

FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
June 12, 2009

The Finance/Executive Committee of the Grant County Board of Supervisors met on Friday, June 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 266 of the Administration Building, Lancaster, WI, pursuant to the adjournment of the May 12, 2009 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Stead. Members present were John Patcle, Stephen Adrian, Eugene Bartels, Robert Keeney, Hans Kostrau, and Lynn Moris. Also present were members of the Employee Relations Committee: Maynard Behncke, Robert Keeney, Larry Wolf and Tony Runde, Personnel Director Joyce Roling, and Finance Director Nancy Scott.

John Patcle, seconded by Stephen Adrian, moved that the meeting is in compliance with the open meeting law. Motion carried.

Eugene Bartels, seconded by Lynn Moris, moved to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Hans Kostrau, seconded by Robert Keeney, moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

The Committee met jointly with the Employee Relations Committee to discuss the rules of the two committees in preparation for combining the committees in 2010. Maynard Behncke asked if the meeting was only to discuss the rules or do the members have a voice in determining if the committees will be combined. Mark Stead said the committees should make a recommendation to the board as that is how it is generally done. Robert Keeney stated that the decision of the Committee on Committees was based on history and there was a lot of overlap prior to this term. Maynard Behncke expressed concern that there would not be enough diversity if the committees were combined and six or seven people would control many of the county's major decisions. Larry Wolf reiterated the concern that if decisions are made by committees rather than being brought back to the full board, five to seven people would be making major decisions and the other supervisors would have no input. Tony Runde suggested that when the new board is seated, the 16 members other than the Chair be assigned four each to Finance (including the Vice-Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair), Highway, Employee Relations Committee, and Law Enforcement. One member from each of those would then serve on Public Property, Land Conservation, Orchard Manor, and Zoning, and then the other committees would be assigned in the same manner.

Larry Wolf stated we are here to set policy. If a director stays within their budget, we should stay out of it. If there is a problem, the committee should do the legwork and make a recommendation to the full board.

Stephen Adrian questioned if all new members would be willing to commit the time to serve on committees. Maynard Behncke stated that should not be an excuse, they need to know the

expectations. Mark Stead said Lafayette County has had 16 members and 40 standing committees for many years and he did not think there was any need to combine the committees.

Maynard Behncke reiterated his opposition to combining ERC and Finance, that it is the wrong combination and that Public Property and Finance might be a better combination. Robert Keeney said he understood the concerns, but pointed out that the Committee on Committees had four open meetings that anyone could have attended.

Mark Stead said the new Administrative Committee will set the budget and the Executive Board will not have anything to do with it.

Stephen Adrian said if 50% of the budget is staffing, the committee responsible for the budget should be responsible for those decisions. Maynard Behncke stated that if staffing is 50% of the budget, it should have separate oversight. Robert Keeney said it is hard for Finance to stick with the budget if another committee controls 50%.

Larry Wolf suggested maintaining the current structure and combining committees later if this is not working. He expressed his concern that major purchases are not brought to the full County Board and members do not have all of the necessary information. John Patcle stated there is a rule that purchases over \$25,000 be brought to the full board, but it is not being followed. The members discussed whether that should be written into committee rules or be addressed by the full board.

Mark Stead pointed out the committee changes were approved by the County Board so any recommendation to maintain separate committees would need to go back to the board. Robert Keeney asked if it should go back to the Committee on Committees or to the board. If only a few people feel the committees should not be combined, then the two committees would need to meet again to discuss the rules. It was suggested that the County Board have a special meeting solely to discuss committee structures.

Larry Wolf stated he did not have a problem with combining the committees or leaving them separate as long as the committees go back to the full board for decisions for unbudgeted purchases over \$25,000; major budgeted purchases (such as land or buildings); and major changes (such as insurance carriers).

Maynard Behncke asked if the combined committee would hold two meetings or if ERC would be an item on the meeting agenda. Mark Stead said it could be done either way.

Hans Kostrau stated that the board had approved combining the committees. Hans Kostrau moved to leave the structure as voted on by the County Board and enforce existing rules about major purchases. Members then proceeded to discuss whether specific language about purchases should be included in the committee rules. Maynard Behncke stated that any discussion of a motion is the same as a second; therefore no second is needed to vote on the

motion. Maynard Behncke stated that the appropriate way to bring up an objection to the combined committees is to have it placed on the County Board agenda. Maynard Behncke requested a roll call vote. A yes vote is to combine the committees as approved by the County Board.

Larry Wolf	No	Tony Runde	No
Robert Keeney	Yes	Stephen Adrian	Yes
Hans Kostrau	Yes	Eugene Bartels	Abstain
Lynn Moris	Yes	John Patcle	Yes
Maynard Behncke	No	Mark Stead	No

The motion carried with five yes, four no, and one abstention.

The members returned to the discussion of the rules. Maynard Behncke stated the existing rules should just be combined. John Patcle asked if the \$25,000 purchasing approval should be included. Maynard Behncke reviewed the statutory requirement to obtain bids for contracts in excess of \$25,000.

Due to time constraints, ERC recessed to allow Child Support Administrator Verda Nemo to present proposed purchases from federal stimulus funds to the Finance/Executive Committee. The Legislative Joint Finance Committee indicated they will be releasing the funds next week. In addition to the office furniture and equipment, limited-term staff, and training, Child Support will ask for state approval to contribute funds toward video conferencing improvements for child support related matters. If approved, the video conferencing request would be presented to the appropriate committee by the courts in 2009 or 2010. Child Support may also be able to apply a portion of the funds to reduce the levy amount; further guidance will be provided by the state in July. Lynn Moris, seconded by Hans Kostrau, moved to approve the proposed purchases.

The committees resumed the joint meeting. Stephen Adrian, seconded by Hans Kostrau, moved to combine the current rules of the two committees as is. Robert Keeney stated the purchasing policy could be developed countywide. Maynard Behncke stated as Chair of ERC he recognized the vote will represent both committees. The motion carried by majority.

Robert Keeney, seconded by Tony Runde, moved to adjourn the Employee Relations Committee. Motion carried.

Sue Cummins, Deputy Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. John Patcle, seconded by Hans Kostrau, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

The Revenue/Expenditure Report was reviewed at this time. Lynn Moris, seconded by Eugene Bartels, moved to approve the Revenue and Expenditure Report. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the recommendation of the Public Property Committee to “transfer all Committee and Commission compensation budgeted monies that are now set up in the Department budgets and transfer that money to the County Board Chair’s budget line item when the new board comes into existence in 2010.” Nancy Scott explained that a few departments receive some cost-based reimbursement and the requested change would result in a small loss of revenue. Stephen Adrian said Public Property recommended the change in the belief it would simplify the budgeting and accounting, but was unaware it might result in less revenue. Hans Kostrau, seconded by Robert Keeney, moved to recommend to the County Board to leave the committee and commission costs in the departments and transfer the budgeted monies to the departments for 2010. Motion carried. Nancy will ensure that committee and commission per diems are a separate line item for each department.

The Committee reviewed the information on the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission funds on hand. Stephen Adrian, seconded by Hans Kostrau, moved to take the current year contribution of \$26,520 from the \$34,251.39 on hand and request the balance be refunded. Motion carried.

The consensus of the Committee was to take the departments’ budget contingency plans as informational and keep them available for when the state budget is known. Mark Stead informed the Committee that he asked the Personnel Director and Finance Director to review what the county legally can and cannot do regarding staffing, hours, and wages if it becomes necessary. He stated his goal is to look long-range and keep the county in the black but not to take advantage of employees.

Nancy Scott presented the costs of the proposal from Springbrook for an integrated software package in lieu of replacing the AS/400 which is necessary to continue running the current system. An integrated system would eliminate much of the current duplication of effort and likely result in reduced audit time/cost but would require a substantial investment by the county. Copies of the cost information will be provided to all County Board Supervisors and a representative from Springbrook will be asked to provide an overview of the system at the July County Board meeting.

Nancy Scott gave the Finance Director’s Report including an update on the Joint Finance Committees changes to the governor’s budget proposal and 2008 potential carryover amounts. Departments have been notified to submit their carryover requests (approved by the governing committees) for the July Finance/Executive Committee meeting in accordance with the new policy. Lynn Moris, seconded by Eugene Bartels, moved to accept the Finance Director’s report. Motion carried.

At 11:35 a.m., Hans Kostrau, seconded by Stephen Adrian, moved to adjourn the Finance/Executive Committee meeting to Tuesday, June 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.