

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2015

Committee Chair Tim Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the committee meeting room within the Livingston County Historic Courthouse.

Present: Shafer, Heath, Bunting, Cohlman, Gerwin, Ingles, Mays

Absent:

Also Present: Chairman Marty Fannin, Alina Hartley (Administrative Resource Specialist), John Clemmer (Finance Resource Specialist), Barb Sear (Treasurer), Sheriff Childress, Sup. Cox, Chief Dutko, Adam Dontz (GLCEDC)

Shafer called for any additions or corrections to the agenda with none being requested. *Motion by Ingles, second by Cohlman to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting. Gerwin requested that the minutes be amended to add that the budget process will begin in June. *Motion by Gerwin, second by Bunting to approve the minutes as amended. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

Property Tax Abatement Proposal & Intergovernmental Agreement – Adam Dontz was present to discuss a Property Tax Abatement for Selig in Forrest. Dontz stated that Selig will be is looking to implement a building expansion of approximately 25,025 square feet which will exceed the \$1.5 million investment criteria. Dontz stated that Selig does meet the requirements as outlined in the previously approved matrix. Discussion took place. Dontz noted that the value of the abatement is approximately \$80,000 over the 10 year period, 10% of which would be the county portion. *Motion by Ingles, second by Gerwin to recommend approval of the Property Tax Abatement Agreement. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

Sheriff's Department Staffing Levels – Dutko stated that they had originally brought a request to hire four new staff members to the SJL Committee. Dutko stated that based on those conversations, they have reduced the request to the addition of two new officers. Dutko stated that he was able to locate funds within the Sheriff's budget to cover the cost of the two officers for this fiscal year. Dutko stated that he also located a resolution that was approved in 2012 that set the staffing level for the department at 30 officers, compared to the 28 currently on staff. Dutko stated that the department does not currently have the staff to do what needs to be done. Dutko further stated that animal control has also taken more resources than originally anticipated. Dutko stated that they would like to have at least four officers assigned to each twelve hour shift (of which there are four). Discussion took place regarding the town contracts. Ingles stated that he felt

that the towns should be expected to pay the actual cost of the service they receive. Mays questioned eliminating the town contracts. It was noted that there is currently another year and a half left on the current contracts. Dutko stated that even without the town contracts, the department will still need more officers to respond to the increase in calls. Clemmer stated that he had reviewed the numbers provided by Dutko and agreed that there was likely sufficient funds to cover the increase for this fiscal year. Clemmer further noted that for FY 2016, without the increase in officers, there will be an additional need of \$47,000 to cover salary increases. Shafer questioned if the budget allocation for 2016 was the same as 2015 if they would be able to cover the increase. The Committee's concept of freezing the budget allocations at the FY 2015 level was reviewed. It was the consensus of the Committee that the Sheriff's department could do what they wanted for this fiscal year, but they should do so knowing that it is likely they will receive the same budget allocation for FY 2016. It was recommended that the department wait until the budget allocation is approved for FY 2016 prior to making any decisions.

FY 2016 Budget Process – Clemmer distributed a copy of the FY 2016 budget calendar. Clemmer recommended that the Committee review the calendar and be prepared to discuss at next month's meeting.

Finance Report – Clemmer stated that there wasn't really anything out of the ordinary in this month's expenditures. It was noted that the County Board Budget, is significantly over budget due to the Pleasant Ridge Hearings, however, all the expenses are reimbursed by the applicant, only showed as a revenue.

Approval of Bills – The Committee reviewed the bills submitted. *Motion by Cohlman, second by Ingles to approve the bills.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Motion by Mays, second by Gerwin to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.** Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Alina Hartley
Administrative Resource Specialist