

Menominee County Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
June 25, 2014

*****Approved 8.11.14*****

The Finance Committee met on June 25, 2014 at 8:30 AM at the Menominee County Courthouse, Administrative Office.

Present at the meeting were Coms. Nelson, Hafeman, Lang and Schei, Brian Bousley, Sherry DuPont, & other members of the public.

Call Meeting to order: Chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all

Roll Call: Roll call was taken; all commissioners are present.

Agenda was approved by Com. Hafeman and supported by Com. Schei to approve the agenda as written. Motion approved 4/0.

Previous Meeting minutes: June 12, 2014– moved by Com. Hafeman and supported by Com. Schei to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 Finance Committee meeting. Motion approved 4/0.

Public Comment: None

Business:

- a. **Budget Amendment #5 ~ 2013/14 Budget year:** Discussion of Budget amendment #5. Shakey lakes Improvement - \$12,272.74; Bailey Park Improvements - \$1,148.05 the money to pay these amendments will come from the Fund Balance in the Parks account (\$13,420.79) We will probably have more expenses due to faulty (old) equipment at Shakey lakes park that will need more improvements. Com. Hafeman moves to approve, Com. Schei supports, to move this to the full board for approval. All coms. concur. Bousley: Currently reservations are low due to Mosquitoes & weather.
- b. **2014/15 Budget Discussion:** Administrator Bousley discussed the preliminary 2014/15 budget. Currently the budget sits at \$582. Nelson: Questions the Coms. if they had a chance to look at the MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report (12.31.13). He states contributions are up \$50,000 this year. Pg. 17 shows contributions by year. Pg. 21 shows percentages. The downfall in the market really did no difference. Hafeman: that's because of the smoothing, isn't it? When did we

change from a B-2 to a B-3? Lang: I would say 12-15 years ago. Other than putting a little reserve, there's nothing we can do but play it out. Nelson: Our best defense is to get into a system where we can project costs. Brian would like money put aside for buildings and grounds (building projects), we haven't put any money into that account for many years, it's depleting. Three way road we can start putting a little way each year and do it every 4 years. Road commission can't do it every year anyway. Nelson: that's the one thing we give back to the totality of the county. Lang: The road program is not required that we fund. There is no request for the Jail door capital outlay. Bousley: that is in there, we added it at the last meeting. As far as the building fund goes, at the end of the year, any surplus should go to the building fund. We've already budgeted for that. Lang: The entry door in the courthouse. Are we looking at that? Bousley: We are looking at other ways for us to fix the entry problem. Nelson: we need to fund what we need and the MERS amortization schedule. Bousley: If we move to the DC, we'll have a fixed number. At an admin. meeting on Friday. Gladstone had a meeting with MERS, they won't be able to pay everything (because of the amortization) and MERS worked with them to an amount that they can pay. Schei: Is it possible for MERS to allow us to pay a straight amount? Why can't we approach them with a straight line level every year? Is there a way we can get them to keep the payments the same each year instead of increasing it every year? Nelson: Pg. 17 (MERS Actuarial) benefit payments are 890,984. Investment income is 859,598. Increases in pay causes an increase in MERS payments. Nelson: did you run some numbers for us? Bousley: Yes we had many changes (see attachment). Discussion about the Annex, to change office hours to about 5 hrs/day. Both Sherry and I have been covering the office there when we can. We currently have a manpower person there in the afternoon to cover Building code and answer MSU calls/questions. MOA has been changed to 30,000 because there hasn't been anyone there. We haven't gotten a lot of service. We're trying to work with Merit to get fiber into that building for better connections. Com. Hafeman asked about transferring calls (or forwarding) to this office or another from there. Yes it can be done. Nelson: If we can get to a position again where we can have cost control in our benefits and you feel it's necessary to have someone fulltime there, I thought possibly we could put equalization in the annex. They are cramped here, it's not a good system. Lang: We did that once before, we should look at how that worked out last time. Nelson: I'm not saying it's a solution, it may be a way. Schei: I brought that up to the treasurer...they got a lot of flak from people who wanted to use the services and it was a burden for the people to go to the annex. Hafeman: you have a lot of people there that don't want to come here. Nelson: because of space issues we are having here. Schei: having centralized services is important, not having offices spread throughout the county. Nelson: when you pigeon hole them into such a small space, it makes it much more difficult to do a job. Schei: the person that's in that office now wants to stay in Stephenson politically because there's a lot of space, it was very comfortable and now two people crammed into a corner is a problem. We are creating office space for other departments at the annex right now. There may not be room for equalization at the annex. Nelson: Coverage at the annex was the reason why I brought up the space issue. Why the increase in appropriation request from DHS?

Lang: increased cost and training requirements. Nelson: Having background knowledge with DHS, I don't know what training would be paid for. MCSSA conference, there's no reason for them to go. Lang: I think they decided to drop the MCSSA. Nelson: We need further clarification on this. I would not approve the increase without more specific information. Find out what is required by law? Conservation District – what was their request for? There is a 60% increase from the year before. I think \$3,000 is plenty. If they have some real concrete things that they need it for, I have no problem with it. Get more specific information from Donna. County Parks will use the fund balance to fund down to zero so the county won't put in an appropriation for them. Bousley: the library is down from last year because last year, they were on the defined benefit that is now closed (non-union) so MERS is budgeted in the Other legislative account for the amortization scheduled payments. Nelson: what's the status of 911? Retirement? Bousley: I will meet with them mid-July for finalizing negotiations. Nelson: Make sure the department heads get the MERS Actuarial so they can see the numbers (page 17). All we're trying to do is to ensure that the employees we currently have, never have to worry about their retirement. Have the Department head meeting in conjunction with a Finance Committee meeting. Hafeman: What are we getting out of Economic Development? Bousley: She does give us monthly reports that we put in the board packed. Hafeman: It is specific to the south end of the county. We're not getting anything from them. Schei: What would you like to see? Nelson: They met with her two years ago, township officials basically shook their heads and said they didn't have any ideas. Go to the intersection of US 2 and 41 in Powers, that would be the place to develop. Lang: The people that live up in the county, live there because that's the type of life they want to live, the country living atmosphere. You want to develop it yet you want to keep it pristine. You can't have it both ways. Dupont: MERS flat rate retirement (the closed divisions) is coming out of the unfunded liability account. Is that where you want the money coming from? Nelson: It's coming from the \$500,000? No, I'd like the \$500,000 set aside. Schei: where are we paying it out of the current budget? Bousley: from the MERS unfunded account. I felt that's where it should come from. Nelson: I'd rather see that come from the other operating.

Public Comment: Tom Cheski: US 2/41, I agree, it has some prime land for development.

Commissioner Comment: Hafeman: the state owns the land on that corner and they don't want to move on it. Nelson: We have politicians Schei: Looking forward to the next meeting.

Adjourn: Moved by Schei supported by Hafeman to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 A.M. Motion approved 4/0.