

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Polk County Finance Committee met in the Second Floor East Conference Room of the Polk County Government Center at 4:00 p.m. on August 21, 2008.

Present: Gary Bergstrom Brian Masters Mick Larsen  
Kathryn Kienholz

Absent: Bryan Beseler

Also Present: Tonya Weinert  
Members of the Public  
Members of the Press

Chairperson Gary Bergstrom called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Moved by Kienholz/Masters to accept the Agenda as published. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Moved by Larsen/Kienholz to approve the previous Minutes of August 12, 13, and 14, 2008. Motion carried by voice vote.**

### Public Comment

Ted Johnson, 35 year dairy farmer in Alden Township and Citizen Representative on the Lime Quarry Committee commented on elimination of employees at the Lime Quarry and the volume of product he personally purchases from the Quarry and how it would affect him.

Steve Swenson, owns trucking business that delivers lime from the County's pit in this area, commented in the need for lime in Polk County.

John Bonneprise, former County Board Member, stated that Polk County has good quality lime.

Dan Kotter, farmer in Farmington, commented on the Lime Quarry

John Getchel commented on the quality of Polk County's lime.

Kevin Solum of Black Brook Township commented on the quality of Polk County's lime.

Warren Johnson farmer in Osceola Township commented on Polk County's lime price.

Scott Carlson, of Alden Township, commented on trucking costs and fuel consumption associated with trucking lime to this area.

### 2009 Proposed Budget & Recommendations and 2009 Proposed Staffing & recommendations

Finance Director Tonya Weinert explained the preliminary budget summary sheets that were handed out to the committee members. The total levy and the shortage of \$2.4M in levy requests.

Mick Larsen stated that this is going to be very difficult. We have to look for every non-mandated program.

Gary Bergstrom stated that borrowing and use of fund balance needs to be carefully analyzed. The only thing we can do is cut programs or staff that provides permanent reductions not just give each department a percentage cut. It makes more sense to cut entire programs. We need to be unified and have a consensus as Committee when preparing this budget for the County Board. When seeking cuts we should probably focus on

quality of life areas as Parks and Highways than deal with areas that effect people such as children, the elderly and poor.

**Motion by Masters/Keinholz moved to suspend the rules to continue meeting after 11 p.m. Motion carried by unanimously by voice vote.**

**Moved by Masters/Kienholz to present the Finance Committee's 2009 Budget recommendations to the departments as detailed in the attached spreadsheet. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**Moved by Larsen/Masters that the Finance Committee requests that Personnel review and consider the comments on the staffing suggestions as detailed in the attached spreadsheet and consider a joint meeting with Finance Committee to assist in solving the budget shortfall that still remains. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**Moved by Larsen/Kienholz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 a.m.