

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2021

Committee Chairman Tim Shafer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse.

Present: Shafer, Slagel, Fannin, Earing, Kirkton, Lovell

Absent: Bunting

Also Present: County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast, County Board Members Linda Ambrose and Seth Welch, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, Human Resources Director Ginger Harris, Treasurer Nikki Meier, County Highway Engineer Clay Metcalf, Assistant County Engineer Trent Ruestman and Adam Dontz (GLCEDC). Lauri Pope via Zoom

Shafer called for any additions or deletions to the agenda with none requested. *Motion by Earing; second by Kirkton to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting. *Motion by Fannin, second by Lovell to approve the minutes as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Presentation of FY 2020 Audit – Lauri Pope was present via zoom to present the FY 2020 audit to the Committee. Pope stated that overall a clean opinion was issued, and there were no findings, just a few recommendations. *Motion by Fannin, second by Kirkton to recommend approval of the FY 2020 Audit.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

GLCEDC Request for Property Tax Abatement – Slagel Manufacturing – Adam Dontz was present to request approval of a ten year property tax abatement for Slagel Manufacturing in Fairbury. Dontz reviewed the established guidelines in regards to square footage added, investment, wages and jobs created. Dontz stated that the applicant well exceeds all guidelines with the exception of job creation, where the applicant falls short. Dontz stated that there has been exceptions made in the past and requested approval of the abatement. It was noted that Slagel Manufacturing has been in business for over twenty years and is one of the top paying manufacturing companies in the county. *Motion by Fannin, second by Lovell to recommend approval of the 10 year abatement with the variance.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Highway Maintenance Shed – Authorization to Proceed – Clay Metcalf and Trent Ruestman were present to review their proposal for a new highway maintenance building. Metcalf reviewed the issues with the current building and the congestion issues that have resulted from the addition of wings on the plow trucks. Metcalf stated that the 165' x

100' building they're proposing is somewhat modeled after LaSalle County and includes an office space restrooms and a safe space with reinforced walls. Metcalf stated that the safe space won't meet the requirements to be designated as a storm shelter, but will be a safe place for employees during inclement weather. Metcalf estimated the cost of the building at \$2.5 million. Previously allocated funds the highway department building upgrade, maintenance shed and remaining salt shed funds would be utilized on this project, so the initial request would be for a capital allocation of \$2 million. Hartley stated that while it's early to start discussing next year's capital projects, the Highway Committee is ready to move forward with design on the project, so it is important to ensure there is a commitment to move forward with the project amongst board members acknowledging an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. Consensus of the Committee was to approve the request. *Motion by Earing, second by Fannin to recommend moving forward with the design and updated estimated costs.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Pontiac Rural Fire Request for Vehicle

OSF EMS Request for Excess Vehicle - The Committee reviewed requests submitted by both Pontiac Rural Fire Department and OSF EMS, each for one of the excess vehicles the county currently has. Hartley stated that as requested she had inquired about their potential value which is estimated at \$6,500 for the lower mileage vehicles and \$5,500 for the higher mileage vehicles. Discussion took place with some members noting that it goes against the counties theory of replacing vehicles sooner to recoup more of the cost and prevent maintenance. Discussion took place regarding limiting approvals of such donations to two per year. *Motion by Fannin, second by Kirkton to grant the requests submitted by both Pontiac Rural Fire Department and OSF for the excess vehicles, adopting a max of two per year policy.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Monthly Finance Report – A copy of the monthly Finance Report was provided to Committee Members.

The Committee reviewed the bills. *Motion by Fannin, second by Slagel to approve the monthly bills as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

The floor was opened for public comment.

Motion by Fannin, second by Lovell to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m..

Alina Hartley
Executive Director