

Finance Committee

Minutes

October 23, 2020

The Finance Committee of the Piatt County Board met on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Spencer. Attending: Randy Shumard, Shannon Carroll and Renee Fruendt. Robert Murrell and Dale Lattz were absent. Also attending were Doug Johnson and Dustin Harmon of Bellwether and Keri Nusbaum.

Motion: Shumard made motion, seconded by Fruendt to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020 finance committee meeting. On voice vote, all in favor, and the motion carried.

Harmon reviewed the budget options and proposed levy amounts. He asked is a decision was made regarding cuts and payroll options. A 1% increase in nonunion payroll would equal \$4833. A 2% increase would be \$9665. He reviewed the levels of proposed cuts. Sheriffs dept. full cuts would be no cars, and partial would be 1 car with equipment. SA office would see cuts in supplies, book, and new equipment. Education for the Clerk's office would be cut completely or to \$1000. Treasurers office would see cuts in travel and office supplies. Assessors office would see cuts in training and office supplies. EMA department would be put back to part time for a savings of \$30,000 in the full cut budget. Animal control would see cuts in office supplies. County board would have mileage and office supplies cut. Spencer expressed concern about a budget with no wage increases, especially with the mandated minimum wage increases. Carroll asked to see the budget with full cuts, one sheriff's car with no equipment, and a 2% payroll increase for nonunion employees. This would result in a negative \$40,589.00. The committee discussed the levy. There were reductions to some levy requests. The county health department currently has a large cash reserve reserve. Spencer asked if it is required to keep giving them the larger amounts. Harmon answered it is up to the county board. If the health department levy is reduced by \$40,589 it would result in a balanced budget.

Motion: Shannon Carroll made motion, seconded by Randy Shumard to recommend to the full county board the full cut budget, with one sheriff's vehicle with no equipment and a 2% pay increase to nonunion labor to the county board. Roll was called, all in favor and the motion carried.

Motion: Randy Shumard made motion, seconded by Renee Fruendt to recommend to the county board the presented levy strategy contingent on \$50,000 reduction to the health department and increase to county corporate. Roll was called, all in favor and the motion carried.

Harmon gave a slide presentation with predictions for future budgets. He noted that corrective action is needed, but it is not sustainable. The long term solution would be to optimize revenue and reduce expenses. The situation is based on property growth, but that will not always be the case.

Public Comments: Eric Seibring cautioned the board that the funds created this year will not be available until next year.

Kirkman asked if the county could consider selling unused real estate. Harmon suggested having a real estate professional evaluate the property.

Motion: Shannon Carroll made motion, seconded by Renee Fruendt to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Nusbaum
Piatt County Zoning Officer