

**Minutes of the
Bayfield County Executive Committee Meeting
4:00pm, November 8, 2018
Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Bayfield County Annex, Washburn, WI**

Members Present: Fred Strand, Tom Gordon, Brett Rondeau , Jeff Silbert, Jeremy Oswald

Members Excused: Dennis Pocernich,

Others Present: Mark Abeles-Allison-County Administrator, Kris Kavajecz-Assistant, Sheldon Johnson-Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Rich Setzke-Maitland, Singler & VanVlack S.C., Paul Houck-Information Technology Director, Larry Fickbohm, Christopher Hicks

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

Public Comment: None Received

Motion Strand, Silbert to approve minutes of the October 10, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion Carried.

Motion Gordon, Oswald to approve minutes of the October 11, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion Carried.

IT Budget Amendment: The committee reviewed a budget amendment that was included in the meeting packet. Houck explained that the 2019 budget includes funding for network switches. If the switches are purchased in 2018, \$18,007 can be saved.

Motion Gordon to approve the purchase of network switches in 2018 and to recommend the budget amendment on to the full county board for approval. Motion Carried. Houck exited the meeting at this time.

Northwest Regional Planning Report, Sheldon Johnson: Abeles-Allison introduced Sheldon Johnson, who provided an overview of recent and ongoing activities of Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Appointment of the new BCEDC Director will need to be made to the Visions Northwest Board of Directors. Vision for Prosperity outline will be updated in 2019. Johnson reported that 3 businesses in Bayfield County have received loans for business development this year totaling about \$265,000. A Disaster Recovery Microloan Fund will be a new program created through WEDC, administered through NWRPC. These micro-loans will have a 24-month payback with 6 month deferred payments. Iron River Business Incubator was mentioned as being full and ongoing work with the businesses for further development/expansion. Assisting Red Cliff with Hazard Mitigation planning. Assisted the City of Washburn with a “Place-making” grant application. Working with Emergency Management on updating the county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. Working on organizing a regional transit/transportation summit. Working with the Town of Bayfield on their Comprehensive Plan update. Continue to organize the regionals hazard waste collection program. Bayfield County Housing Rehabilitation Program currently has about \$42,000 available in the fund. Dec 5 will be

the NWRPC semi-annual meeting in Hayward and will feature a discussion about the impact of FoxCon and the projected economic impact of that company locally.

Public Comment: Christopher Hicks was allowed to speak as part of Public Comment. Hicks addressed the committee supporting legalizing cannabis. He suggested that an oversight board be formed to develop an ordinance. He also suggested that the fees generated for various permits could be used to fund the program oversight. Hicks provided several examples of other jurisdictions that have implemented or are considering a cannabis ordinance and oversight board/commission. He reported that Red Cliff recently took action to approve Industrial Hemp and Medical Cannabis, but not recreational cannabis. Hicks exited the meeting at this time.

2017 Audit Report, Rich Setzke: A copy of the 2017 audit report was provided to committee members. Setzke reviewed the Significant Audit Findings letter. Audit adjustments and creating financial statements are the two findings that were noted. The county is working toward creating their own adjustments and generating their own financial statements. Setzke reviewed the county's balance sheet at the end of 2017. Business type funds reflect the Highway Department activities. The Northern Lights Bond Reissuance and new lease agreement resulted in a slight change on how it was handled in the audit. This relationship was a net zero in the past. Now, the property is shown as an asset, with depreciation rather than a lease receivable as in the past. Setzke reviewed the fund balances and those portions that are restricted, committed and unrestricted. Net change in fund balance went down about \$547,000.

Motion Gordon, Oswald to receive the audit report and place it on file. Motion Carried. Setzke was thanked for his summary and left the meeting at this time.

Workers Compensation Insurance: Abeles-Allison reported that proposals were accepted for workers compensation coverage in 2019. The county's experience modification factor has increased recently due to several large claims, primarily related to the flooding situations. Workers compensation premium is currently about \$215,000 per year. Two proposals are under consideration.

Motion Gordon, Silbert to authorize the County Administrator to evaluate the two worker's compensation proposals and make a determination on which company to go with. Motion Carried.

Leadership Academy: The program involves 4 on-line sessions and 4 in-person sessions in addition to some individual study time. Tourism Director, Mary Motiff, may be interested in and benefit from participating in this program. The cost is \$1,200 which would be paid by the county, in addition to lodging. Consensus of the group is to allow Abeles-Allison to proceed with coordinating this training.

Youth Scholarship: 2019 budget includes \$1,000 for a youth scholarship. An outline of the program was reviewed. Another document was also reviewed that outlines an agreement with

interested school districts that allow the county to provide the scholarship to the school, who in turn, award the scholarship to the student.

Motion Silbert, Gordon to authorize the youth scholarship program as presented for the 2018-2019 school year. Motion Carried.

Northern Lights Financial and Infrastructure Report: Silbert reported that an inspection was conducted of the Northern Lights facility and a report was provided to the County Board. No firm estimates for plant repairs have been obtained at this point. There is a plan to have a recommendation report in January. Silbert summarized a US News and World Report finding that non-for-profit nursing homes generally have been found to have better care than for-profit nursing homes. According to the report shared by Silbert, Northern Lights is the highest performing nursing home in the region.

2019 Projects: Components of the courthouse security project continue to be completed. The web site update has been completed. Computer system upgrades have been going well. County Highway projects are in progress. A large electrical project is in the final stages at the fairgrounds.

Bayfield Wireless Deferral Plan and Budget Amendment: Earlier in 2018, the county agreed to defer some expenses for the Bayfield Wireless project. \$3,000 was budgeted in 2019 for a tower permit. The proposed budget amendment will allow the permit to be obtained in 2018 and the project to commence.

Motion, Gordon, Strand to approve the \$3,000 budget amendment resolution as proposed. Motion Carried.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer Report, October:** It was noted that while the balances are showing over \$21million, the highway paving bills have not yet been received, which are anticipated at over \$2million.
- b. Financial Report, October:** Revenues are virtually identical to the previous year in the general fund and are within budget. Human Services and Highway funds are also within budget.
- c. Highway Report Preparation:** Revenues in the future will be more scarce. A plan will be developed to address transportation costs going into the future and how to fund them.
- d. Xcel Energy Second Circuit Letter:** Considering 2 routes.
- e. Year End Performance Evaluations:** Departments are currently conducting evaluations. Board members were asked for any input on Department Head performance as he develops evaluations for management.

Motion Gordon, Oswald 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 to approve Closed Session Minutes of October 11, 2018. Motion Carried. Entered closed session at 5:49pm

Motion Oswald, Silbert to return to open session. Motion Carried. Returned to open session at 5:50pm

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Kristine Kavajecz