COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Finance, Tax & Budgets**
CHAIRPERSON: **John Schultz, Chairman**
DATE/TIME: **April 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: ☒ John Schultz ☒ John Creighton ☒ Michael Holt
☒ John Lang 6:07 ☒ Diane Gallagher ☒ Don Zillig
☒ LaDon Trost

Other Board members: Michael Dittmar.

Others: Tessa Moore, Tammy Cahill and Matt Schueler of Wipfli, LLP.

1. **Call to Order –** John Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call –** A quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   a) Minutes of the January 11, 2024 Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting – **Zillig made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting. Seconded by Gallagher and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**
4. **Citizens Comments –** None.
5. **Unfinished Business**
   a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee did not review their Strategic Goals and Plans at this time.
6. **New Business**
   a) Presentation of the FY2023 Jo Daviess County Preliminary Financial Audit – Matt Schueler and Aaron Shum, Wipfli, LLP – Matt Schueler of Wipfli gave his presentation of the FY2023 Jo Daviess County Preliminary Financial Audit. The drafts have been presented and they are still only drafts because Wipfli is waiting on the County's OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) study. It should be sent to Wipfli in the next couple of days. They are anticipating a clean, unmodified opinion. By the County Board meeting, they should have the finals issued and ready to go. They did perform an Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement, because of the fact that the County expended more than $750,000 of Federal awards. Again, they're anticipating a clean, unmodified opinion. They also completed the DOAP (Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance Program) audit. The Circuit Clerk audit they are still waiting to complete. The County's net pension liability increased to an overall liability of $5.1 million as a result of investment returns – overall net investment loss of $6.6 million on $42 million of investments. The County has $8.6 million long-term debt as of FY2023 to pay for courthouse improvements. $45 million of the County's money is collateralized and insured. He showed a two year comparison for all funds in the County. He noted the net change in fund balances increased by about $13 million because of the bond proceeds. In the General Fund, it did increase. The revenues continue to be strong. He compared the revenues by function and shared some pie graphs he had created showing the comparison. He did the same with expenditures. Schueler mentioned that the IMRF funded ratio for the regular plan, is 90%. The IMRF funded ratio for the SLEP plan, is 88%. There is a new accounting standard that

will impact the FY2025 audit. GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences, will require governments to record a liability for unused leave settled in cash or noncash means. There were a few questions Schueler answered. There was some discussion over IMRF.

b) Discussion and possible action to accept the FY2023 Jo Daviess County Preliminary Audit – **Lang made a motion to accept the FY2023 Jo Daviess County Preliminary Audit. Seconded by Zillig and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

7. **Staff Reports**
   - **a)** Chief County Assessment Office – Laura Edmonds, Chief County Assessment Officer, was not in attendance. Her report was included in the packet.
   - **b)** Treasurer's Office – Melisa Hammer, County Treasurer, was not in attendance. Her report was included in the packet.
   - **c)** Grants Administrator – Tammy Cahill, Grants Administrator, gave her report. She said they have processed the real estate tax bills this week and they should be mailed out soon. They are due on June 3rd and September 3rd. This past month, Cahill had to do the yearly LACTF Funds report. The County received $100,000 in LACTF funds that can be used for any purpose. This month, the ARPA Funds report is due June 1st. It takes some time to do that one. She submitted that yesterday. For the ARPA Funds, we received $4,124,650. In the first year, FY22, we expended $53,214. FY23 we expended $694,543.67. So far in FY24, we have expended $720,629.88. So far on the ARPA funds, we've spent $1,468,387.55.
   - **d)** County Administrator – Tessa Moore, Financial Administrative Manager, gave County Administrator Scott Toot's financial update. As of March 31st, 33% of the fiscal year had elapsed.

8. **Citizens' comments –** None.

9. **Board Member Concerns** – Michael Dittmar said he campaigned on Economic Development. He looks forward to talking to some of the board members soon. Michael Holt expressed his gratitude for being able to attend his first Finance meeting tonight. He's excited to try to catch on as quickly as he can. Lang is happy for a positive audit report. Gallagher suggested to Dittmar to make an appointment with Scott or Melisa and it's easier if you can have a one-on-one.

The next Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting will be on Thursday, May 30th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Zillig made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 pm. Seconded by Gallagher and motion carried.