

Budget Planning Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors' Meeting
May 31, 2016 - 4:00 p.m.
Bayfield County Board Room, Courthouse, Washburn, Wisconsin

Chairman Pocernich called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. A roll call was taken as follows: Bussey-present; Fickbohm-absent; Maki-absent; Oswald-present; Silbert-present; Pocernich-present; Strand-present; Williams-absent; Coughtry-present; Miller-present; Crandall-present; Rondeau-present; Goodwin-present. Total 13: 10 present, 3 absent. A quorum was present to conduct business. The following were also present for the portion of today's meeting: Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Administrator*; Dawn M. Bellile, *Deputy County Clerk*; Tim Kane, *UW-Extension Educator*; Scottie Sandstrom, *Bayfield County Economic Development Director*; Paul Susienka, *Sheriff*; Tom Toepfer, *Highway Commissioner*; Jason Bodine, *County Forest Administrator*; Ben Dufford, *Land & Water Conservationist*; Brenda Spurlock, *Criminal Justice Coordinator*; Sara Wartman, *Health Director*; Rob Schierman, *Planning & Zoning Administrator*; and Fred Bourg, *District Attorney*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

1. **Moment of Silence** was held in honor of loved ones recently lost by Bayfield County employees; Alice Lampson, mother of Sue Trepanier; Robert Wolfram, husband of Kathy Wolfram, and Eileen Haugen, mother of Dan Anderson.

2. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** were given by Chairman Pocernich. To the new Supervisors and those that have been down this path before, he encouraged everyone to get involved in this process by either asking questions, questioning figures and to give input. He stated to not be afraid to ask questions and to not be afraid to speak and let your thoughts be heard. The budget is the most important document that is passed by the County Board each year. Even though we all have different ideas of how the monies are spent, you should understand where the money comes from, the various taxes (sales, property, etc.), and the feeds collected by the County (grants, loans, etc.), where it is spent, and what programs are mandated and not mandated. The purpose of the budget is to record and control expenditures, to determine who can spend how much money and is the basis for sound decision making. It is also to inform the public on how tax dollars are spent and the policy priorities the County Board has set as well as a record of revenues.

One of the duties of our County Administrator is to prepare and submit an annual budget. This process will take place over the next few months. In early November, the County Board will hold a public hearing and the County Board will adopt the 2017 budget.

I want to thank all of you, the County Administrator, as well as the Department Heads and other County elected officials for their input into the budget, as well as all the great work the County employees perform throughout the year.

Pocernich then turned the meeting over to County Administrator, Abeles-Allison. Abeles-Allison stated that as in the past years, we have done a survey prior to the start

of our budget planning process. This year we received responses from 205 residents/property owner and 10 responses from County Supervisors.

3. **2017 Budget Survey Results and Discussion.** Tim Kane, *UW-Extension Educator*, informed the Board that there were 31 questions in the survey this year. It was placed on the County's website and a copy was sent to all the County town, city and village clerks. The information received will help the County Board in compiling yet another year's budget. Kane went over a few questions and their results with the Board. He noted that it was interesting to find that many of the questions were very similar in how the public and Board answered, i.e., just a few percentages apart.

Questions were asked of Kane pertaining to the survey to which he responded. Kane stated that if anyone has any input or ideas for him for next year's survey to please either let him or Abeles-Allison know.

4. **Bayfield County Finances - Trends.** Abeles-Allison went over the 2017 budget planning with the Board via powerpoint presentation. He stated that after this meeting, directions will be sent out to the department heads on how to prepare their budget. This will have to be completed by the end of August. In the first part of September, a balanced budget will be presented to the Executive Committee. The Committee will then meet 3 to 4 times more, going over the budget in further detail to present to the Board and ready for a public hearing by the end of October to have the budget set for early November.

Abeles-Allison further explained revenue, expenditure and levy trends; 2016 major expenditures, outstanding debt and the fund balance. Abeles-Allison invited Jason Bodine, *Forest Administrator*, to speak to the Board regarding County Forest sale of wood revenues. Bodine stated that things have changed over the past few years. We have made a commitment to capture and manage. This has made a tremendous difference in the management of the forest as has been seen. The reason being that more staff was added and as a result, better management. Bodine went over facts and figures from the powerpoint presented by Abeles-Allison.

Abeles-Allison stated that the Criminal Justice Department did not receive a grant this year and this will be discussed later on.

5. **Department Presentations.** Abeles-Allison invited 4 departments to this afternoon's meeting to make presentations on their departments. They are as follows:

a) **Land & Water Conservation.** Ben Dufford, *County Conservationist*, went 4 topics that his Committee prioritized so the department can begin incorporating them into the budget planning process. The 4 topics are: Farm Succession, Barnyards, Field Edge Monitoring and Well Abandonment. Dufford shared with the Board and discussed each topic stating why they are important to keep moving forward.

b) **Health Department** - Abeles-Allison introduced Sara Wartman, newly hired Health Director. Wartman thanked Dufford for what he just presented as this is what the Health Department will be working on through water quality. Wartman gave a presentation on the importance of water quality and how everything relates to it. She discussed with the Board issues of water quality such as the trouble in Flint, Michigan, or Kewaunee County, and we don't want to end up like them. Bayfield County has 3 departments which share common interests and yet are still unique; Land & Water, Health Department and Tourism.

Fickbohm arrived at 5:30 pm.

Plans for the Health Department are to have further well testing done and data collected from such testing. This information will then be linked with the DNR and expanded to the UW-Stevens Point. While the Health Department did not receive the NEHA funding, they did receive a grant which will allow for some well testing. They also received additional funding which will be used for beach monitoring and further testing on private wells with the assistance of 2 interns this summer.

Supervisor Strand also pointed out that this all came about because of the Large-Scale Livestock Committee meetings.

The Board thanked Wartman for her presentation.

c) **Sheriff/Law Enforcement.** Paul Susienka, *Sheriff*, explained that there are a number of items to consider during the next several budget cycles that would affect the operation of the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department. Staffing is a constant concern and the 2016 budget maintained the staff level as the highest priority for the future operation of the department. Emergency services radio communications are an important aspect of operations and worthy of consideration during future planning. The reason this function merits discussion is that law enforcement radio coverage is deficient. Local emergency services have 10 radio repeater sites to provide county-wide radio coverage. The law enforcement system has 3 sites attempting to cover the same geography. Many areas of Bayfield County have no radio coverage on the law enforcement radio frequency. Susienka reported that there is an opportunity to partner with the Wisconsin Dept. of Justice to operate on the State's WISCOM radio system. This system has several advantages over the legacy system. Coverage is better since the State has 5 available repeater sites in Bayfield County. This system also allows access to sites outside of Bayfield County that can provide radio coverage in Bayfield County territory. A thorough test of the WISCOM system is planned for June, 2016. Susienka also touched base on the need for replacing water fixtures in the older part of the jail and a replacing the stove/range in the jail kitchen. Also planned are added security cameras in the jail and upper level section in 2 cell blocks.

Our jobs are getting more and more complicated all the time. Susienka stated that this is a group effort and thanked the Board for their support. Chairman Pocernich stated that many counties have many conflicts with their Sheriff and Criminal Justice