



GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Administration Conference Room
April 28, 2020
8:30 a.m.

Staff Present: County Administrator Scott Arneson, Brian Anderson, Kelly Bolin, Andrea Benck, Stacy Lance, Greg Isakson, Stephen O’Keefe, Lavon Augustine, Kristine Holst, Micki O’Keefe, Nina Arneson, Melissa Cushing, Mike Zorn, Julie Huneke, Commissioner Paul Drotos, Barney Nesseth, Brad Anderson and Linda Flanders.

1. Tax Due Date (Class 3a businesses that were closed or significantly reduced due to the Governor’s order)

Brian Anderson addressed the committee and reviewed a staff report on tax due date extensions and/or delayed penalties.

C/Drotos requested the County Attorney bring a legal opinion on the statutes regulating the issue to the May 5 County Board Meeting.

Consensus from the committee was to have staff bring forward a report at the May 5 County Board Meeting outlining options to include: 1% reduction through July 15; Application to get the 1% reduction; Delay due date until May 31 with abatement option to delay until July.

2. 2021 Budget Direction. Administrator Arneson reviewed the following options that staff would be considering when planning for the 2021 budget:

- a. Focus on a 0% levy
- b. Consider **all** capital budgets and look at alternatives
- c. Consider all areas of the budget that will be prone to reductions due to economic impacts
- d. Consider county wide salary direction for 2021
- e. Review vehicle utilization in light of new meeting technology trends
- f. Consider all tax saving measures

C/Drotos suggested a follow-up budget workshop be scheduled with the full board to discuss budgeting issues for 2021. C/Andersen pointed out that we were moving into the second year of the biennium state budget so by letting the legislature get through this session will determine what the changes, if anything, will be to counties.

3. Property Acquisition- 621 West 4th Street, Red Wing. County Attorney, Steve O’Keefe reviewed the staff report with the committee. Staff recommendation was to enter into an agreement with Merchant’s Bank to do the following:

1. Cancel the existing purchase agreement

2. Return the earnest money to Goodhue County
3. Allow Goodhue County to transfer the tax forfeited two-foot parcel to the Bank upon payment of outstanding taxes due and owing on the parcel and agree to give Goodhue County the right of first refusal regarding any future purchase offers.

This issue will be brought to the May 5, 2020 County Board Meeting for approval.

County Assessor, Lavon Augustine briefed the committee on a question raised about the county freezing valuations into the next year. This type of action would need to be handled at a state level and not at the county level.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.