

**KEWAUNEE COUNTY**

**FINANCE & PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

Date: **October 20, 2020** Time: **4:30 PM**

Location: **County Fairgrounds – 4H Conference Room**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM by Chairman Mastallr

**Roll call:** Members present: John Mastallr, Virginia Haske (4:50 p.m.), Tom Romdenne, Doak Baker, Jeffrey Vollenweider (5:00 p.m.).

Others present: Scott Feldt, Paul Kunesh, Daniel Olson, Gary Paape, Todd Every, Amber Hewett, Chuck Wagner.

**Approve the agenda:** Motion by Romdenne, second by Baker to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**Approve minutes:** Motion by Baker second by Romdenne to approve the **10/02/2020** Finance Committee minutes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Revolving Loan Fund Close Out Allocations:** Kunesh provided summary of the RLF-CLOSE program and how the allocation was determined. Motion by Baker second by Romdenne to recommend approval of the allocation of \$692,095.79 to the City of Algoma and \$832,095.79 to the City of Kewaunee for blight elimination projects while complying with CDBG guidelines. Motion carried.

**Approval of Amendment of Public Health 2020 Budget:** Kunesh provided a summary of the changes in the Public Health Department budget to an increase in grant funds. Motion by Romdenne second by Baker to recommend approval of the acceptance of grant funds and adjustment to the Public Health Department budget in the amount of \$47,123. Motion carried.

**Approval of Transfer of \$23,789 for Phased Redevelopment Study of Highway Shop:** Every gave a summary as to the previous work done by the Highway Committee regarding the replacement of the Highway Shop. To better determine the cost of redeveloping the shop on the current site will require engineering work. Baker asked why the work is being done now if the project is likely to be years in the future. Every answered that the geotechnical work would determine the feasibility of redeveloping the current shop site. This work can be done now and the results would help to make site location decisions. Discussion followed regarding cost and how the project fits into the entire county capital improvement and financial picture. This would be an adjustment to the 2021 proposed budget since the study and payment would likely take place in 2021.

Motion by Romdenne second by Haske to recommend approval of the contract with Barrientos Design and Consulting to study the the phased redevelopment of the Highway Shop and site geotechnical work for \$23,780. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Baker voting nay..

**Review KCEDC Summary Report (possible action):** Paape and Hewett addressed the Committee regarding the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation (KCEDC). Hewett the activities of KCEDC and the organization's strategic goals, and how the COVID pandemic affected the organization. Hewett acknowledged that the past performance of KCEDC has not met the level of performance she would like to see. Hewett reminded the committee that she has been the interim Director for only a few months and the Chair of the

Board for only a year. Since that time, KCEDC has met and will refocus its efforts on a few items: 1) Strengthening the Buy Local program to support our local employers, 2) Workforce Development to provide labor and talent for our local businesses and 3) Better Communication with our investors and the county board to demonstrate the good work KCEDC is doing.

Discussion followed that touched upon a variety of concerns past and present. The main concern expressed by the committee was whether the County is getting a return for the money that is invested year after year and how do we measure it. There was some consensus that KCEDC has had difficulty in demonstrating value in the past. This discussion led to what is the purpose of KCEDC and what the result would be if KCEDC were to resolve. It was stated that if KCEDC were to no longer exist, the need for economic development were still remain and who would then coordinate those efforts. Additional discussion revisited the point of that when KCEDC was created it was stated that the organization would become self sufficient. This did not happen. Discussion followed regarding the concern of the lack of private sector support. Discussion returned to the topic of KCEDC providing a measurement that shows a return on investment. Feldt stated that the County and KCEDC need to agree upon metrics so that both parties can determine whether KCEDC has been successful. Vollenweider provided some examples of KCEDC providing support to businesses like the Paycheck Protection Program and providing support letters to businesses submitting grant applications to the state. Discussion continued on the point of measuring return on investment. Romdenne inquired as to the lack of support from local businesses. Discussion followed as to how to get more "buy in" from local employers. This led to a discussion about dues and financial support. Romdenne stated concerns about KCEDC communication with the County Board. Paape responded that the County Board receives the minutes of the KCEDC meeting monthly, any supervisors is welcome to attend those meetings and all county board supervisors receive an invitation to the annual meeting. In addition, KCEDC was allowed to present to the County Board only once by the previous Board Chair.

Due to time constraints, Chair Mastalir asked that the topic be discussed again at the next committee meeting. Chair Mastalir thanked Hewett and Paape for their time.

**Review Budget Summary History & Detail:** The item was tabled by the Chair for a future meeting.

**Approval of Changes to 2021 County Budget:** Kunesh provided a list of adjustments to the 2021 budget for consideration. The Information Systems Department is requesting an additional \$5500 for maintenance agreements for software programs that increase annually. The Executive Committee approved pay plan changes in the amount \$44,395 that is less than from the Administrator's proposed budget.

Motion by Romdenne second by Vollenweider to recommend approval of budget adjustments. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Baker voting nay.

**Such other matters as authorized by law:** None.

**Next Finance Committee meeting:** November 6, 2020 at 8:00 AM.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Vollenweider second by Romdenne to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.