

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sweeney, Members Sommer, Sorensen, Salch, Bass, Segobiano, Berglund, Pokorney

Members Absent: Member Gordon

Other County
Board Members
Present:

Members Rodman, Owens, Kinzinger, Selzer

Staff Present: Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Martha B. Ross, County Administrator's Assistant, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director of Information Services; Mr. Mike Gallagher, Technical Operations Manager, Information Services
Ms. Peggy Ann Milton, County Clerk; Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor; Mr. Paul Russell, Director, McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes of the February 13, 2001 and February 20, 2001 meetings for approval.

Motion by Salch/Sorensen to approve and place on file the minutes of the February 13, 2001 and February 20, 2001 meetings. Motion carried.

The minutes of the February 13, 2001 and February 20, 2001 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

Chairman Sweeney, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the Chairman's recommendations pertaining to appointments and reappointments.

Motion by Sommer/Pokorney to approve the Chairman's recommendations for Appointments and Reappointments as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the Committee would receive a conference telephone call from Mr. Bill Anderson, Anderson Legislative Consulting, at 5:10 p.m. to update the Committee on current legislative matters. If there is discussion ongoing at 5:10 p.m., it will be

temporarily suspended in order to allow all Committee members to participate in the conference call.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman of the Rules Committee, presented a request from the Rules Committee to change the Ordinance Establishing County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2001. The request is an initiative to consider the idea of scheduling three County Board meetings in the evening on a pilot basis. At this time, the proposed meeting changes would be for August, September and October 2001 at 7:00 p.m. instead of the customary time of 9:00 a.m. There would be no change in the customary dates for these meetings.

Motion by Sorensen/Pokorney to Approve the Request for a Change in the Ordinance Establishing County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2001.

Mr. Segobiano asked for the reason why the meeting time is proposed to be changed. Mr. Kinzinger responded that the issue was initially introduced last year, and it was suggested that the Rules Committee examine the proposal. He stated that the overriding reason for his sponsorship of the proposal is to make County government more accessible to the population at large. Many people, who might otherwise desire to attend monthly Board meetings, may be prohibited from doing so, due to the constraints of their employment, or other pressing obligations that occur during the usual morning meetings.

Mr. Kinzinger explained that it is his hope that changing the meeting time to an evening time will increase attendance by the general public and make meetings generally more accessible to McLean County citizens. He noted that the purpose of the pilot dates is to measure whether or not the objective of increased attendance has been met. Following the three (3) pilot dates, the Board meetings will return to their usual time of 9:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month until the end of the year.

Ms. Berglund stated that it is her experience from participating on other boards, that evening meetings will not significantly increase attendance by the general public. She noted that she sat on a school board for three (3) years and during her tenure, the only members of the public who participated actively had great interest in the issues before the Board, which in turn prompted their participation.

Ms. Berglund remarked that she has a previous commitment on the evenings of the proposed Board meeting dates for August, September, and October. She further remarked that many of the elected officials who regularly attend the monthly Board meetings at the 9:00 a.m. hour might find it more difficult to attend an evening meeting. She noted that she has served on the County Board for nine (9) years, and the subject of night meetings has been broached nearly every year.

Mr. Sommer stated that he is not enthusiastic with regard to supporting the issue of evening County Board meetings. He cited the fact there are many citizens who currently work other hours besides the more common daytime hours. However, that has not had a significant impact upon attendance at the 9:00 a.m. meetings by citizens who work the second or third shifts. He noted that if time alone were the only consideration, there would always be a faction of citizens who would be unable to attend Board meetings. In his experience, there is not a significant parallel between the meeting time and citizen participation.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he is not in favor of holding County Board meetings in the evening. He noted that he remains close to the constituents in his district and was an hourly employee himself when first elected to the Board. He explained that his commitment to County government was such that he found a way for both his elected obligation and his employment to be compatible. In his estimation, other citizens will do so as well, if the underlying commitment is there. Mr. Segobiano noted that he also has a conflict on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during August, September, and October. Mr. Segobiano explained that for the past 47 years, he has been involved in a Youth Football program at O'Neil Park.

Mr. Segobiano also cited the fact that many people, including County staff, have other commitments for the proposed new meeting times, which may be difficult to readjust.

Mr. Salch asked what the proposed change would mean to the Administrator's Office. Mr. Zeunik stated that the Administrator's Office staff will conform to whatever policy the County Board adopts. Overtime compensation will be paid to the hourly employees whenever weekly work hours exceed a 40-hour week. He noted that this would apply to the support staff in the Administrator's Office as well as to any other hourly employees from other departments (e.g. Facilities Management, Sheriff's Department) who would need to attend the evening Board meetings.

Mr. Renner stated that the pilot evening dates should be explored. Dates could be adjusted to accommodate many of the members' previous commitments. Overtime issues would not be any different than some of the other entities that meet at night throughout the County. In terms of access by constituents, it can then be noted that a fair attempt was made to accommodate those who would find evening meetings less restrictive. If there is no significant attendance improvement, the evening meetings could then revert back to the customary time of 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Kinzinger remarked that maintenance of the status quo is not a strong argument against change to accommodate constituents. Department heads will attend as they do now for the Committee meetings, many of which are late afternoon or evening meetings. He stated that government in action is more important than inconvenience for some employees.

Mr. Bass stated that the County Board should not compare itself to either the City of Bloomington or the Town of Normal, which operate on a somewhat smaller scale than does the County. He noted that access to the Law and Justice Center Building should be a consideration in the issue of night meetings. He stated that there has been good attendance at the morning meetings when the issues warrant it. He can see no discernable benefit to attendance by moving the meetings to an evening time.

Mr. Owens remarked that the full Board should have an opportunity to vote on the issue of night Board meetings. He noted that all Board members can then report to their constituents that the option of night meetings has been fully explored. He stated that he is in favor of some County Board meetings being held at night in order to be more accessible to the public.

Mr. Pokorney stated that the Board should demonstrate to the public that they are flexible in matters of public accessibility. He noted that he supports the idea of night meetings.

Mr. Kinzinger remarked that the proposal of night meetings for the Board has passed the Rules Committee and should now be presented to the full Board. There are many Board members who do not serve on the Executive Committee who should have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Mr. Rodman stated that he does not have a strong opinion either in favor or opposing the issue of night Board meetings. He remarked that he is concerned, however, that there are at least two (2) Board members who will consistently not be able to attend in the event that meetings are held at night. He suggested that a more complete discussion might result in a more appropriate time and date for night meetings when all Board members could attend without having to choose between Board attendance and previous commitments.

Ms. Berglund stated that 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. meetings would be more amenable for her schedule. She also stated that she cares deeply about serving her constituents to the best of her ability. She cited that the annual NACo Conference in July requires that the Board deviate from its usual meeting schedule and therefore, sets a precedent for other schedule changes, if they are warranted.

Mr. Bass asked whether the issue could be presented to the full Board for discussion regardless of the Executive Committee's action. Mr. Sweeney responded that, in the event that the Executive Committee votes down the issue, it can still be presented to the full Board for consideration.

Substitute motion by Sorensen/Berglund to refer the issue back to the Rules Committee for the purpose of polling the Board as a whole to determine some possible date and time options for a pilot time for evening meetings. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented the Request for Approval of an Agreement Between the McLean County Board and the McLean County Clerk for Preparation and Maintenance of Closed County Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Berglund/Pokorney to Approve the Agreement Between the McLean County Board and the McLean County Clerk for Preparation and Maintenance of Closed County Board Meeting Minutes.
Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik presented an Intergovernmental Agreement for Countywide GIS Development and Maintenance. He noted that last autumn, pursuant to State enabling legislation, McLean County adopted a fee increase in the Recorder's Office in the amount of \$3.00. He explained that \$2.00 of that increase is placed in a special revenue fund for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) development and maintenance. He further explained that \$1.00 of that fee is placed in the Recorder's Document Storage Fund.

Mr. Zeunik stated that several years ago, an intergovernmental approach was utilized to develop a countywide GIS system. The intergovernmental entities include the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, McLean County Government and the Regional Planning Commission. As a result of this cooperative effort, all contribute toward the continued development and implementation of Countywide GIS system. The current Intergovernmental Agreement proposes that the County, as the recipient of the fee money that is collected at the Recorder's Office, pay over to the Regional Planning Commission the monies collected in the GIS Fund for purposes of supporting the continued development and maintenance of the GIS project.

Motion by Sommer/Sorensen to Approve the Request for an Intergovernmental Agreement for Countywide GIS Development and Maintenance.

Mr. Segobiano asked whether the costs would be the same to maintain the system, as it is to initially develop the system. Mr. Zeunik responded that maintenance involves two (2) concerns. As the community grows and changes, the map will need to be updated, especially as further development and annexation occur. Additionally, the software that is utilized in the GIS system carries with it an annual maintenance fee, which is paid to the software company. Payment of the fee ensures that the County will receive new releases and updates of the software and service for problems that might occur.

Mr. Zeunik explained that the primary goal at this time is to develop a GIS map with a cadastral layer, which is the parcel layer. This will allow for individual parcels to be identified. There will also be other layers added to the map as well, including political boundaries, issues involving property tax collection and distribution in the County Treasurer's Office, election

precincts for the County Clerk's Office and other areas that may provide expanded use and development of the product.

Mr. Segobiano asked whether the Agreement is finite. Mr. Zeunik responded that there is a termination clause within the Agreement.

Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik presented the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cadastral Map Development, As Amended. He explained that the proposed amendments involve certain tasks to be deleted and certain tasks to be added. The total cost will not increase as a result of the changes. The major change will provide for a new fly-over of the County with better resolution in terms of photography for purposes of preparing the cadastral layer.

Mr. Zeunik noted that the project was originally placed on a three (3) year cycle and the original estimated cost was delineated. He noted that the amended version of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cadastral Map Development shows what has been committed and what has been expended, to date. The County's share of the project is to be finished in the year 2002, and that would be the duration of the proposed agreement.

Motion by Sorensen/Sommer to Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cadastral Map Development, As Amended. Motion carried.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, presented a Request to Renew the contract with AT & T for long distance telephone service. He noted that the County has requested AT & T to provide computerized billing for the convenience of the Auditor's Office.

Motion by Sorensen/Sommer to Approve the Renewal of a Contract with AT & T to provide long distance telephone service. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson presented the requests to purchase wireless equipment. He noted that there is a mistake in the presentation, explaining that Information Services is working on both an in-house wireless project as well as a wireless project between buildings. He stated that the correct company and amount to be considered is \$9,063.00 from Novanis.

Mr. Nelson explained that the completion of the project would provide wireless access in the courtrooms of the Law and Justice Center for attorneys from the attorney tables. EJS and Email will also be accessible from the counsel tables.

Motion by Rodman/Berglund to recommend approval of the quote for the purchase of wireless equipment from Novanis in the amount of \$9,063.00. Motion carried.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the Legislative Briefing would take place during the conference call that will occur later in the meeting.

Mr. Craig Nelson presented the monthly status report for the Information Services Department. There were no questions from the Committee.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the Request for Approval of Addition of a New Position of Internal Auditor in the County Auditor's Office and the accompanying Emergency Appropriation Ordinance, which results in \$26,205.00 being added to various line items on the compensation side of the budget for the Auditor's Office.

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to Approve the Request for the Addition of a New Position of Internal Auditor in the County Auditor's Office and the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance County General Fund 0001, County Auditor 0003.

Mr. Segobiano asked what is the total salary for the new position, since the proposed figures only reflect the costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2001. Mr. Zeunik responded that the current starting salary for the Fiscal Year 2001 is \$32,494.00, not including the cost of benefits. In January 2002, the salary would be adjusted in the event that the Board approves an across the board increase in salary for all County employees.

Mr. Renner asked whether the new individual would be hired in the \$33,000.00 to \$36,000.00 range. He stated that the members of the Finance Committee had expressed concern as to whether a qualified applicant could be found at that salary level. Mr. Zeunik stated that the salary quoted in the Auditor's request memo reflected only 61% of the Fiscal Year, not for a full year. He further stated that, in the event that the salary ultimately offered to the selected candidate was 5% over the base salary, the starting salary on an annualized basis would be in the mid \$30s.

Motion carried.

Mr. Sorensen presented the Request for Approval of an Ordinance Amending the 2001 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105 submitted by the Health Department. He explained that this entails an acceptance of Tobacco Settlement money that is being placed in the Regional Office of Education. It will be used to fund expansion of the existing tobacco awareness and education programs.

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to Approve the Ordinance Amending the 2001 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105.
Motion carried.

Mr. Joseph Sommer, Chairman of the Justice Committee, presented a Request for Approval of an Interagency Agreement Between the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the County of McLean. He explained that this Agreement is for the Domestic Violence Protocol Implementation Program, which is currently in effect.

Motion by Sommer/Pokorney to approve the Interagency Agreement Between the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the County of McLean for the Domestic Violence Protocol Implementation Program. Motion carried.

Mr. Sommer presented the Request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance to Fund Leasehold Improvements for Office Space in the 200 West Front Street Building for the Children's Advocacy Center.

Motion by Sommer/Pokorney to approve the Request for an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance to Fund Leasehold Improvements for Office Space in the 200 West Front Street Building for the Children's Advocacy Center. Motion carried.

Mr. Ray Rodman, Vice Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee, stated that the Committee has no items for action. However, he noted that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled a Public Hearing on the proposed wastewater treatment facility planned for Prairieland Subdivision on April 5, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Osborn Room at the Bloomington Police Department building on Olive Street in Bloomington.

Mr. Duffy Bass, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, stated that the Committee has no items for action.

Mr. Sommer asked about a building under construction at the intersection of Airport Road and Old Route 66. He asked whether it was related to any work being done by the County at this time. Mr. Owens commented that he has noticed the building, as well, and that it has been in that location for approximately one month. Mr. Bass responded that he was not aware that the structure was a part of any project in which the County is involved.

Mr. Gene Salch, Chairman of the Property Committee, stated that the Property Committee has no items for action.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, announced that the materials for the annual Student Government Day would be distributed at the next Executive Committee meeting. He stated that Student Government Day is scheduled for April 17, 2001, but will precede National County Government Week.

Mr. Zeunik explained that Student Government Day would involve junior high students spending the day with Department Heads and Elected Officials, as well as attending the April County Board meeting.

Ms. Berglund asked whether all junior high schools in the County have been invited to participate. Mr. Zeunik responded that all schools have been invited to participate and that the response to date has been favorable.

Mr. Kinzinger asked whether the students actually participate in issues involving the Board. Mr. Zeunik responded that such action has taken place in the past, but that there will be some changes to the format this year, based upon feedback that has been received.

Mr. Kinzinger noted that he is an alumnus of the Student Government Day and stated that it is both a good program and a valuable experience for those students who are involved.

Mr. Lindberg introduced Mr. Bill Anderson, Anderson Legislative Consulting, who joined the Committee by conference call. Mr. Lindberg asked Mr. Anderson to review the issues of top priority.

Mr. Anderson explained that House Bill 505 regarding local planning technical assistance has three (3) initiatives that accompany it. One issue is House Bill 504, which is a proposal which would give State grant money to employers for housing assistance. Another objective is workforce development. The Local Legacy Act is House Bill 2358. It is for County and Municipal partnerships to create a resource protection plan.

Mr. Anderson stated that the reason he lumped the three (3) items together is because in the Governor's budget he allocated \$2.5 million dollars for the Illinois Initiative. These are the main three (3) components to be included. However, he noted that the allocations might change in the future.

Mr. Anderson remarked that another top priority is the issue of bicycle liability. House Bill 602 is accompanied by House Bill 911 and Senate Bill 1014. He noted that this is a hotly contested issue, with the bicycle lobby desiring to make the point that they are intended users of the roadway. He stated that the bill itself is somewhat confusing in that some conditions are not clearly stated. He further stated that the bicycle lobby will not agree to any suggested compromises, and therefore, it is recommended that House Bill 911 and Senate Bill 1014 be opposed.

With regard to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) issue, which requires the County to contribute an additional 1.25% to fund a health insurance program for retirees, their spouses and dependants, there is little new development. It is the same as Senate Bill 100 and House Bill 209, which were presented last year. The issue is seen as an unfunded mandate and will most likely be opposed.

Mr. Anderson stated that the issue of household hazardous waste collection would require more money to be placed in the budget to assist with a collection site activity. The collection site date and location is not specified at this time, but this issue will be part of the budget negotiation.

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Nursing Homes is also subject to negotiation. The Governor did not include any money in the budget at this time. However, the issue will assuredly come up for consideration again in the future.

Mr. Anderson explained that Senator Link and Senator Klemm are very interested in the issue of cellular tower site locations. Senator Link is sponsoring Senate Bill 302 which provides for zoning in unincorporated areas.

Public Defender reimbursement from the State is House Bill 549. This is a proposal to provide State funding for 66% of the Public Defender's salary if that position is full time. Representative Dan Rutherford and the Illinois State Bar Association are working together on this issue.

Mr. Anderson noted that there are many other smaller bills which are now being prioritized.

Chairman Sweeney asked for questions from the Committee members.

Mr. Segobiano stated that the Board took action previously to support a bike path along the old Route 66. At that time, he stated that he questioned maintenance costs as well as liability. He stated that the Board's support of a bike path, but opposition of the liability issue is inconsistent. Mr. Anderson responded that roads are not set aside for bicycle traffic. This is the problem that causes an issue of liability for local governments. Bicycle use is permitted, but not exclusive use by bicycles alone.

Mr. Sorensen stated that the choices seem to be: 1) post the roads for no bicycle traffic; 2) upgrade the roads for bicycle traffic; or 3) do nothing and deal with whatever lawsuits may be initiated. Mr. Anderson responded that if the bill passes, the County may have no other option but to post its roads with signs stating that they are not intended to accommodate bicycle traffic.

Mr. Sorensen asked whether anecdotal evidence regarding the costs involved in posting the roads could be beneficial. Mr. Anderson responded that such action would be logical, but legislators are being told that the bill promotes liability. He explained that House Bill 911 is now on the

floor of the House, but he does not foresee agreement on this issue. The full Senate and the full House will probably deal with the issue.

Ms. Berglund asked about the status of the child support payment issue. Mr. Anderson responded that this is not a volatile issue at this time, and not much detail is available.

Mr. Lindberg asked about House Bill 3577 regarding the transfer of the Circuit Clerk's remaining responsibilities for child support payments back to Public Aid. Mr. Anderson stated that the hearing on this issue would occur within the next few days. More information will be available at that time.

Mr. Lindberg asked whether anything pertaining to retirement issues is available. Mr. Anderson noted that over 800 pension bills have been introduced. There are no IMRF bills moving now, and pension bills may remain suspended until early April.

Mr. Segobiano asked about Medicaid reimbursement to nursing homes. Mr. Anderson stated that there are many entities who would like to discuss the rate of reimbursement. He noted that it is a priority for many, so there will continue to be information available in the future.

Mr. Lindberg thanked Mr. Anderson for sharing legislative information with the Committee.

Mr. Sommer stated that the recent editorial in The Pantagraph regarding the Emergency Telephone Systems Board (ETSB) might reflect some of the statements he made during the Justice Committee meeting. He noted that he was reflecting the frustration of his constituency and that his statements were quoted accurately.

Mr. Renner remarked that if the minutes from past Justice Committee meetings were examined closely, several previous deadline dates for the completion of the E-911 system were given and subsequently not met. He noted that the Board should hold ETSB accountable for the timely completion of the project.

Mr. Rodman asked what the impact on the County would be with regard to the upcoming 4-H Extension Referendum. Mr. Zeunik responded that this referendum is similar to those that were previously approved by the voters for the McLean County Historical Museum and the Veteran's Assistance Commission. He explained that enabling legislation permits the voters, by referendum, to authorize the Cooperative Extension Service to levy a property tax. In the case of the Cooperative Extension, the tax is limited to not more than 5 cents per \$100.00 of equalized assessed value.

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It can only be adopted by referendum. Once it is adopted, the County Board has the ultimate approval of the levy. There would be a new item added to the McLean County Tax Levy Ordinance. The Cooperative Extension will present a proposed annual budget to the appropriate Oversight Committee for approval.

Mr. Rodman asked which Committee would become the Oversight Committee for the Cooperative Extension. Mr. Zeunik responded that it would either be the Executive Committee or the Finance Committee, with the decision being made by the Board. If the referendum passes, a separate fund will be established for fiscal year 2002, as the Cooperative Extension Special Revenue Fund. All of the revenue and expenses would be documented in that fund.

Mr. Renner stated that he voted to send the issue to the voters, but he will oppose the measure because there are currently enough taxing bodies. Another is not needed.

Mr. Segobiano asked whether this would be a new taxing body or just a new tax. Mr. Zeunik responded that it would be a new tax.

Chairman Sweeney presented the bills and transfers for approval.

Motion by Bass/Sommer to approve the bills and transfers as presented by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

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There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross
Recording Secretary