MANITOWOC COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Communication and Technology Building
October 28, 2026

Attendance: Chairman Grambow, Supervisors Hacker, Lillibridge, and Sortwell. Supervisor Shimulunas was excused.

Also in attendance: County Executive Tyler Martell, Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad, Department Directors Breit, Eisenschink, Grotegut, Hartwig, Kalista, La Bre, Linderud, and Judge Dewane; County Board Chair Phipps, and Supervisors Behnke, Heilman, Klein, Maresh, Metzger, Schiesl, Schwerma, Sitkiewitz, and Weiss.

Call to Order: Chairman Grambow called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Chairman Grambow declared public input open at 4:30 p.m.
No one present wished to speak, subsequently Chairman Grambow closed public input at 4:30 p.m.

Receive and Place on File: Chairman Grambow questioned if the committee had any objections to the minutes and vouchers. There were no objections. All items were received and placed on file.

Resolution Authorizing Adjustment to Manitowoc County's Levy Limit: County Executive Martell explained state statute allows the county to increase its otherwise applicable levy increase limit by an amount determined from the difference between the county's valuation factor in those years and the annual percentage increase in its levy attributable to the valuation factor in those years. After reviewing the levy-limit calculation the county is allowed to an adjustment in the amount of $125,095, representing .399% of the applicable levy base for 2027. Supervisor Hacker moved, seconded by County Board Chair Phipps to approve the Resolution Authorizing Adjustment to Manitowoc Count's Levy Limit. After discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2027 Budget and Property Levy: Supervisor Hacker moved, seconded by Supervisor Grambow to approve Adopting 2027 Budget and Property Levy. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Lillibridge to amend the following budget lines to reduce the levy:

- Page 140, line 52908 (Child Support)-reduce Paternity Lab Tests from $10,000 to $7,000.
- Page 141, line 53020 (Child Support)-reduce Subscriptions, Newspaper, & Periodicals from $700 to $350.
- Page 141, line 53027 (Child Support)-reduce Membership Dues from $1,000 to $600.
- Page 20, line 53998 (County Clerk)-reduce Other Operating Supplies from $10,000 to $0.
- Page 70, line 53010 (Sheriff)-reduce Printing and Duplication from $9,000 to $3,000.
- Page 74, line 53048 (Sheriff)-reduce Maintenance and Repair from $4,000 to $0.
- Page 78, line 53010 (Jail)-reduce Printing and Duplicating from $4,500 to $3,000.
- Page 83, line 51250 (Joint Dispatch)-reduce Overtime from $48,000 to $38,000.
- Page 83, line 51450 (Joint Dispatch)-increase Extra Hire Wages from $0 to $10,000.
- Page 83, line 51554 (Joint Dispatch)-reduce Health Insurance from $327,829 to $317,829.
- Page 289, line 41110 (Soil and Water)-increase Property Taxes from $378,413 to $401,913.
- Page 102, line 52105 (Airport)-reduce Data Processing Internal from $34,096 to $26,738.
- Page 360 (Highway)-remove 1 FTE, Mechanic position in the amount of $85,001.
- Page 360, line 51195 (Highway)-increase Misc/Other Pay Codes to $2,550.

- Page 44, line 51100 (Public Works)-increase Salaries Non-Represent to $550.
- Page 24, line 51554 (Corp Counsel)-reduce Health Ins. from $91,097 to $72,996.
- Page 24, line 52110 (Corp Counsel)-increase Outside Atty/Legal from $10,000 to $25,000.

After discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by County Board Chair Phipps to amend page 70, line #53001 (Sheriff) by reducing Office Supplies from $9,000 to $6,000 to reduce the levy. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sortwell questioned the possible reduction of page 70, line #53040 Commercial Travel. Discussion took place and no action was taken. That line item will remain as the County Executive presented.

Supervisor Sortwell questioned the possible increase of page 74, line #52405 (Sheriff) Equipment Maintenance. Discussion took place. Supervisor Lillibridge moved, seconded by County Board Chair Phipps to approve the committee's recommendation to increase the line item from $150,000 to $154,000. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried with four ayes and one no. Supervisor Sortwell voted no.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Lillibridge to reduce the Health Department's Public Health Nursing positions from 4.0 FTE to 3.0 FTE for a reduction of $83,573. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Grambow to reduce page 54, line #53045 Human Services-Household and Janitorial from $7500 to $5500. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Hacker to reduce page 76, line #53005 (Sheriff) from $2000 to $500. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

County Board Chair Phipps moved, seconded by Supervisor Sortwell to reduce page 52, line #58225 (UW-Manitowoc) from $345,000 to $95,000. This reduction would remove the replacement of the UW roof in the 2027 budget. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried with three ayes and two noes. Supervisors Grambow and Lillibridge voted no.

Discussion held on wage study. County Executive Martell explained his insight and reasoning not including the expense of a wage study in the 2027 proposed budget.

Supervisor Sortwell moved to increase employee wage to 1.5% in January and .5% in July from the January 1.0% and July 1.0% the County Executive currently presented. Discussion took place. No second was had. The motion did not advance.

Supervisor Sortwell moved to have a $60,000 wage study added to the Personnel department budget. Discussion took place. No second was had. The motion did not advance.

Discussion was held regarding the General Transportation Aid and Highway department's future road plan.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Hacker to Amend Full Time Equivalent Employee Report to reduce the number of Jail Nurses by 1.0 FTE and to include 1.0 FTE Licensed Practical Nurse. Upon discussion and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sortwell moved, seconded by Supervisor Hacker to Adopt the 2027 Budget and Property Levy as Amended. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sortwell moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Lillibridge. Motion passed unanimously. The committee adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Backus, County Clerk
Melissa Tennant, Deputy County Clerk