

**Kewaunee County**  
**FINANCE & PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 2, 2016      Time: 4:30 PM

Kewaunee County Administration Center, 810 Lincoln St, Kewaunee, WI 54216  
Committee Room (moved to the County Board Room for more space)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:36 PM by Chairman Lee Luft

Roll Call: Members present: Lee Luft, John Mastalir, Tom Romdenne, Virginia Haske, Chris Rasmussen.

Others present: Scott Feldt, Paul Kunesh, Sue Weisser, Bill Iwen, Matt Joski, Larry Kirchman, Mary Ellen Dobbins, Dave Myer, Robert Weidner, Kay Shillin

Approve the Agenda: Motion by Virginia Haske, second by Tom Romdenne to adopt the August 2, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion by Virginia Haske, second by Tom Romdenne to adopt the July 7, 2016 Finance Committee minutes. Motion carried.

Review Suggested Cost Savings Budget Initiatives: The committee listed and discussed ideas & proposals collected since the last meeting that include: require the use of County owned vehicles vs paying mileage to employees, payment of mileage for board and committee members to & from meetings, teleconferencing options for committee and other meetings, review the number of board members and per diem paid, out of County library usage, increasing employee health insurance contributions, continue refinancing efforts, energy audits for County facilities, and reduction of the number of employees. Chairman Luft requested a list of services the County is mandated to provide. Health insurance is the single largest expenditure issue over the last several years, and changes to the network are in progress. Discussion about assessment differences and assessment value of farmland.

Review Revenue Enhancements such as Fees for Service: The committee discussed the merit of selling unused land. Potential fees discussed include:

ATV Park fee—discussion was about the costs of maintaining & managing the park and how to determine a fee, ATV club could possibly collect, contact club to see if there support of collection of fees to help maintain the park, fee could be split with the club. Motion by Virginia Haske, second by John Mastalir to direct Promotion & Recreation and the County Administrator contact the ATV club to discuss collection of voluntary donations to maintain and manage the ATV Park. Motion carried.

Animal waste storage unit inspection fee—A fee to look at storage & spreading of Manure with the fee being based on the size of the storage facility. Agricultural land inspection fees—A farmland walkover is currently needed every 3 years to continue Farmland Preservation program. This fee & walkover could apply to some or all County farmland. Cost of providing the storage inspections and the walkover is a large part of the Land Conservation department. Motion by Virginia Haske, second by John Mastalir to direct the County Administrator evaluate both animal waste storage & agriculture land inspection fee amounts, not to exceed the cost of the service, as part of the 2017 budget. Discussion followed. Motion passed 5-0.

Private Well Registration & Inspection Fee—Approximately 10% of wells have been tested. This fee could provide routine and periodic testing of all wells in the county. Frequency of testing and cost was discussed. More information is requested prior to moving forward. Information requested includes: What is the fee to be used for & what service is being provided? Can the county require the inspection and or replacement of wells? Additional information should focus on condition of well & attach a cost & fee. The County Administrator will come back with more information.

Manure spill response fees – currently no charge by County for responding. The DNR is not always able to respond. Definition of a spill and minimum amounts were questioned. More information was requested.

Winter Spreading Ordinance fee increase-existing fine for the first offence is \$250-500, and second fine is doubled, etc. There have been several warnings & citations to mostly repeat offenders. This ordinance is relatively new and the Committee decided this should be reviewed in another year and with input from the Land & Water committee.

Review Sales Tax or Other Tax Proposals: The committee discussed the questions: should the committee recommend a sales tax? At this time? By County Board vote or referendum? Discussion followed.

Finalize Recommendations for 2017 Budget Process:

Motion by Chris Rasmussen to require a sales tax be implemented only by referendum. There was no second.

Motion by Virginia Haske, second by John Mastalir to recommend the County Board to vote on enacting a ½% sales tax, with the amount received in excess of the budget shortfall placed in the General Fund balance and not spent on additional expenditures, and recommend that it have a sunset provision after 5 years. Roll call vote: Luft, Mastalir, Romdenne, Haske, voted Yes, Rasmussen voted No. Motion passed 4-1.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday August 10 4:30.

Public Comment:

Sue Weisser spoke about tax levy & fund balance and social security increases, health insurance premiums, mandated services, CAFO fees, and out of county library fees.

Bill Iwen spoke about high capacity well fees, CAFOs, cutting expenditures related to town & county offices.

Adjournment: Motion by Tom Romdenne, second by John Mastalir to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Submitted by:

Paul Kunesh, Recording Secretary