

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Owens, Hoselton, Gordon, Nuckolls, Segobiano and Butler

Members Absent: Member Bostic

Other Board Members Present: Member Soeldner

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: Mr. Scott Black, Candidate for District #8 County Board Seat; Mr. Ken Springer, Project Analyst, Economic Development Council

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the February 9, 2010 Executive Committee meeting for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen noted that there were no reappointments, appointments or resignations.

Mr. Bob Nuckolls, Chairman, Legislative Sub-Committee presented a request for approval of a Contract between the County of McLean and Anderson Legislative Consulting and Professional Services – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Nuckolls/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Contract between the County of McLean and Anderson Legislative Consulting and Professional Services – County Administrator's Office.

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Mr. Owens recommended that the County Administrator's Office provide the Board with periodic reports on the efforts of Anderson Legislative Consulting and Professional Services. Mr. Segobiano added that the report should particularly include issues that concern McLean County and the results provided by Anderson. Mr. Nuckolls responded that this issue was discussed at the Legislative Sub-Committee and the Administrator's Office will provide such information.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Nuckolls presented a request for approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2010 Legislative Sub-Committee Recommendations.

Motion by Nuckolls/Gordon to recommend approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2010 Legislative Sub-Committee Recommendations.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designating an area located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone" (to include property located at 422 White Oak Road – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designating an Area located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone" (to include property located at 422 White Oak Road) – County Administrator's Office

Mr. Hoselton asked for an explanation of this Enterprise Zone request. Mr. Ken Springer, Project Analyst, Economic Development Council, explained that this request is to include approximately 10.6 acres located at 522 White Oak Road in Normal into the Enterprise Zone. He indicated that this site is currently home to a Central Illinois company by the name of Midwest Fiber, Inc. Mr. Springer stated that Midwest Fiber is a family-owned business that has been in place since 1990. He noted that this is a recycling company that handles the collection and marketing of recyclable commodities. Mr. Springer added that Midwest Fiber

has locations in cities around Central Illinois including Decatur, Springfield and Normal. He noted that the EDC has been working with Midwest Fiber on a project to build a single screen material recovery facility. Recyclables from residential and commercial facilities can be put into one bin and taken to this facility to be sorted. Mr. Springer indicated that this is a much simpler way for residents to recycle and will increase recycling participation.

Mr. Springer advised that the project is valued at approximately \$6.8 million and would lead to the creation of 20 new jobs at the site with the potential for another 21 jobs between years two and five.

Mr. Springer indicated that there are currently no single stream material recovery facilities between St. Louis and Chicago. The location of this facility in McLean County would allow the communities in the area to adopt single stream recycling programs.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the County is entitled to any fees associated with recycling garbage. Mr. Lindberg replied that the County will continue to get tipping fees for the residual material that is not pulled out for recycling. He pointed out that we want to encourage recycling and make our landfill last as long as possible, but every time we take a step towards recycling, we reduce the waste stream which reduces the tonnage for which the County can collect a full tipping fee. Mr. Lindberg reiterated that the County will get the tipping fee revenue on the residual, but will not get a replacement fee on the recycled material because it will be pulled out and sold commercially. He added that it will benefit the overall County-wide recycling plan.

Mr. Segobiano asked what the environmental impact the facility will have on the remaining area around the facility. Mr. Springer responded that the western portion of the existing site is used by Midwest Fiber's current operations. He noted that the parcel is zoned Industrial. The new facility will be constructed on the eastern portion of the site, which is also zoned Industrial. Mr. Springer added that EDC submitted a request to the Illinois Department of Agriculture and they have approved the project.

Chairman Sorensen asked for confirmation that the County's Enterprise Zone is a state sales tax on building materials only. Mr. Springer replied that Chairman Sorensen is correct. Mr. Springer noted that there are only state incentives remaining in the Enterprise Zone. Mr. Springer said that when the Enterprise Zone was created in 1984, there was a local component as well, but when the Zone was renewed in 1991, those local incentives were rescinded, by Ordinance, by each of the joint applicants.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board in Recognition of Michael F. Sweeney.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to recommend approval
of a Resolution of the McLean County Board in
Recognition of Michael F. Sweeney.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen introduced Mr. Scott Black, a candidate seeking appointment to the District #8 County Board seat.

Mr. Black informed the Committee that he is seeking the appointment to fill the District #8 seat vacated by Mr. Tari Renner. He advised that he grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and moved to Bloomington four years ago. He stated that he is attending Illinois Wesleyan University where he is a Political Science major, and will graduate in May 2010.

Mr. Black indicated that since moving to McLean County in 2006 he has been active in politics, including working in congressional races. He pointed out that, during the 2008 campaign, he walked door to door across McLean County meeting with people from Chenoa to Heyworth and Danvers to Colfax.

Mr. Black informed the Committee that he has a passion for government and politics. He stated that he loves to look at challenges in new and different ways and trying to solve them. Mr. Black added that he believes that challenges can be solved when an open and frank dialogue is developed between all sides of an issue. He indicated that he brought this philosophy to life on campus via two local forums hosted by Illinois Wesleyan.

Mr. Black advised that he walked door to door for his campaign to be appointed to the District #8 seat from late November through the primary election speaking with the people in District #8 about their concerns with the County. If appointed, Mr. Black indicated that he will continue to walk door to door to hear people's thoughts on the County and how he can reflect those opinions on the Board.

Mr. Black notified the Committee that he will be out of town next week and will not be able to attend the County Board meeting.

Mr. Black assured the Committee that he believes his passion for government, his desire to serve the community and his commitment to efficient government make him a good candidate for the District #8 County Board seat. He thanked the Committee for their consideration.

Mr. Soeldner asked Mr. Black what his plans are following his graduation in May. Mr. Black replied that he plans to stay in Bloomington and look for a fulltime job.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional questions for Mr. Black. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Black.

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

Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Segobiano to comment to the Committee on the Land Use and Development Committee meeting on March 4th. Mr. Gordon indicated that Representative Michael Tryon (R), 64th District, McHenry County, gave a presentation at that meeting.

Mr. Segobiano commented that Representative Tryon gave a lengthy discussion on septic systems. He recommended that the Committee read the minutes of the Land Use meeting for further information on the presentation.

Chairman Sorensen stated that the presentation was interesting, and has the potential to become very expensive for McLean County in terms of the enforcement of this new law.

Chairman Sorensen explained that the Land Use Committee invited Rep. Tryon from Crystal Lake to speak to the Committee regarding sewage system legislation. He indicated that Rep. Tryon was successful in passing House Bill 170, which was passed by the House of Representatives and the State Senate to become Public Act 096-0801, which is effective January 1, 2010. Chairman Sorensen advised that this Bill will change the landscape on who regulates, inspects and enforces private sewage systems, which increases the burden to counties for sewage system inspections and testing throughout the state.

Chairman Sorensen advised that this legislation mandates twice a year inspections for certain types of septic systems that discharge above ground. Mr. Lindberg indicated that Illinois is one of the few states that does not comply with federal law. He noted that the option is that the County accepts the responsibility to inspect the systems or the state will step in and perform the inspections with what reportedly would be a "heavy hand."

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Mr. Lindberg advised that the County officials are prepared to provide the inspections. He estimated that there may be as many as 2,000 systems that would fall in this category in McLean County. Mr. Lindberg added that the concern is with the additional resources that are going to be necessary to carry out this mandate. He indicated that Rep. Tryon indicated that if there were additional costs, the County could increase its fees to cover the cost.

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

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of Attachment Number Eight to the Amendment to the Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the City/County Office Building – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Segobiano/Nuckolls to recommend approval of Attachment Number Eight to the Amendment to the Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the City/ County Office Building – County Administrator's office.
Motion carried.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, advised that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented several requests for SHOW BUS, which can all be acted upon together. The first request is for approval of an Updated Vehicle Lease Agreement with McLean County for SHOW BUS, and the next four are grant applications for SHOW BUS for federal funding to the Illinois Department of Transportation for rural public transportation in McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties – Building and Zoning.

Mr. Hoselton asked if County monies are used for SHOW BUS. Mr. Lindberg replied that no County money is committed to this project. He indicated that the funds come from other revenue sources and other grants to match this grant.

Mr. Owens advised that McLean County is very fortunate to have SHOW BUS. He noted that many counties do not have access to this type of transportation program.

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Mr. Segobiano asked for clarification that County funds have never been involved with SHOW BUS. Chairman Sorensen responded that he is correct.

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval of an Updated Vehicle Lease Agreement with McLean County for SHOW BUS; and to Recommend Approval to apply for four Grant Applications for SHOW BUS for Federal Funding to the Illinois Department of Transportation for Rural Public Transportation in McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties – Building and Zoning.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2010 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Acting Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval to apply for a \$250,000 Grant through the United States Department of Justice to begin a Mental Health Court – Court Services. He stated that there was some discussion at the Justice Committee meeting as to what happens when the grant money runs out. Mr. Hoselton indicated that Ms. McCormick assured the Committee that when the grant money runs out, the program is discontinued. Mr. Lindberg concurred that, typically, the program would end when the grants ended, but he acknowledged that the Mental Health Court may be so successful it could save the County enough funds to allow the program to continue without additional grant monies.

Mr. Segobiano expressed concern about where the funds will come from if the program continues without grant funding. Chairman Sorensen responded that if we are not serving participants in the justice system through Drug Court or a Mental Health Court, those individuals are sitting in the Jail which is very expensive. He acknowledged that at the end of the grant period, it will be necessary to make a decision on whether to go back to spending \$60 dollars a

day to keep these individuals in jail or spend the money on programs to keep them out of jail, which could be more cost effective.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to Recommend Approval to Apply for a \$250,000 Grant through the United States Department of Justice to begin a Mental Health Court – Court Services.

Motion carried.

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

Mr. Segobiano referred to two different articles. One article reflects on the cash flow coming down to local governments, and the second article is about the City of Bloomington reducing their budget due to the lack of cash flow. He advised that the County Board should consider ways in which to reduce its budget without losing employees. Mr. Segobiano pointed out that the City of Bloomington cut EDC by \$16,000, the Bloomington-Normal Visitors Bureau by \$113,000 and DBA by \$39,000 for a total of \$168,000. He recommended that cuts in these areas be considered so that we can maintain a healthy growth in McLean County, retain employees, and provide services to the citizens of McLean County.

Chairman Sorensen presented the February 28, 2010 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$269,575.91 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by Gordon/Nuckolls to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for February 28, 2010 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary