

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 14, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI

Meeting called to order by Robert Kopisch, Chairperson at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call: Present – Jim Hintz, Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch, Larry Palecek, Dennis Wartgow. Also present – Nick Trimner, Carrie Kyle, Lynn Neeck, Leanna Samardich

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Communications and Correspondences: Reviewed press release sent out last night regarding Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Safer at Home Order. Also discussed information received promoting getting county citizens to complete their 2020 Census.
2. Meeting minutes – March 10 and March 17, 2020: Motion Palecek/Houdek to approve the minutes of the March 10 and March 17, 2020 meetings as presented. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer – Lynn Neeck
 - a. Treasurer's monthly report: April settlements have come in except for one municipality.
 - b. In Rem / Tax Deed: Took ownership of the 2015 parcels.
 - i. 2016 Tax Deed: Legal council is getting clarification on COVID ruling of non-foreclosure.
 - ii. 2017 Tax Deed: End of October redemption will trigger title searches. If property owner is making monthly payments, they are not charged In Rem fees if they remain current.
 - c. Wisconsin Act 185 – Waiving of Interest and Penalty on Property Tax Payments: Counties can pass resolution to extend the second tax payment collection due date from July 31 to October 31. Settlements would need to be made in September instead of August. Tax receipting programming changes would need to be made since interest and penalty charges would only start after the October delinquency. Municipalities would have to agree with the waiver. Motion Palecek/Hintz to postpone indefinitely. Motion carried.
4. County Administrator – Nick Trimner
 - a. Administrator Report:
 - i. Insurance company engineer reviewed the damage to the two Fairground buildings. Open Class did not qualify for insurance claim. Building is not structurally sound and has been fenced off. Barn damage was denied as an insurance claim because of age and structural integrity. Quote \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 to replace both building and \$80,000 - \$100,000 to make required upgrades to the electrical system. County Board will review issue. An Ad Hoc Committee may be developed.
 - ii. COVID update – press release developed regarding County initial response to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision to overturn the extended Safer at Home order. County government buildings remain closed, open to appointment only. Meeting regularly with EOC, regional Health Officers and regional county administrators. Guidelines have been developed for various business types to open.
 - iii. 2020 budget doing well. We have received several unemployment claims for past employees that were laid off by their current employer.
 - iv. County Parks will open Friday.
 - b. \$1,000,000 2020 Highway Department Road Construction Loan
 - i. Bank Bid: Comm Financial Bank – 1.05%; Forward – 1.99%; Prevail – 1.75%. Motion Wartgow/Palecek to accept the bid from Community Financial Bank at 1.05%. Motion carried. The County will finalize the loan and determine when and how much to have advanced.
 - c. 2021 Budget: The letter will go out to departments with a 0% operations increase. Expecting 8-10% health insurance increase. Will start with 2% CPI wage increase.
5. Resolution – 2019 Budget Amendments: Motion Palecek/Wartgow to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board with recommendation for adoption. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Palecek, Wartgow. No: (0). Motion carried.
6. Closed Session: Attorney Bruce Marshall joined the meeting. Property taxes are delinquent 2017, 2018 and 2019. Mr. Kopisch met with a company representative regarding the County starting the In Rem process and several follow-up phone conference calls. Owner presented offer to develop a payment plan to pay back taxes, but requested abatement of penalties and interest. Discussion on

County's ability to waive penalty and interest if the owner identifies an environmental issue that they would agree to fix.

- a. Announcement and motion Wartgow/Palecek to adjourn to closed session at 10:17 a.m. pursuant to the exemptions in Wis. State Statute 19.85 (1)(e) 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 and (g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved for the purpose of:
- b. Delinquent Property Taxes – Park Falls Development LLC
- c. Return to Open Session

Roll call vote: Yes (5): Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Palecek, Wartgow. No: (0). Motion carried.

Motion Wartgow/Houdek in closed session to return to open session at 11:00 a.m. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Hintz, Houdek, Kopisch, Palecek, Wartgow. No: (0). Motion carried.

7. Take action, as needed, on closed session item: None.
8. Monthly Vouchers: Motion Hintz/Houdek to approve the accounts payable and payroll for Period 13 in the amount of \$790,319.14, the month of March in the amount of \$1,610,129.73, the month of April in the amount of \$1,695,253.88 and vouchers in the amount of \$1,182,595.29. Motion carried.
9. Future Agenda Items: None defined.
10. Date of Next Meeting: June 11, 2020
11. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk