g. **Mineral Report:** The individual originally interested is no longer interested.
- h. **Emergency Volunteers / Personnel:** The Personnel Committee discussed a possible policy allowing EMT and Fire Volunteers to use a certain amount of paid time to respond to calls while at work. The policy will also encourage other entities to implement a similar policy.
- i. **Opioid/Methamphetamine Epidemic/Crisis Effort:** Continuing to try to raise awareness of this topic throughout the county. The Take Back campaign allows citizens to dispose of unused medications at secured locations throughout the county.

*Motion Pocernich, Silbert to move into Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(e)(g), deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: Tower Antenna Contract Negotiation. Motion Carried. Entered closed session at 5:46pm.*

*Motion Oswald, Silbert to return to open session. Motion Carried. Returned to open session at 5:55pm.*

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55pm.

*Minutes submitted by Kristine Kavajecz*