1. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Chuck Nagel at 5:30 PM.

2. **Roll Call**
   - John Krug (ch), Chuck Nagel, Autum Jones, Dave Meinhold, Ansel Burditt all present.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. Approval of October 11, 2022 minutes
   Motion to approve October minutes made by Jones, seconded by Burditt. *Motion passed.*

4. **Public Input**
   None

5. **Approval of Claims**
   a. Approval of November 2022 Claims
   Motion to approve November claims made by Burditt, seconded by Krug. *Motion passed.*

6. **Treasurer’s Report**
The funds on the Revenue Report have exceeded our expectations. If the balance is in parenthesis () those funds are greater than anticipated. There is a 22% increase in the 1 cent, ½ cent, and the 1 cent Public Safety sales tax overall from last year. The Assessor’s office has given the WC taxing body EAV. The taxing district EAV is over 1 billion dollars. There was over 7 million dollars in new construction. With the EAV going up and the tax levy request going down, property taxes should go down slightly for the county portion of their tax bill. This report is a monthly report, and next month the Treasurer will provide a yearly report. She will also do a transfer of fund. It was asked why on the State Revenue and Expenditures 4010 there a variance. It is the real estate tax, 3 distributions are done, the last distribution has not gone in yet. Today was the tax sale, so a final distribution will be made. There were 8 registered tax buyers, 117 parcels to be sold and 18 were not bought so they were picked up by the County. Any unpaid taxes went to tax sale.

7. **Budget**

8. **New Business**

9. **Unfinished Business**
   a. Discussion/direction of Broadband.
   Kathy Brown from GPEDC reported that everyone is trying to stay involved and active. Peoria County is going to go ahead with the feasibility study. She asked if we wanted to explore this option. The committee is not sure that is a feasibility study is what the County needs. Peoria County has 2 million to allocate to broadband and needs to know how to spend those dollars. She will know more about this study as Peoria County progresses through the process. She has written a grant to receive 125 thousand, to be distributed between the 5 counties for broadband use. These funds need to be used for either a feasibility study or to hire a tech person to pursue grant funding. Even if we don’t become a partner in the study, we will get to see the Peoria County results. It was asked what stage Tazewell County is in – they have allocated 1.5 million but haven’t set up a plan yet. Mason County will probably do a feasibility study also. Ms. Brown believes these studies will become available for private companies to use. The 125 thousand grant will be allocated to GPEDC by the end of the fiscal year for them to oversee that each county is either doing a feasibility study or hiring a tech. The feasibility study will look at fiber, fiber and wireless together and provide good data to
approach different areas of the County. GPEDC has relationships with federal organizations that can help with the grant writing. These organizations understand that rural communities lack the ability to do grant writing. It was asked if a feasibility study was a requirement for any grant. Ms. Brown stated that it was not, but these studies provide a significant amount of data and that data is what become your evidence of need. It was asked what we are doing with the information that the several companies presented to us. It was also suggested that Steve Allen and Farm Bureau work together to provide maps of the county that can give specific data as to where fiber lines run, how many houses on those lines, where there are no lines and how many in that area that do not have access to any kind of internet. Connect the three companies that presented to us, and show them where the people are and have them look at the area and see if they find it feasible to go to that area – if there are no people in the area, then it is not financially worthy for them to put fiber there. A lot of people have access to fiber, would like to have better connection, but also don't want to pay more for it. Speed is needed when a business is trying to do multi-million dollar sales. There are probably a couple things that we could be doing – mapping is a critical pieces of this. Farms are a critical business in the technology they need. It was asked what all grants were available. USDA has a couple grants that are separate from the state grants, and there are a few others as well. CP&Z is talking about a comprehensive plan, and can look at businesses with 25 employees or so, and what their needs are. The committee feels that they will pass this along to the new committee and see where they want to go. We will also talk to Tri-County about getting maps.

10. Other

11. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote

12. Any action coming out of Executive Session

13. Adjournment
    Motion to adjourn made by Jones, seconded by Burditt. Motion passed.

Submitted by: Deb Breyma

Chuck Nagel, Chairman
Finance Committee