

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

July 8, 2021

### Minutes

**Committee members present:** Chairman Dave Hintz, Billy Fried, Alan VanRaalte, Steven Schreier, Bob Thome, Dan Hess, Mary Rideout, Tina Smigielski, Lisa Charbarneau, Mike Romportl and Jeff Verdoorn.

**Committee members absent:** none.

**Also present:** Tamara Feest (Human Service Center).

**Call to order:** Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. in County Board Room of the Oneida County Courthouse. The meeting has been properly posted and is in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

**Approve agenda:** Motion by Schrier to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. Second by Van Raalte. All aye; motion carried.

**Approve minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting:** Motion by VanRaalte, second by Schrier to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting as presented. All aye; motion carried.

#### Public Comment

Hintz asked if there was any public comment from people in the room or participating on zoom. Zac Vruwink, City Administrator of Rhinelander stated that he was looking forward to discussions and the ability to collaborate with others in the County. There were no other public comments at this time.

#### Team Updates

Hintz directed the group to forward any changes to the FOC spreadsheet such as line item assignments, new ideas or plans to Charbarneau. Charbarneau will update the spreadsheet.

#### Team A-Financial

Hintz reminded the committee that Team A was assigned understanding the rules and regulations of the relief monies. Currently, the money received by Oneida county is in a separate account. To date the County has received half of the designated 6.9 million dollars.

Smigielski went over a PowerPoint presentation on the Pandemic Relief Program that she created based on the interim final rules. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The committee discussed items that might be considered: rewarding county employees, non-profits are eligible, private sector employees, affordable housing, childcare, PFAS/clean water and using the money for Capital Improvement Projects.

Smigielski went over a request form that was developed for anyone to complete regarding ideas and requests for funds. Once the forms were completed and returned, Team A would review and assign to the appropriate team for further consideration.

#### Team B-Workforce Challenges/Opportunities

Charbarneau went over a list of items that Team B put together that included:

- New team name: Workforce Challenges/Opportunities
- Overtime: majority of OT is at Sheriff's Office. With vacancies it is unavoidable. This is not a county-wide issue.
- Comp Time: majority of comp time is under Deputy Contract. Many department heads use this as a tool to cover their peak times and allow employees time off when they are slower. This is not a county-wide issue. Committee feels there should be a consistent administration of comp time policy.
- PTO-biggest issue is PTO Payout. This is not a County-wide issue.
- Committee recommends a County Administrator position. County-wide orchestration/administration. This would allow for consistency when administering policies.
- County must consider: retention, attraction and competition with employees.
- HSC/DSS possible merger- working from home could save space, where we potentially would no longer need the HSC building/could be sold.
- Retirements: several upcoming department head retirements. Opens up opportunity to review and restructure based on where the County wants to go in the future.
- Potential of current staff: employees not being maximized to skill level or available time
- Public Health: department overhead should be billed to grants like DSS/ADRC
- Over regulation at P&Z level-consistency of the ordinance
- UW Extension-shift to Nicolet College. No longer a County responsibility. Could be a multi-county jurisdiction for UW EX.

Fried indicated that there are no short-term gains in these items for the 2022 budget. He continued that the County needs to work at reducing services in order to move forward either by services being shifted to another entity or by eliminating.

#### Team C – Social and other services

Rideout went over a list of items prepared by Team C

- Human Services Department: is this something to consider. Human Service Center (HSC) is a tri-county agency and does different work than the Department of Social Services (DSS). There would be no savings in the 2022 budget and not even certain at this point if there would be a savings at all. Belief that it would be a better structure to provide services to Oneida County citizens.
- Public Health Department merger with DSS: still can be discussed. There are potential savings in administration as is happening with the ADRC/DSS merger. Charging of indirect costs to grants is something to consider.
- Meal Program: there is no tax levy connected to this program
- Create a separate team or committee to work on transportation for Rhinelander and Oneida County
- Fleet vehicles: does save money; should be considered on a county-wide basis

VanRaalte added that the building that houses the HSC has a history on how it was paid for. Should we become a separate entity there may be compensation issues with our partners (Forest and Vilas Counties).

#### Team D – Other Opportunities

Hess went over a list of items prepared by Team D

- RV Park at Town Line Lake Park
- Eliminate the auditing of the Transit Commission at a cost of \$7,000 every other year. Transit Commission does a DOT audit, that could take its place.

- Move Transit to OC Airport. Currently pay \$30,000 where they are at.
- Use ARPA funds to make the Fair self sufficient from this point forward.
- Centralized purchasing isn't used much as departments use Amazon. Smigielski indicated that centralized purchasing can work, however would need a half time person to run it. It is a culture change, as the departments wouldn't have as much control as they do now.
- ADRC meals: currently the jail gets meals at \$2.20 per meal, should be investigated
- Tourist Rooming Houses: potential revenue
- Earmark funds for Economic Development revolving loan fund. Provide money to be used in a specific way at a very low interest rate
- Seed money to the Senior Center in Minocqua to re-establish benefits for seniors
- Encouraging vaccination with an incentive also use money to promote vaccinations a little more than we currently are
- Broadband
- Humane Society-eligibility
- Child Care is a major problem in the County
- Investing in a CO-OP: Wisconsin Rapids, Park Falls paper mills

### **Handling of ideas/items not assigned to teams**

Fried indicated he felt the items on the spreadsheet should be placed in three categories: relief money items, 2022 budget items and post 2022 budget items.

Hintz added that once items are forwarded to Committee of Jurisdiction for review and consideration; items can be identified that can be worked and moved on.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment from the meeting room or zoom.

### **Future agenda topics**

Hintz asked teams to review items within their group and add implementation time frame to each item to be discussed at next meeting.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Next meeting of the FOC is for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Hintz adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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David Hintz, Chair

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Lisa Charbarneau, Recording Secretary