

Menominee County Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
August 25, 2014

*****APPROVED 9.18.14*****

The Finance Committee met on August 25, 2014 at 9:30 AM at the Menominee County Courthouse, Administrative Office.

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

Call Meeting to order: Chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

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

Previous Meeting minutes: Previous minutes from Aug. 11, 2014 were not yet available for approval.

Public Comment: None

Business:

- a. **2014/15 Budget Discussion:** Bousley: We do have some changes. Pg. 3-District Court we removed \$20,000 due to the Cunningham case. (less court costs reimbursed). Pg. 18-Equalization, memberships and subscriptions. Peggy asked for an additional \$175 to cover additional fees. Pg. 21-Buildings and grounds flat rate retirement. We removed that from here and will pay it off from the MERS unfunded liability acct. Pg. 25 – Sheriff dept. Same thing. We removed the flat rate retirement and will pay that from the MERS unfunded liability. Page 34, DHS Board we removed \$5,000. Nelson: Did we ever get an answer from GAP funds and why they don't use the available resources. Brian: I talked to Russell about this, he said he'd get back to me. Pg. 35 Autopsies we increased. Hafeman: have those gone up in cost? Bousley: No we just have more requests now. They are not always done. They are currently done at St. Francis in Escanaba. Pg. 39 –Conservation District we reduced the appropriation to \$3,000. (from \$5,000). Pg. 70-71 Childcare – we had to make some changes because the grant has decreased. This increased by \$9,851. Nelson: The retirement dropped substantially because this is one of the new DC employees. Juv. Prob. Officer – in home care: funding sources were dropped so we had to increase the county appropriation. Hafeman: Economic development, page 38, we haven't gotten reports on it;

we don't have anything for the north county even though there's been economic development, they had to handle it all on their own. I can name three businesses that have expanded with no help. I think it's overpriced. I'd like to make a motion that we eliminate that. Nelson supports for the purpose of discussion. Hafeman: We don't get any income back on that because it's a tax abatement and we end up with no income from it. Nelson: County wide I think economic development is important, I just don't think we have the right person, nor should we fund it for that reason. It should be county wide. We were promised reports, and we haven't seen any. I suggest we take the \$20,000...Lang: where do you draw the line on where part of the county doesn't benefit through Economic development. Is that thru Stephenson or thru Daggett, it's a fictitious question. We have representation on that board of directors, is there a concern from the board of directors Brian? Bousley: we've talked about it, it's brought up all the time. We did the ABS in Wallace. Nancy says she puts herself out there, but no one contacts her. Nelson: There was a serious issue about just blatantly not responding to an area in the county. That is a problematic employee, not a problematic position. I think economic development is great, I just think the employee has to focus throughout the county. Lang: Who's the employee responsible to, the EDC right? That's a governing board. They should keep track if she's doing a job or not. She does send them about every other month in a packet. Schei: We aren't seeing any benefit from the person. I think we need to promote economic development. I propose Nancy Douglas have office hours in the annex so she is available to everyone in the county. We should be talking to the board, not the employee. Hafeman: I think we should be asking for two things: Representation on the North end of the County, and we should be asking for the quarterly reports. Furthermore, we should not make payments until we have these. Nelson: This was supposed to be a quarterly payment. I don't see funding it at all, but we should be withholding payments until there is some productivity. I do believe that a majority of the time should be spent on this end of the county, or wherever the most jobs are being developed. Hafeman: They just put on 30 new people at Wilson Evergreen; they're putting on 30 new people at Wendricks Truss; Steward manufacturing has been expanding, we've got Pepsi in Hermansville; where's economic development then? Schei: What is Economic Development supposed to do? What are we expecting it to be? Hafeman: I'd like to see them coordinate some of the funding for these places, grants or whatever. That hasn't happened. Lang: We should be checking with that board to see if they're satisfied with her performance. A lot of stuff in the name of economic development is not something that you can plaster all over front page of the newspaper. When you're negotiating, you can't display all the details. Schei: Northern Fab. says they wouldn't be in business right now if it weren't for the help of economic development. We have a motion to eliminate the \$20,000 for Economic Development 2/2 Lang and Schei are opposed.

- b. **Fair Discussion:** Schei: The fair board normally gets \$5,000 from us. Brian was supposed to come up with a figure, but we don't have that yet. The Fair board would like to propose to the county board that they need more money. Bousley: The report I have on revenue coming in at \$11,755.50 with the \$5,000 that we put in. Plus gate receipts 75% is \$5,700 = \$17,455.50. The expenses were \$14,803.76. Fair manager \$3,500 was not included in this. Nelson: How much did we pay the employees that work at the parks for the fair? It would cost the county roughly \$10,000 to run the Fair. Schei: We need to decide whether we give

them more money or not. Nelson: We can give them a \$4,000 appropriation and \$3,500 for the Manager. Schei: I move we increase the appropriation to \$8,500, Com. Lang concurs. Hafeman: I don't think we can consider moving the fair for a couple of years until we have plans with other people. Schei: I'm interested in seeing the appropriation raised to allow the Fair Board to do what they want to do. Bousley: The Fair Board was getting on us because we no longer have that fair manager position. They should be the ones to hire a Fair Manager. Hafeman: Carry two line items under the appropriations one for the \$5,000 and one for \$3,500 for the Fair Manager, specifically. (1.01)

Public Comment:

Commissioner Comment:

Adjourn: Moved by Com. Hafeman supported by Com. Schei to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 A.M. Motion approved 4/0.