

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sweeney, Members Sorensen, Segobiano, Gordon, Bass, Renner, Hoselton and Bostic

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Other Members Present: None

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services

Others Present: None

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes from the August 15, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Bass/Hoselton to approve and place on file the minutes of the August 15, 2006 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes from the July 18, 2006 Stand-up Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Bass/Hoselton to approve and place on file the minutes of the July 18, 2006 Stand-up Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney announced that there is one Reappointment, one Appointment and two Resignations.

Motion by Bostic/Renner to Recommend Approval of the Reappointment, Appointment and Resignations as recommended by the Chairman.

Mr. Sorensen asked if each appointment Ms. Berglund held as part of her position as a Board member needs to be listed.

Chairman Sweeney listed the Committees on which Ms. Berglund was a member, including the Executive Committee, Finance Committee as Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Board of Health, Economic Development Council, various NACo Steering Committees, Regional Office of Education Advisory Committee, Past Chairman of the Human Services Committee, the Legislative Committee and McLean County Extension Advisory Committee.

Mr. Zeunik advised that, for all of these positions, her appointment was linked to her elected position as a County Board Member. If she is no longer on the Board, she no longer has a seat on any of those bodies.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented a request for approval to purchase personal computers under Illinois State Contract as submitted by Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services.

Mr. Nelson explained that each year the Information Services Department makes one large-scale purchase, which has been done through the Illinois State Contract over the last few years. He stated that he provided several configurations from the contract. Mr. Nelson asked that the Committee approve the recommended configuration, which is Standard Configuration #2, at \$859.00 each for 50 machines. He advised that they will not buy monitors from the State Contract as they can be purchased cheaper elsewhere. Mr. Nelson indicated that the machines are Hewlett Packard computers.

Mr. Hoselton asked what is done with the old units. Mr. Nelson replied that they are recycled through the Town of Normal Computer Recycling Program.

Motion by Sorensen/Gordon to recommend approval to Purchase Personal Computers under Illinois State Contract – Information Services.

Mr. Sorensen pointed out that Mr. Nelson's memorandum indicates the price of each unit is \$849.00 and it should state the price at \$859.00. Mr. Nelson indicated that the figure will be corrected for the Board Packet.

Motion carried.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Sorensen.

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, reported that the Justice Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee. Mr. Renner advised that there is an item to be presented to the Board regarding reducing the annual fee paid by the McLean County Bar Association for use of the Law Library from \$6,000.00 to \$1,800.00. Mr. Renner stated that one Committee Member dissented on the vote to pass this request. The request passed on a vote of 4-1.

Mr. Segobiano expressed concern with setting a precedent by allowing the Bar Association to determine the amount of the fee to be paid to the Library.

Mr. Renner explained that the reason for this decrease in fee is due to the changes in the Law Library. At one time, the Library was very large with books and law magazines, necessitating expensive subscriptions to many documents. Currently, the Law Library has a minimal number of books and has become more electronic with access to computer legal research.

Mr. Segobiano suggested that everyone should pay their fair share to keep the Library current. Mr. Zeunik replied that this reduction will reduce the Bar Association's contribution to the same amount currently being paid by the Circuit Court, the State's Attorney and the Public Defender for the electronic library. The Law Library is now totally electronic, with only two volumes of hard copy that are retained, namely the United States Supreme Court Digest and the Illinois Updates. Mr. Zeunik stated that everyone is paying their fair share of the Library. He indicated that the fees paid to the Library cover the subscription to the Lexis Nexis electronic legal research system.

Mr. Renner pointed out that members of the Justice Committee had some misgivings about the Bar Association's additional request that the fee reduction be retroactive as the Bar Association had not paid the annual fee in 2005. Members of the Executive Committee expressed equal concern regarding this aspect of the request.

Mr. Sorensen advised that the Law Library Fund had been running in arrears over the last few years. He noted that Judge Dozier has very aggressively worked to get the amount to a positive balance. Mr. Sorensen asked if this will have a negative impact on this effort.

Mr. Segobiano asked who will take over the Law Library when Judge Dozier retires. Mr. Zeunik replied that Judge Dozier speculated it would be either Judge Souk or Judge Fitzgerald, but it is a decision that will be made by the Chief Judge following Judge Dozier's retirement.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the \$10.00 Law Library Fee was set to expire this year. At last month's Board Meeting, the Board approved the recommendation to maintain the \$10.00 fee indefinitely. He indicated that this fee increase has made it possible to significantly reduce the debt owed to the General Fund. Mr. Zeunik stated that Judge Dozier speculated that, with the Fee increase continuing and despite the fee reduction to the Bar Association, he projects that within two years the deficit owed to the General Fund will be fully paid.

Mr. Gordon expressed concern regarding allowing the Bar Association's reduction in the fee to be retroactive. Mr. Renner indicated that the Justice Committee had concerns as well. He stated that Judge Dozier encouraged the Justice Committee to comply with the Bar Association's request based on the decreasing value of the Law Library to the Bar Association and the potential liabilities if the issue were taken to court.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Renner.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee reported that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Gordon referred to a request from Mr. Robert Lenz, representing Planters Bank, d/b/a/ Regions Bank, that the preliminary plan for the Prairieland Subdivision be reinstated and be extended for a period of three years. He stated that the Committee had a very active discussion regarding the status of the Subdivision. Mr. Gordon advised that there is a potential developer who has not yet signed all of the necessary contracts and paperwork. Mr. Gordon indicated that the proposal passed with a vote of 5-1.

Chairman Sweeney asked why this request was approved by the Land Use and Development Committee when the potential developer did not sign a contract. Mr. Gordon indicated that the likelihood of the developer purchasing Prairieland hinges on approval of the preliminary plan. He advised that there was some question of whether or not the identity of the potential developer needed to be a prerequisite for approval of the request. A name was mentioned but it was named in the context of "in current negotiations, going through due diligence."

Mr. Zeunik stated that there is a contract for sale that has been entered into by the bank and by the individual who proposes to develop this property, but the contract is contingent upon Lewis, Yockey and Brown completing the due diligence on the tract of land because of the improvements made by the previous developer, particularly the infrastructure. The potential buyer wants to find out, before he executes the contract, what infrastructure is workable, what can be permitted by IEPA and what isn't workable. If Lewis, Yockey and Brown report that there are major issues with the infrastructure, then the potential buyer may back away from the deal. Mr. Zeunik indicated that the preliminary plan will be reinstated under Regents Bank. The Resolution on which the Board will act on Tuesday will be with Regents Bank as they currently own the property.

Ms. Bostic asked if Regents Bank is successful in selling the property to a developer, does the preliminary plan need to be re-voted on under the developer's name. Mr. Gordon replied that it does not.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he is comfortable with the decision of the Committee and feels this proposal will assist in moving the area forward in a positive manner.

Members of the Committee expressed concern as to the potential ramifications if the prospective buyer decided not to purchase the property, thereby leaving the bank with the possibility of selling it to another, perhaps less desirable, developer. Mr. Segobiano reminded the Committee that this is a preliminary plan and the Board holds the key to the final developer.

Chairman Sweeney suggested that the proposal be tabled for a month to wait for the report from Lewis, Yockey and Brown. Mr. Gordon indicated that a motion to postpone would need to be made at the Board level. Mr. Segobiano did not recommend postponing the request, but to continue to have the Resolution be contingent upon the report.

Mr. Sorensen pointed out that the Bank has their money tied up on the land and it is in their best interest to get this moved ahead correctly. Mr. Segobiano assured the Committee that the bank has no intentions of doing anything that will stop the development of the land. Mr. Gordon agreed, noting that the bank has a very high stake in seeing this move forward in the right way.

Mr. Zeunik reported that Mr. Lenz indicated to the Land Use and Development Committee that he would advise them, if as a result of the due diligence, the contract for sale does not proceed and there is not a developer ready to move forward.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gordon.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, reported that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Hoselton asked for a review of the Fairview Campus Sign. Ms. Bostic stated that the project was first presented in May, 2006. She noted that two of the sign companies that had submitted bids contended that the low bidder was not adequately prepared to make the sign. The company that submitted the low bid then backed out of the project. Ms. Bostic advised that she then threw out the bids and postponed the project. She indicated that this time, three bids were received, one was very low and two submitted similar bids to their previous bids. The low bid was \$6,500.00.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

Mr. Duffy Bass, Chairman, Transportation Committee, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean for traffic signals at Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue. He reported that, for the past several years, the Highway Department has been studying this intersection to see if it meets the warrants for traffic signals, and this year, it does. Mr. Bass pointed out that there has been and will continue to be a great deal of growth in that area.

Mr. Bass stated that this will be a joint project venture between the City of Bloomington and McLean County, with the approval of IDOT. He explained that the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington provides that the City and the County will each pay 50% of the engineering, construction and right-of-way costs to install the signals at this intersection. Construction costs are estimated between \$250,000.00 and \$300,000.00. The Agreement also calls for the sharing of the maintenance and energy costs at 50% each.

Mr. Bass stated that the Engineering Agreement with Farnsworth Group is to do an Intersection Design Study and then design the signals and whatever necessary turn lanes are involved for this intersection. This Agreement is an hourly agreement with a maximum not to exceed \$47,300.00.

Mr. Bass indicated that 2007 is the projected date of completion.

Motion by Bass/Hoselton to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the County of McLean for Traffic Signals at Towanda Barnes Rd. and Oakland Ave.

Mr. Segobiano asked if, as the City moves east, Towanda Barnes will continue to be a County highway or will it become a City street. Also, he projected that there will be additional lights in that area as the growth continues. Mr. Segobiano expressed concern with the County paying for the lights and maintenance of the lights if the area is under the jurisdiction of the City. Mr. Bass replied that he does not have an answer but he shares his concerns.

Mr. Hoselton pointed out that, when the Town of Normal extends out in that direction, they will likely have a similar request for this type of joint venture.

Mr. Segobiano asked if Towanda Barnes is currently considered a County highway or a City street. Mr. Zeunik stated that it is a County highway.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that the Legislative Committee should investigate the growth of the County, particularly the growth of the City into County roads. He believes the County taxpayers should be relieved of some of the expense of paying for some of these roads. Mr. Zeunik stated that, under State law today, it can be done by means of a jurisdictional transfer. He indicated that jurisdictional transfers require the cooperation of both governments. Mr. Zeunik speculated that a portion of Towanda Barnes may be subject to a jurisdictional transfer at some time in the future. All jurisdictional transfers must be approved by IDOT, which imposes requirements on both governments when a transfer takes place.

Chairman Sweeney called for a vote to the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Bass.

Chairman Sweeney presented the August 31, 2006 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Prepaid Total is \$266,849.14 and a fund total that is the same.

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Motion by Bostic/Renner to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for August 31, 2006 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary