

Minutes approved 04-19-11

Finance Committee

Justice Center Community Room
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.



Committee Members Present: Chairman Tim Neuhauser, Vice Chair Jim Carius, Dean Grimm, Mike Harris, Linc Hobson, Carroll Imig, Darrell Meisinger, Jerry Vanderheydt

Absent Committee Members: Russ Crawford, Terry Von Boeckman

Others: County Administrator David Jones

Chairman Neuhauser welcomed Jim Donahue to the committee.

MOTION

MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY DONAHUE to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Mike Harris asked for a discussion of fees at next month's meeting.

Administrator Jones wanted to bring some legislative bills to the attention of the committee.

Regarding income tax – the State is still behind. The county has received funds thru November 2010. It is estimated they are at least \$637,489.00 in arrears at this time.

Senate Bill 1921 and House Bill 1141, if passed, will have a huge impact on receipt of state income tax. SB 1921 would direct the State to direct deposit all state shared taxes into the Local Government Distributive Fund. Currently tax payments are placed into the General Revenue Fund and then transferred. The sales tax distribution process works well for local government and this will more closely mirror that process. This bill needs to be supported.

Personal Property Replacement Taxes came in at the beginning of March. They were up approximately 16%

from last March which is about a \$10,000.00 increase. The numbers outpace our budget.

Treasurer Burress' report indicates Public Safety Sales Tax is up 5.5% this month. We budgeted for a 2% increase so another area we continue to outpace our budget.

All sales tax receipts combined were \$1,036,568.00 or an 8% increase. This is close to a record. This is an important time for this committee to watch sales tax receipts. The January 2011 income tax increase will soon reflect the affects on consumption patterns.

There have been legislative consultant discussions regarding HB 1293. This is a bill that will broaden private practice attorneys to handle foreclosures. Several years ago the process was changed by the Courts allowing the Sheriff to handle foreclosure. There are fees received by the county for the Sheriff's service.

This bill will reduce the number of cases handled by the county. The courts made it a fair system by utilizing a neutral third party, the Sheriff, to handle

This is going to the full house and senate. This will affect revenue plus there is a fairness issue. It strips local authority. No reason was given as to why there needs to be a change.

There has been no Finance Sub Committee meeting for any updates at this time.

MOTION

MOTION BY CARUIS, SECOND BY HARRIS to recommend to County Board to approve the bills as presented.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Jim Donahue wanted to bring an issue to the attention of the Committee. The Law Library Fee increased to \$13.00. He reported that there is a judicial salary reimbursement paid out of this account. This issue is being looked into.

RECESS

Chairman Neuhauser recessed the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Beeney)