The meeting was held in the Law Enforcement Center meeting room.

Present: Randy Tatur, Eldon Skogen, Cliff Taylor (at 9:05 a.m.), and Phil Kaiser. Excused: Jim Platteter. Also present: Denise Wetzel and Rosemary Schmit.

Chair Tatur called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Rich Summerfield and John Fitzl were present to discuss the tax deed property in Sheldon.

Chair Tatur announced a closed session for Sheldon Tax Deed Property - Old Creamery Building for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). **Skogen/Kaiser made a motion to go into closed session.** Roll call: Tatur, yes; Skogen, yes; Kaiser, yes. Motion to go into closed session carried by roll call vote. The Committee went into closed session at 8:40 a.m.

**Skogen/Kaiser made a motion to return to open session.** Motion carried. The Committee returned to open session at 8:58 a.m.

Summerfield reported on the status of the Heldstab/Christman tax deed property. There is a hearing on February 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. Summerfield is going to file the eviction on the other tax deed property in Sheldon.

**Skogen/Tatur made a motion to approve the December 17, 2008, and January 7, 2009, minutes.** Motion carried.

Vouchers paid January 1, 2009, to January 20, 2009, were reviewed, discussed, and signed. Vouchers to be paid following the meeting were reviewed, discussed, and signed. **Taylor/Kaiser made a motion to approve paying the bills.** Motion carried.

Joanne Phetteplace presented the Treasurer’s report.

Out of county travel requests were reviewed as follows: Linda Effertz, Wisconsin County Constitutional Officers Conference, March 2 to 4 in Madison; Joanne Phetteplace, Wisconsin County Constitutional Officers Conference, March 2 to 4 in Madison; Denise Wetzel, Wisconsin County Constitutional Officers Conference, March 2 to 4 in Madison; and Bonnie Stoneberg, Time Management and Organization Skills, March 5 in Eau Claire. **Taylor/Skogen made a motion to approve the out of county travel requests as presented.** Motion carried.

The Committee discussed contracting with the Stark Agency for collections. Health and Human Services would like to stay with its current collection agency.
Gary Rivers was present to explain that it is not a good time period for them to change to a different collection agency. Rivers needs to get permission from the Division of Health and Family Services to switch collection agencies. Rivers would like the opportunity to give Badger Collections the opportunity to match the rates of Stark Agency for Health and Human Services collections.

**Skogen/Taylor made a motion to move forward with the Stark Agency for collections in all areas except for Health and Human Services with working towards Health and Human Services changing to Stark in 2010. Motion carried.**

It was the consensus of the Committee to not scan the county books at the present time.

It was the consensus of the Committee to contact the external audit firm and see if they would accept a value of the OPEB from the health insurance company. Schmit was directed to contact the hospital to see if they are hiring an actuary.

Renae Baxter was present to request permission to attend the Wisconsin Director of Supreme Court Conference in February in Wisconsin Dells. **Skogen/Taylor made a motion to approve Renae Baxter’s out of county travel request. Motion carried.**

Contingency fund requests and line item transfers for 2008 were reviewed as follows: Elections, with $8,000.00 from contingency; Treasurer; Register of Deeds, with $3,420.00 from contingency; Auditor; Dairyland Park Improvement; and Zoning, with $11,906.73 from contingency. **Taylor/Kaiser made a motion to approve the line item transfers and contingency fund requests as presented. Motion carried.**

Andy Albarado presented the economic development report.

Skogen left the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Chair Tatur announced a closed session for economic development projects/assistance for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). **Kaiser/Tatur made a motion to go into closed session. Roll call: Tatur, yes; Taylor, yes; Kaiser, yes. Motion to go into closed session carried by roll call vote.** The Committee went into closed session at 11:43 a.m.

**Taylor/Kaiser made a motion to return to open session. Motion carried.**

The Committee reviewed a carry forward request from the Crime Victim Witness Coordinator. **Taylor/Kaiser made a motion to deny the carry forward request**
and ask the Crime Victim Witness Coordinator to discuss her office equipment needs with Mike Naczas and Property. Motion carried.

Schmit presented the Auditor’s report which included sales tax, collection of back taxes, the insurance report, and the county car report.

Skogen returned to the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Wetzel presented the Clerk’s report which included an update on elections, marriage licenses, and dog licensing. The City of Ladysmith inquired about joint supply purchasing.

The next regular Finance Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 8:30 a.m.

**Skogen/Kaiser made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Rosemary Schmit, Recording Secretary