

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2014

Committee Chair Tim Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. in the committee meeting room within the Livingston County Historic Courthouse.

Present: Shafer, Bullard (left at 8:14 p.m.), Campbell, Cohlman (left at 7:55 p.m.), Mays, Runyon, Vietti

Absent:

Also Present: Marty Fannin, Alina Hartley, June Slagel, Kristy Masching, Adam Dontz, Earl Rients

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

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meetings. *Motion by Runyon, second Runyon to approve the minutes as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Livingston County Extension – Slagel reported that there was some confusion in regards to the Extension levy. Slagel stated that she spoke to Extension about the difference in what was actually levied vs. the budget request and they will adjust next year's levy to make up the difference.

Sheriff's Department K9 Unit – Sheriff Lindsey was present to discuss the acquisition of a K9 Unit. Lindsey stated that they are looking to purchase a "passive dog" with state certifications to assist with drug detection, tracking and article searches. Lindsey stated that all the start-up costs of acquiring an animal will be funded from the drug seizure fund. Lindsey stated that the annual cost is estimated at approximately \$7,400 will be budgeted for in within next year's budget. Discussion took place. It was questioned whether the amount could be absorbed within other areas of the sheriff's budget. Lindsey stated that he would need to review the budget to make that determination. Discussion took place regarding animal control. Fannin asked that a three month snap shot of the costs of the program under the sheriff's department be provided once available. Further discussion took place regarding the some changes that will be proposed to the animal control fee schedule.

LJC Courtroom / Judges Security – Lindsey stated that Superintendent Cox has been working on getting a proposal to add locks to the secure side of the building on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Law & Justice Center based on recommendations for the Judges and from the Marshalls. Hartley noted that the prior estimate that was provided to the SJL

Committee did not include the cost of the elevators. Discussion took place regarding whether the locks would still be needed if access to the back hallway were further limited. Cox will present the proposal at next month's meeting for the Committees review.

GLCEDC – Dontz was present to discuss proposed incentive options with the Committee. Dontz stated that the plan includes four corner stones that maximize the county's investment while minimizing risk. Dontz stated that this package is similar to what successful economic development organizations offer employers/developers.

Tax incentive package – Dontz stated that he would like to offer a very robust tax incentive package that will include a 20 year tax abatement. Dontz stated that he will need to get the school districts, municipalities and county on board. To qualify companies will need to create a minimum number of full time jobs, with a minimum salary requirement (somewhere around \$35,000 year).

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Dontz stated that he does have a group working on completing this project. Dontz stated that there are public works grants available, but they are only available to entities who have a comprehensive economic development strategy. Dontz stated that he has contacted all the municipalities to determine what their needs would be. Dontz stated that he would like the county to look at funding a portion or allocating funds to assist with municipal infrastructure improvements.

Reward for Capital Improvements – Dontz stated that he would like to encourage current businesses to make capital improvements within the county without fear of being punished for the investment. Dontz stated that he would recommend a tax freeze for a set number of years for businesses that make capital improvements.

Employment Incentive – Dontz stated that he would like to offer an employment incentive of \$5,000 per job up to 100 jobs with a minimum salary requirement. Dontz stated that businesses would need to develop a minimum of 10 new jobs and would need to provide a personal guarantee or promissory note, or a corporate guarantee with a sufficient net worth in assets.

Discussion took place regarding when this type of program would be rolled out. Dontz stated that a target of December 1st would not be out of line. If something came up, he could always present the proposal for consideration. Consensus of the Committee was that Dontz should continue to progress down this path.

Prevailing Wage – *Motion by Campbell, second by Bullard to recommend approval of the annual prevailing wage ordinance.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

2015 Budget – Slagel reviewed the draft budget calendar and budget guidelines with the Committee. Committee members noted that there is a policy change in regards to the use of comp time that will require a change within the budget guidelines.

Finance Report – N/A

Township Road District – Kristy Masching was present to discuss an error that was made with the 2013 levies with the Committee. Masching stated that Waldo Rd. District had a referendum that was approved for a \$200,000 bond. Masching stated that this is the first year the taxes should have been levied for that (in addition to their regular levy), but it was missed. Masching stated that the township signed off on the tax computation sheets and did not catch the error either. Masching stated that she has talked with other counties to see what they have done in past. If the district can cover the cost until the next tax cycle that is what they do, otherwise sometimes the county lends the district the funds. Masching stated that she is waiting to hear back from the township to see how they wish to handle. Masching stated that ultimately the levy will be increased next year to include the current levy and the prior levy, which will then make the district whole.

Property Committee Training Expenses – Runyon stated that the property committee and maintenance department are asking for supplemental funding to cover some additional training costs incurred. Runyon stated that he is hopeful that in the long run the additional training will save the county money. Hartley estimated the cost of the additional training at just under \$2,000. Discussion took place. The expenses can be paid from the maintenance budget and an end of year transfer can be made from contingency if needed. *Motion by Vietti, second by Campbell to approve the additional training expenses from contingency.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Recreation Committee - Judy Campbell stated that the recreation committee has been discussing a variety of recreation items throughout the county, but has decided to proceed with the Route 66 trail since it appeared to be the low hanging fruit. Campbell stated that the group cannot move forward until they can get a scope of work and the estimate of the cost. Campbell stated that the first phase includes the section on Route 66 from Chenoa to Pontiac. The second phase is a county wide study on how to incorporate the entire county as well as the section between Pontiac and Dwight. Campbell stated that Andrews will also be submitting a proposal for the study, but they have not yet received their proposal. Discussion took place regarding long term funding with the consensus of the Committee being that cash rents received from the county farm ground could go towards recreation. Further consensus was that taxes could not be increased by any means to support recreation. Consensus of the Committee was to fund the study from the enterprise zone fund. *Motion by Mays, second by Campbell to approve the expenditure of up to \$29,000 for the Route 66 Master Plan from the enterprise zone fund.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Approval of Bills – The Committee reviewed the bills submitted. *Motion by Vietti, second by Campbell to approve the bills.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Motion by Vietti, second by Mays to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.** Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Alina Hartley
Administrative Resource Specialist