

Berrien County Board of Commissioners

Virtual Finance Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Board of Commissioner's Room

Finance Committee Attendance:

Commissioner Mamie L. Yarbrough – Chairperson	Present
Commissioner Robert P. Harrison – Vice-Chairman	Present
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman	Present
Commissioner Ezra Scott	Present

Others Present: County Administrator Bill Wolf, Secretary Stephanie Carlson, Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie, Financial Services Director Doug James, Building & Grounds Superintendent Todd Johnson.

Annette Christie called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Public Comments: None

Appointments:

There was a discussion about the Retiree Healthcare and the law enforcement services contracts with the different townships. Administrator Wolf turned it over to Doug James to go over the numbers and what actions need to be taken to sustain the health insurance fund. Commissioner Scott asked if it would help if we raised the administration fee from 10% to 15%. Administrator Wolf said he did mention to the Sheriff about doubling the fee but the Sheriff feels we will lose the contracts if we raise the fees. Bill said they came to the Finance Committee this morning hoping to get approval to move \$441,000 out of the Public Safety Millage Fund to the Healthcare Fund. Commissioner Scott motioned to approve moving the funds, supported by Commissioner Harrison. Roll call vote: 4 yays, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Next, Bill briefed the committee on a couple other items, one being the HVAC system at the South County Building. He then turned it over to Todd to explain. He said he was looking at replacing the HVAC system at a cost of approximately \$130,000 because one of the coils is bad and only running at 50 percent right now. The lead time for a new HVAC system is 7 weeks and the cost to replace the coil is approximately \$20,000. Administrator Wolf explained this is really considered an emergency and was asking the committee to advise how they should proceed. The committee agreed for Todd to move forward with repairing the HVAC system.

The other item Bill had for the committee was the painting that was bid out for the courthouse. He said the bid came in lower than they expected, but Pearson Construction said there was wood that was rotten and needed to be replaced and replacing the wood was not bid out nor was it a part of the painting bid. Commissioner Harrison agreed to go ahead and get the wood replaced. Commissioner Scott didn't feel it constitutes an emergency and wondered why it isn't being bid out to see if it can be done cheaper. Todd explained he wasn't sure how he would bid it out because it's not apples to apples so he wouldn't know

how to gauge it to write the specs to be fair to everyone. Administrator Wolf said that is why they were bringing it to the committee. They know Pearson is reputable and they don't know if someone else would replace the wood or just paint over it. Commissioner Hinkelman also agreed to allow Pearson to move forward and stated although it's not an emergency it is good to do it during the fair weather. Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve Pearson to replace the wood and do the painting, supported by Commissioner Hinkelman. Roll Call Vote: 3 yays, 1 nay. Motion carried.

Minutes Approval:

Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve the virtual minutes from May 14, 2020, supported by Commissioner Scott. Roll call vote: 4 yays, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:24

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Carlson
Financial Services