

Finance Committee Meeting Report
303C, September 14, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Rex Kiser, Mark Burton, Brian Corkill, Natalie Hendryx, Kippy Breeden, and Tim Yager Members Absent: Others Present: Erin Knackstedt, Sheriff, Rosemary Rathjen, SA, Terilyn Motley, PD Camp, Jeanna Moore, Dave Dobbels, Robin Tippitt, Julie Kaufman, Tim Wells, Kathy Nelson, Clerk Link, Jim Thompson, Dale Stiles, and Phil Wirt (left 4:45 pm)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Burton at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Member Hendryx moved to approve the agenda, Member Kiser seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Burton introduced Phil Wirt from Diverse Communications, INC. and everyone went around the room to identify themselves.

There was no public comment

Member Kiser moved to approve the agenda with the change to reflect Diverse throughout, Member Yager seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Under new business,

Member Kiser moved to approve GIS increase, Member Hendryx seconded, Member Hendryx then moved to lay over the item until the next meeting, Member Corkill seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. There was a brief discussion regarding the previous process used to evaluate fees, concerns over the collection of the fee, giving a 30 day notice for the increase, and what the fee provides. The report was vague and the fund balance is healthy. Clerk Link and Assessor Vinavich should confer before the next meeting.

Member Yager moved to approve the Deed of Conveyance, Member Kiser seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Member Kiser moved to approve the Public Defender Funding contract, Member Breeden seconded, there was a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion carried. Administrator Knackstedt gave an overview of what the funds were to be used for, the funding mechanism for continued funding from the AOIC, listing the position as grant funded and contingent on this. PD Camp discussed the need for a third attorney in his office. The committee had a brief discussion regarding placing the funds in a restricted fund.

Member Yager moved to approve the Diverse Communications proposal, Member Kiser seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. The committee reviewed the proposal form Diverse Communications and discussed their concerns/approvals of the project. The committee discussed private-public partnerships, de-federalizing RLF funds, benefits of the project for Henry County citizens, and investment in a local company. Many members expressed feeling on the fence about the project and Chair Breeden then spoke to how she had felt the same way but

after meeting with Phil and discussing the project benefits in detail, she was all in. Everyone expressed similar sentiments.

Chair Burton briefly discussed the fiscal position of the county in regards to the fund balances that were impacted during the rounds of capital projects.

Under Presentations,

The committee began the budget discussion. Chair Burton prepared a slide show that broke down the increases for each department within the general fund and reviewed the reasons behind any substantial increases. Reasons that were discussed were the union/non-union scheduled increases, Federal election increases, IS support increases, moving three positions from restricted funds to the general fund because of decreased funding, and other misc. expenses. The committee then discussed in detail the proposals from the Administrator regarding a small group of front line management employees to increase the salary. The committee decided to phase in the increases for those with service of 10 plus years the increases will be over two years and for employees with less than 10 years, the increases will be phased in over three years. The committee then discussed the late proposal from the Sheriff regarding an increase for the Captain. The committee and all members present went around the room to comment on the proposal. The Sheriff gave his reasoning for the proposal and Administrator Knackstedt gave her reasoning for a more modest approach with a potential salary study in the future. The committee agreed the ask was not in line with comps and agreed to a 4% increase for this budget cycle and moving towards a salary/job description study.

The committee heard the report provided by Sheriff Verscheure which updated the committee on the Henry County Correctional Center Population report, Sheriff sales, and the public safety sales tax and revenues/expenditures.

There was no report provided by Assessor Tracey Vinavich

The committee read the report provided by Clerk Link which gave the County Clerk/Recorder report which included budget, FOIA, elections, and daily workflow.

The committee read the report provided by Treasurer Vincent which gave the Treasurer report which included taxes, interest, CD rates, and banking trends.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's Bank Balance Report and the County Clerk's Dept. report. Member Yager moved to recommend the County Board place on file the Treasurer's monthly Bank Balance reports and monthly interest report, and the County Clerk's monthly Department report. Member Hendryx seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried. (on file)

The committee reviewed the August 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Accumulated Transaction report and Budget Performance Reports.

Member Yager moved to recommend the County Board approve the monthly County Accounts in the amount of \$4,416,718.67 Member Hendryx seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried.

There was no old business

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., 303C conference room.

Member Yager moved to adjourn, and Member Hendryx seconded, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Knackstedt, County Administrator