



FINANCE PLANNING COMMITTEE
December 12, 2014

Chairman Herb Cornell called the Finance Planning Committee to order at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, December 12, 2014 on the 1st floor conference room of the Erlandson Building. Members present were Herb Cornell, Adrian Amelse, Will Beitlich, Dennis Brault, Frank McCoy, Glenda Sullivan and Ole Yttri. Others in attendance were Ron Hoff, Gail Muller, Beth Johnson, Pam Eitland, Kelly Schwartz, Rachel Hanson, Pat Peterson, Greg Lunde, Chad Buros, Connie McCullick, Phil Hewitt, Karen Ehle-Traastad, Dan Meyer and John Spears.

Affirmation of proper public notice was given. **Motion by Amelse, second by Brault to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2014 meeting. Motion carried by all.**

Cornell moved to Item #6 on the agenda, Department Mergers, Discussion of Human Services, Aging and Health. Amelse gave presentation on discussion with the three departments, the recommendation from the group is they would look at collaborative opportunities, and not merging opportunities at this time.

Ho-Chunk Expenditures, Yttri stated Finance will meet in January, on Ho Chunk allocations.

E-enabling checks and bills, Ron gave an update on the payroll direct deposits and E Stubs, Ron and Connie McCullick will look at other websites and costs.

Consolidation of phone bills, Connie McCullick, every department has a very good program now and feels there aren't more savings available.

Health Insurance cost due to Affordable Care Act, Vernon Manor possibly has seven employees that could take our Health Insurance from a 30 hour rule on part time employees, due to the Affordable Care Act. Those employees will be notifying us by 12/17/14 on insurance.

Karen Ehle Traastad announced that by January 23, 2015 the Ag Agent Position will be posted, this position needs a master's degree, and it could be June 1, 2015 before position is finalized. Information on the position can be reviewed on the web site.

Discussion on Department mergers, Pat Peterson asked about process and were cost savings will be. Karen Traastad asked if committee is going to study all programs and the staff duties of all involved departments. Karen Traastad feels cutting staff may not be a savings two years into the future, it just appears to cut costs the first year. Eitland stated the three Department Heads have met and discussed job duties that they can work together on. Amelse stated collaborating is important and we must identify cost savings, other counties have done it. Beth Johnson stated counties that have merged will state there was not much savings.

Spears stated the Performance Management team looked at everything possible to look for savings and every employee should forward any good ideas. Eitland feels this needs a board directive.

In the past Greg Lunde took over Dave Jenkins work with child support, Highway commissioner took over maintenance supervision. Cornell stated cutting all budgets a certain % is an option the board does not want to implement.

Brault asked for all three department heads to keep talking about a merger, and Brault asked what department effects would be, if budgets were cut 5% or so.

Pat Peterson stated aging has many programs with no county tax levy, it operates with small amounts of money. Aging applies for many grants, but that does take more administration. Hewitt stated many job duties increased with fewer employees at highway over the last 2 years and has basically worked well. Beitlich discussed zoning to LWCD could be possible savings and will be looked at in detail. Beth Johnson stated they could be agents for state in restaurant inspections, but would require more staff, but would generate more income, and would cover costs and more. Spears discussed alternative fuels for vehicles could be feasible and possible computer programs for vehicles to cut engine idling time. Highway discussing adding a third mechanic on a night shift and then could do general maintenance on all county vehicles and possibly do some from municipalities.

The next Finance Planning Committee meeting is Friday, December 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Erlandson Conference Room. **Motion by Amelse, second by Beitlich to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Minutes respectively submitted by,
Ronald Hoff
Vernon County Clerk