

**BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis, County Board Assistant Lynn Bunting, Prosecuting Attorney Cynthia Muszynski, Steve Schulwitz of The Alpena News, Register of Deed Catherine Murphy, Equalization Director Ted Somers, 911/EM Director Kim Elkie, Home Improvement Director Nicki Janish, Commissioner Bill LaHaie, and Citizen Kevin Gintar.

The Budget Committee Workshop started at 4:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEM: County Treasurer Kim Ludlow gave an update to the Budget Committee on the status of the General Fund for 2024 reporting there is a shortfall in revenue with a deficit of \$800,000- of the fund balance and will depend on budget expenditures. Discussion on options for additional revenue for 2024 and for the committee to present a recommendation to the full board at tonight's full board meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM: Budget Chair Bill Peterson reported the need for a plan for 2025. The Budget Committee discussed the following options: a) Headley Roll-Up, b) Public Safety Millage, and c) If options a or b fail then in order to balance the 2025 budget without additional revenue, will need to discuss employees and service. Discussion to put a Headley Roll-Up on the November ballot for 2024 with a deadline being August 13, 2024 and to inform the public ahead of time so they are aware of the proposal and what it is and what it means to the taxpayer.

Discussion and recommendation for the Headley Roll-Up language to be reviewed by an attorney and a marketing plan for a Headley Roll-Up proposal for the November 2024 ballot. Equalization Director Somers will get previous language information on the Headley Roll-Up to Interim County Administrator Mathis. The Committee recommends the County Treasurer and the County Clerk be involved in the budget process and to add them to the timeline for 2025.

The Committee recommends the Interim County Administrator send out an email to the Department Heads giving them a heads up that they will need to start working on their proposed 2025 budgets in BS&A (Budget A – Headley Roll-Up; and Budget B – 10% budget cut) and their CIP recommendations in Munetrix and that the Treasurer will email them information around the first week in July 2024. Discussion and recommendation that the Department Heads send a copy of their Wish list and CIP recommendations to the Treasurer's Office and the Clerk's Office. Board Assistant Bunting will work on the Munetrix CIP Information with the Department Heads and get it to the Commissioners, Clerk, and Treasurer.

Next Workshop Date: To be determined. The Budget Committee Workshop ended at 4:42 p.m.



Bill Peterson, Budget Committee Chair