

Finance - Special Task Force
Tentative Minutes
April 2, 2024

- 1) Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Billeter called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Present: Finfrock, Griffin, Jacinto, Larson, Nordman (9:05), O'Brien, Youman [remote] and Billeter. Others present: Paul Cooney Director of Solid Waste and Melissa Spangler. Absent: None
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion by Griffin to approve March 21, 2024 minutes as presented and Larson seconds. Motion carried.
- 3) Discuss Organizational Approach: Billeter recapped the income issues with Waste Management are still being looked into. He shared there is supposed to be a meeting on Thursday but it is dependent on timing of analysis report of data and Davis Junctions response. Cooney was asked to make sure he followed up with Davis Junction and find out if they have a response together. Billeter shared if Davis Junction doesn't have their response; there is no need to meet on Thursday.

Finfrock shared this would be a good time to look into our current costs for liability insurance and Sikich and see if we can get service at a better rate. Discussion was had on what it will take for us to go out for bid on these and see what other price points are out there. Billeter shared the county will definitely benefit if there can be in decrease in deficiencies and increase savings. Billeter stated we just need to make sure we are prioritizing our concerns and Griffin agreed.

Billeter opened the discussion to items on the expense side and asked Youman to speak. Youman shared he was looking into the possibility of a consultant. The purposed is being able to analyze where we are and how we can do better with our finances, specifically in the jail. Youman shared he has reached out to at least a dozen different firms, with general inquiries regarding fiscal strategic reorganization or options on how to minimize our costs. Youman explained he is also working with Dan Janes to network with others to see if they have recommendations on consultants or counties that have experienced what we are going through. Youman stated he was also able to find an article explaining other counties and them having gone through what we are facing. Youman shared he was going to be reaching out to the counties listed in the article to get their feedback. Youman commented another avenue that will be looked at, is contacting IACBM and seeing if they would have a guidance or suggestions for us. Billeter asked if specific questions are being shared with the consultant firms and Youman stated it is very basic questions to gauge their interest in our area. Youman stated he thought the committee would come up with the specific questions if consultants are found.

Griffin stated he thought there should be a strategic financial plan. He saw this as a way to bring people together and having a buy in instead of just telling people what to do. Billeter asked if Griffin was thinking of an additional consultant for the financial side as well as what Youman is presenting. Griffin shared he didn't have a specific direction but it can be done anyway as long as we have everyone invested. Griffin stated he would write up his plans for next meeting.

Larson shared he got some information from Winnebago county regarding their liabilities and their landfills. Larson commented they do not carry a fund separate for Solid Waste they just have a tort fund with half a million to a million dollars in that fund according to the liability insurance. Larson explained the departments that use that fund are mostly the Sheriff's Office and County Nursing Home.

The Treasurer stated it is important to understand there can be different definitions of what a tort fund is.

Billeter questioned if the County Resolution regarding Solid Waste should be done away with and move forward with a tort fund. Billeter shared the decisions of how much could be decided by this committee. He explained with the resolution being done away with there could be some good use of that money to solve problems the County is having. Finrock commented he planned on bringing the resolution up in the Executive Committee but wanted to make sure he spoke through the issue with State's Attorney Rock first. Nordman shared she thought the resolution should be dissolved and then a decision made on where those funds will go. Billeter stated we need to make sure how we can move monies if the resolution is dissolved. He stated he had some concerns because some places like school districts have regulations on the movement of monies. Nordman commented the questions can be asked in the Sikich meeting this afternoon and also checked with UCCI.

Nordman shared there is a meeting regarding Mental Health this Thursday to discuss further. Nordman stated even if there isn't something regarding the jail there will be discussion to support the Health Department's plans and invited Melissa Spangler. Billeter confirmed anyone can attend the meeting on Thursday at 3 o'clock.

Nordman shared data for department claims and salaries of the Corrections department. Nordman shared the reason for the data is so that we can truly be looking at costs and understanding how it affects our financial constraints. Nordman shared with the additional data she has collected since last meeting she understands her earlier projections of costs were lower than they belonged. She shared she is understanding them to be closer to \$400,000 per month. Billeter thanked Nordman for her time she has put into this project because it is a lot of work and necessary for us to understand.

Billeter summarized points of the meeting:

- Decision on what to do with the 1999 resolution regarding Solid Waste.
 - Discuss with Sikich where and how the funds can be used legally if put in a tort fund.
 - Mental Health Conversations
 - Brining information from Youman regarding consultants and next steps are.
 - Griffin writing up his ideas on Financial Strategic Plan.
- 4) Public Comment: Cooney stated he is against dissolving the Solid Waste. He explained he was going to look into it today because he trusts his predecessor's judgement and believes there was a reason he put resolution together in the first place. Billeter encouraged Cooney to speak to him and seek a better understanding and bring that information forward.
- 5) Adjourn Meeting: With no other business Billeter adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am and stated the next meeting will be on April 23rd at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
June Jacobs