

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
March 21, 2019**

**Attendees:** Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Mayor Dann Cutter, Waldport; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; and Mayor Jim Lepin, Millersburg.

**Toledo:** Commissioner Claire Hall, Lincoln County.

**Phone:** Former Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County.

**Staff:** Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Rachael Maddock-Hughes, Finance Director Sue Forty; and Administrative Assistant Janet Hughes.

**Guest:** Councilor Carol Korn, Tangent.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Konopa at 1:30 pm on March 21, 2019 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Mayor Dann Cutter motioned to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2019 Finance Committee meeting. Mayor Biff Traber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Financial Reports**

Finance Director Sue Forty stated the Meeting Packets include a budget snapshot and a list of detailed expenditures and revenues. Chair Konopa asked if the information was current through January 2019; Finance Director Forty replied yes.

Finance Director Forty stated that the *Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Financial Audit* is back and there is no findings.

Finance Director Forty noted that the May Meeting Packet will include the beginning balances, as she does not like to include these until she has a clean audit. She noted that the organization's finances are moving along nicely. She commented that some numbers are off, but they are to be expected, such as contract revenue, but this is not because the organization has done anything wrong. There were some vacant positions that have now been filled. Therefore, State and Federal numbers are down because of those vacant positions. In the next set of numbers (in May), the Committee will see an uptick now that those positions are filled.

Finance Director Forty commented under letter B in Supplemental Income, the *Foster Grandparents Program*, the organization received three years allocation, however, has only been funded for one year. Finance has entered all three years' worth of funding, based on the allocation, showing that revenue is high, but expenditures and revenues are not coming in as expected. In the OCWCOG budget, the organization can receive as much revenue money that it wants (or is allocated), but cannot spend anything unless it is appropriated.

Mayor Traber asked if the organization's revenue was the same as it was last year at this time. Finance Director Forty said the organization is in the same place it was last year, but the difference this year is due to the timing of the staffing because of the contracts.

Finance Director Forty said the organization was not collecting all portions of the State contracts due to staffing issues. The programs is now fully staffed and revenues are coming in, but it has a cannonball affect, as these contracts are all reimbursement based. Finance Director Forty reiterated that the organization is now seeing revenues coming in like they should be.

Executive Director Fred Abousleman stated that stated that as the organization staffs up more revenue will be realized.

Executive Director Abousleman continued by noting that there was only one contract that the organization gets paid ahead of time – Title 19, as OCWCOG is the vendor, instead of contractor. The organization is paid 1.4% each month; all other contracts are reimbursement-based.

### **3. Other Business**

Finance Director Forty noted that there would be an opportunity in the near future to have Nancy Brewer present to the Board of Directors on the impact of PERS, as many Board members are not aware of the day-to-day impact that PERS has or its financial impact. Chair Konopa agreed that such a presentation would be a good idea at a future Board meeting.

Mayor Jim Lepin commented that he had recently received an email about joining a PERS solution group; the group was seeking participation. Mayor Traber stated that he had received the same email. Both Finance Committee members noted that this group was an Advocacy Group for the State. Chair Konopa said she received it as well, but did not elect to participate. Mayor Traber is not participating either.

Finance Director Forty commented that at a Legislative Briefing (at a recent conference), there were two or three PERS bills relating to a Tier 4 change, allowing the hiring of retirees back into the system. Most of the language sounds like the intent is to allow for the hiring back of retirees, so the State does not have to pay PERS on those employees. There was a discussion amongst the Finance Committee about how PERS can motivate individuals; if OCWCOG were to rehire retirees, there are restrictions/rules as to how many hours they are able to work, etc. Certain types of jobs may offer a benefit for the employer for hiring these employees (such as a police/fire office), but rehiring these types of employees is more difficult in an office with a lot of contractual work, such as OCWCOG.

### **4. Adjournment**

Chair Konopa adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.

*Minutes recorded by Janet Hughes.*