

BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
Draft MINUTES
Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Kozlowski, Burt Francisco, Treasurer Kim Ludlow, Clerk Keri Bertrand, and Chair Bill Peterson.

OTHERS PRESENT: County Administrator Jesse Osmer, County HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis, Equalization Director Ted Somers, 911/EM Director Kim Elkie, IT Director Steve Mousseau, Alpena News Reporter Steve Schulwitz, Todd Britton, and County Board Assistant Kim MacArthur.

The Budget Committee Workshop started at 11:30 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEM: Commissioner Francisco inquired on the anticipated budget deficit for 2024. Treasurer Kim Ludlow reported right now the County is budgeted to spend \$1.4 million more than what it will bring in. If we do the average adjustment of \$600,000, we would spend roughly \$800,000 of the fund balance.

Treasurer Ludlow reported she was already given permission to transfer savings in January and is unsure why the topic is on today's agenda other than for informational purposes.

Treasurer Ludlow reported the County will be bringing in money from the Jail Levy, ARPA, and Revenue Sharing totaling \$432,263 leaving only \$594,000 to cover 6-7 weeks' worth of bills. If the Treasurer does not have to do a "Due to Due from" this year, they will have to look at doing next year just to cover the cashflow to cover the bills and payables.

County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported that he has a few items that could save approximately \$200,000 at best and will bring more information back to the next budget meeting.

Chair Peterson reported if the Headlee Roll Up does not pass the County will have to make cuts. Treasurer Ludlow reported that departments have made every effort to help with cost savings and several things have been done over a number of years to try to correct the course.

Commissioner Francisco discussed the need to look into the Sheriff Office for cost savings and will speak with Sheriff Erik Smith for recommendations.

Discussion was made on employee expenses such as Longevity, Hospitalization, Health Insurance, In Lieu of, and HSA Deposits. Clerk Keri Bertrand reported that any employee changes other than eliminating positions would need to be renegotiated in the union contracts.

Treasurer Ludlow reported there is currently \$1.1 million dollars of ARPA funds available with \$295,000 already budgeted to spend. The remaining money not budgeted needs to be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026. This money is to be used for County operating purposes.

Next Workshop Date: To be determined. The Budget Committee Workshop ended at 12:22 p.m.

Bill Peterson, Budget Committee Chair

kvm