

**BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKSHOP**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Howard Male Conference Room**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis, County Board Assistant Lynn Bunting, Sheriff Erik Smith, Prosecuting Attorney Cynthia Muszynski, Undersheriff Cash Kroll, Steve Schulwitz of The Alpena News, Register of Deed Catherine Murphy, 911/EM Director Kim Elkie, City Manager Rachel Smolinski, City Fire Chief Rob Edmonds, City Policy Chief Eric Hamp, Veterans Affairs Counselor Dan Perge, Equalization Director Ted Somers, and Commissioner Jesse Osmer.

The Budget Committee Workshop started at 6:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chair Bill Peterson recommended to meet and discuss the current budget to see where the county is at for 2024. The committee reviewed the 2024 Projected Budget Deficit report provided by the County Treasurer (attachment #1). Treasurer Ludlow reported on where the current budget of 2024 informing the board that it changes on a daily basis and the accounting used to be on a cash basis and is now an accrual basis. Finance Chair Francisco reported that the county is close to the percentage when action will need to be taken by the board based on the 2024 Budget Policy (attachment #2) where temporary and part-time positions are laid off.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chair Peterson presented the public safety millage proposal for discussion. Commissioners also discussed if a public safety millage fails or is not proposed, potential in reduction of services as well as temporary and part-time layoffs were discussed if no increase in revenue is found to help balance the budget.

City Fire Chief Rob Edmonds and City Manager Rachel Smolinski shared their concerns of a public safety millage being proposed on the ballot at the same time as an ambulance millage.

Prosecuting Attorney Cynthia Muszynski shared her concerns of a public safety millage.

911/EM Director Kim Elkie shared her concerns how a public safety millage without 911/EM support in that millage affects their office.

INFORMATION ITEM: Discussion on a possibly Headley rollback and Equalization Director Ted Somers reported that he will get information to the Commissioners for further review.

Discussion and recommendation to further review ways to bring the deficit down, revenue up, and will meet again in March. Next Workshop Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 around 4:30 p.m. in the Howard Male Conference Room. The Budget Committee Workshop ended at 6:59 p.m.

  
Bill Peterson, Budget Committee Chair