



Minutes - October 23, 2025

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the hybrid Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:00 PM in Jury Deliberation Room, 4th floor.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Mawhinney, Wilson, Ringhand, Towns, and Schwarz.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Kristin Vander Kooi, Finance Director; John Light, Administrator; Shanna Sanders, Deputy Corp. Counsel; Lisa Tollefson, County Clerk; Brent Sutherland, Facilities Director; Sheriff Fell; Rich Greenlee, Corp. Counsel; Dara Mosley, IT Assistant Director; Stephanie Kleinheinz, Deputy County Treasurer; Sandy Disrud, Register of Deeds, James Sandvig, IT Director; Tracey Bushaw, Human Services Professional I.

Others Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Tillman, Woodman, Homan, Pennycook, and Gorman; Chuck Flynn;

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes:

October 9, 2025 Minutes: Supervisor Ringhand moved to approve October 9, 2025, minutes, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Recognizing Laurie Fischer: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Review of the 2026 County Administrator's Recommended Budget - Finance Committee: Each of the departments went over their portion of the budget. Finance-Kristin proposed using vacancy savings to fund a five-year financial management plan, which would help forecast operating costs. The committee discussed the current use of Central Square financial software, with Kristin planning to conduct an analysis of its functionality before considering

any potential replacement in 2027 or 2028.

IT-Jim Sandvig proposed budget amendment for implementing a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system, which is crucial for compliance with FBI's criminal justice information systems security policy. The system, provided by Splunk, will cost \$40,000 annually, with a one-time \$30,000 implementation fee. To offset these costs, the team plans to eliminate admin training funds in 2026, reduce project management software, and cut VIN support, while also benefiting from a \$20,000 annual reduction in telecom support.

County Clerk-Lisa Tollefson explained the County Clerk's budget will increase next year due to four elections instead of two, with additional funds allocated for dog and marriage license initiatives and reclassification of staff positions.

Treasurer-No Change from 2025

Register of Deeds-Sandy Disrud introduced a new program called SWIFT, which emails documents to customers instead of mailing them, resulting in estimated annual savings of \$1,000. Legislation was discussed that would lower the real estate transfer fee from \$3 to \$2 per thousand, with the county retaining 50% of the fee instead of the current 20%. The proposed change could increase county revenues by \$400,000.

Health Insurance-Based on the recommendations from the Ad Hoc committee, a 6% premium share for employees is recommended.

Employee Recognition- \$500 decreased from last year due to reductions in spending.

Employee Wellness-No Changes for 2025

Opioid settlement funds budget mirrors the county board-approved plan.

American Rescue Plan-Required to be allocated by December 31, 2024, has been spoken for and will be spent by the end of 2026.

The committee discussed the funding status of seven positions, which will either need to be absorbed into the tax levy or cease to exist once ARPA funding ends. The committee requested a comprehensive list of grant-based salaried employees across departments to assess potential staffing changes. Administrator Light discussed broadband funding, with an estimated \$18 million allocated for one project in 2026, pending grant approval.

Review of the 2026 County Administrator's Recommended Budget - Full Budget: The committee discussed the number of appeals expected, which is likely to be around 10-14, and the procedure for reviewing and voting on these appeals at the Finance Committee meeting.

Next meeting date and time: Thursday, November 6, 2025, Time 2:00 PM Location TBD

Thursday, November 13, 2025 Time-TBD

The committee discussed having a meeting possibly before October 30th to be held before the County Board meeting.

The sale of tax foreclosure properties will be on November 11, 2025.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schwarz moved adjournment at 5:42 PM, second by Supervisor Wilson.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.