The Committee meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chairman Nehmer.


Also present: Lori Leudeman-County Treasurer, Tonia Hartline-Chief Deputy Treasurer, Rosie McKinstry-Equalization Director, County Coordinator Susan Vander Pol, County Clerk Karen Bluhm and members of the public.

Brief Public Comment: None.

Employee/Board Comments: Rosie McKinstry, Equalization Director, asked for Board direction on the County’s EMS millage so she can provide the 2019 County Apportionment Report as required at the October 16, 2019 meeting. She also questioned an employee asking if County employees could no longer park on Upton Street in front of Courthouse.

2020 Budget Discussion

The following items were discussed.

Karen Bluhm, County Clerk, suggested increasing fees on certified copies and 3-day marriage waiver fees.

Lori Leudeman, County Treasurer, asked Clerk Bluhm about the Presidential Primary Reimbursement funds. She also spoke about dog license fees.

Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, spoke about many of the fees for services at Animal Control to be increased.

Wage increases for non-union staff were discussed, as well as possible MERS retirement benefit changes for new hires.

Recommended by Commissioner Gregory, seconded by Commissioner Custer to approve the increase of certified copy fees in the Clerk’s office and the 3-day marriage waiver fee. An increase for Animal Control services of euthanizing, disposing of animals, boarding fees and dog licenses will also be increased. Recommendation carried unanimously.

The detail of projects was individually reviewed.

Commissioners spoke about possibly combining the County Clerk and Register of Deeds.

Discussion was held on possibly asking voters for a road patrol millage increase next year.

Lori Leudeman, County Treasurer, spoke about possibly using the interest only from the Delinquent Tax Fund.

Discussion on the County’s current fund balance was held, including how much has already been used in the last 3 years.

Discussion on the revenues collected by departments compared to services.

Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, advised Board members the Sheriff is working on trying to generate more revenue by housing prisoners again.

Recent vetoes by the Governor were also discussed.
Transfer outs were discussed.

Discussion was held on increasing the fee for passport photos.

Commissioners asked for a screen to be purchased for the Board room so when someone comes to do a presentation for the Board visibility is better. Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, advised it would probably be purchased yet this budget year.

Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, emphasized that the only real areas to cut costs will be in capital improvements, overall expenditures or personnel.

Commissioners asked about an “across the board” cut. Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, explained there would need to be over a 32% cut to each department in order to accomplish this method.

Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, was asked to notify all departments again that their expenditures will be rolled back to the 2018 budget amount, and if this doesn’t remedy the 1.3 million deficit, other cuts will have to be made.

Commissioners talked about possibly asking voters next year to take the County’s millage back to the 6.75 mills.

Susan Vander Pol, County Coordinator, reminded Commissioners that the next meeting on October 16, 2019 will be their annual meeting where elected officials wages will be determined.

Public comment: None.

Moved by Commissioner Emig, seconded by Commissioner Michell, to adjourn at 4:21 p.m.