

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: None

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: None

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the April 13, 2010 Executive Committee meeting and the March 16, 2010 Stand-up Meeting for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Bostic to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as recommended by the Chairman.  
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Hoselton provided a brief update on several projects being completed by the Highway Department., including the Pipeline Road and Gillum Road projects. He also noted that the Towanda Overpass project is almost completed.

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Mr. Hoselton advised that the Highway Department is operating with two full-time vacant positions. In addition, the Highway Department will hire three less summer workers.

Mr. Hoselton reported that the Highway Department will work with townships and villages to replace 14,000 regulatory traffic signs in the County.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if these are routinely replaced after so many years. Mr. Lindberg responded that there is a new standard under the Uniform Sign Code. He indicated that the signs will be replaced with more retro-reflective signs.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0110 (Persons with Developmental Disabilities) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of  
an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending  
the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget  
Ordinance for Fund 0110 (Persons with  
Developmental Disabilities) – Health Department.

Mr. Segobiano asked where the money is going and how will it be used. Mr. Lindberg replied that this money was appropriated last year and was not spent. The funds went back to the Fund Balance because of some changes in the agencies. Mr. Lindberg stated that this is part of the service coordination the Health Department does with the Mental Health Development Disabilities Department. The funds will go to two agencies, namely Marc Center and United Cerebral Palsy. Mr. Lindberg indicated that these funds were scheduled to go to them last year, but they did not get them last year. As a result, the funds are being re-appropriated and sent to the agencies this year.

Mr. Segobiano expressed his concern that the money may not reach the people to whom it is intended due to social service agencies spending the money on purchasing buildings, making renovations and paying for administrative services.

Mr. Owens asked Mr. Lindberg if the agencies provide a report as to how the money is spent. Mr. Lindberg responded that these agencies have contract agreements with the Board of Health and they do provide a disclosure report. He indicated that he does not have that report available at this time.

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Mr. Segobiano recommended that this action item be tabled until a full report is available as to whether or not this money is going to the clients or to administration for other uses.

Chairman Sorensen advised that Mr. Wasson is making some phone calls to see if he can ascertain the use of the funds. Chairman Sorensen recommended that this item be tabled until such time as the information can be procured, which may be later in this meeting.

Mr. Owens and Ms. Bostic withdrew their Motion to request approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0110 (Persons with Developmental Disabilities) – Health Department.

Mr. Owens presented a request for Approval of a Resolution amending the Funded Full-Time Equivalent Positions Resolution for 2010 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Amending the Funded Full-time Equivalent Positions Resolution for 2010 – County Administrator's Office.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Nuckolls advised that during the Finance Committee meeting there was a lengthy discussion regarding the Coroner's budget. He acknowledged that Coroner Beth Kimmerling reduced the Transcript Line by \$2,000.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board establishing the Annual Salary of the Sheriff, County Treasurer and County Clerk – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Establishing the Annual Salary of the Sheriff, Treasurer and County Clerk – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Segobiano applauded the work of the Finance Committee in their action to change the original proposed salary increase for the Sheriff, Treasurer and County Clerk of 4.5%, 4.5%, 0.0%, 0.0% to 0.0%, 0.0%, 4.5%, 4.5%. However, in light of the economic climate, he expressed concern with the increase of 4.5% for years three and four. Mr. Segobiano pointed out that we don't know what, if any, salary the employees will receive in the next four years. He believes that the elected officials should be held to the same salary adjustments as the County employees. Mr. Owens responded that this uncertainty was the basis of reversing the original proposed salary increase.

Mr. Owens reminded the Committee that State Law provides that the County Board must set the salary of an Elected Official not less than 180 days prior to the beginning of their term in office (50 ILCS 145/2). The County Clerk, County Treasurer and Sheriff will all take office this December. Mr. Owens noted that the County Board passed an ordinance setting the salaries for these offices from 2007 through 2010, and now must pass an ordinance setting the salaries for 2011 through 2014. Mr. Owens expressed his regret that the salaries must be set for the four-year term and not determined each year like the County employees. He advised that he would like to see the State Legislature change this law so that the Elected Officials' salaries can be determined on a yearly basis.

Mr. Owens stated that, for a number of years, the County has followed a three group philosophy on the salary history, which is referred to as the Sweeney Plan. The Sheriff has been in a group of its own; the Treasurer, County Clerk and Circuit Clerk have been in a peer group together; and the Coroner, Auditor and Recorder have moved together as one group. Mr. Owens explained that this is an attempt to keep some of them in the same salary range so that salaries are more equitable. He added that the 4.5%, 4.5% in years three and four are an attempt to keep the peer salary levels equitable.

Mr. Segobiano indicated that he understands and appreciates the effort to keep the Elected Officials' salaries comparable. However, he reiterated his concern that this does not address the issue of County employee salaries two years from now if the economy has not recovered.

Mr. Segobiano announced that he will vote "present" on this issue.

Chairman Sorensen pointed out that the Elected Officials who don't happen to be up for election right now are still getting their 4.5% in 2010 and 2011, which cannot be changed. He stated that the action of the Finance Committee is an attempt to maintain some level of equity with the understanding that two years from now, we can provide a 0.0% increase for those Elected Officials.

Mr. Butler commented that the Elected Officials must stand for election, noting that they have to campaign, they have to deal with the uncertainty of being re-elected and they spend a considerable amount of money from donations or personal funds to maintain their jobs. He added that there is a difference between an elected official and a long-term employee.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed concern that the Elected Officials are locked into a four-year compensation plan while the County employees' salaries are determined each year with the potential of the salary freeze being extended. She advised that she will be voting "present" on this issue.

Chairman Sorensen stated that when this current model was devised (the Sweeney Plan), the County was off pace with peer counties. The compensation plan was an attempt to get these positions more in line with their peer counterparts in like-size counties. Chairman Sorensen presumed that other counties are being conservative as well. He advised that he does not want to see McLean County, in ten years, be dramatically lower than its peer counties. Chairman Sorensen noted that the \$5,000 equity increase being proposed for the Sheriff will place him more in line with peer sheriffs around the state. He stated that if these salaries are zeroed out for four years, the County may be forced to make peer adjustments in perhaps five years, all at one time. Historically, the County employees receive a 2.5% across-the-board increase plus they get merit increases which could be as much as 3.0% or 4.0% for a potential yearly increase of 5.5% to 6.5%. Chairman Sorensen noted that this is the first year since he has been on the Board that the County has frozen employee salaries.

Chairman Sorensen advised that he feels that the Finance Committee took an appropriately conservative step in the right direction in an uncertain world without risking going too far or not far enough. He added that he intends to vote on this issue.

Ms. Bostic referred to Exhibit C, Elected Official Salary History, which is in the Packet. She asked if the Elected Officials whose salaries will be adjusted in 2012 can be frozen for the next four years at that time. Chairman Sorensen responded that they could be frozen at that time.

Mr. Lindberg put Exhibit C on the Power Point screen. He explained that the salary schedule for the Sheriff, Treasurer, and County Clerk are printed in blue and are the salaries that are being set at the May 18<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting for appointments that will begin December 1, 2010. The salary schedule for the Circuit Clerk, Coroner, Auditor and Recorder are printed in brown and will be reviewed in May of 2012 to begin December 3, 2012 and go through 2016. Mr. Lindberg noted that every two years, the Board makes salary determinations for either three or four of the County-wide Elected Officials.

Ms. Bostic asked if the salaries can be frozen if we reach the point that there is no additional money in the County budget. Mr. Lindberg responded that the County Board can vote to set the salary for four years without changing it. Chairman Sorensen added that the Board gets to make a decision on the Elected Officials in blue now and the ones in brown in two years. All of the numbers printed in black on the graph are locked in and cannot be changed.

There was some discussion about whether or not this salary decision had to be made at the Board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lindberg explained that the salary for terms beginning in December must be set no less than 180 days prior to the beginning of term. In order to meet that requirement, the salary schedule must be approved at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. Nuckolls asked that the colored graph be included in the Board packet. Mr. Wasson responded that the graph will be placed separately in the Board Packet envelope.

After additional discussion, Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried with Members Segobiano and Rackauskas voting "present."

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board setting salaries of the Members of the McLean County Board – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Setting Salaries of the Members of the McLean County Board – County Administrator's Office.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen expressed his appreciation to the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee to approve this Ordinance.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of the Resolution establishing the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of the Resolution Establishing the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens asked if Mr. Wasson had any determination regarding the request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0110 (Persons with Development Disabilities) for the Health Department. Mr. Wasson replied that he was unable to reach Mr. Walt Howe, Director, Health Department.

It was determined that the Ordinance request will be addressed at a Stand-up meeting prior to the County Board meeting on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

Ms. Bette Rackauskas, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending Chapter 22, Section 22.03-1 of the McLean County Code changing the composition of the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB).

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending Chapter 22, Section 22.03-1 of the McLean County Code changing the Composition of the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB).  
Motion carried.

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

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.

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

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, presented a request for approval to apply for an Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant Program – Facilities Management. She explained that this is an effort to obtain grant money similar to the grant the County received for the dome project at the Old Courthouse.

Mr. Segobiano asked if there are plans for future maintenance of that building. Ms. Bostic replied that the grant would be used for all maintenance issues, including replacing windows, and the air handlers.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if these funds could be transferred and used for more immediate needs, such as Probation Officer salaries. Chairman Sorensen responded that these funds cannot be transferred for other uses.

Motion by Bostic/Gordon to recommend approval to  
Apply for an Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant  
Program – Facilities Management.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator, advised that he thought the State would have passed a budget last Friday evening. He indicated that, rather than pass the budget; the Legislature was unable to reconcile their differences and adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. Lindberg advised that it is expected that the Speaker, the President and the Governor will get together and call the General Assembly back into session within the next two weeks. He noted that there was a Senate vote on a budget, but they could not sustain the votes on the House side. There are issues about whether to make a \$3.7 billion pension payment, whether to delay it or whether to issue debt and use the debt proceeds to pay it. Mr. Lindberg stated that there are attempts by the General Assembly to give the Governor sweeping emergency budget powers to manage spending of appropriations, including emergency rule making, lapse period spending, and furlough days.

Mr. Lindberg advised that he had hoped the Pension Reform movement would continue on and there would be pension reform affecting the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Program, but it did not continue on. He stated that the County is scheduled to pay 27% of salary costs towards Sheriff's Deputy Pensions in Fiscal Year 2011. Mr. Lindberg indicated that there have been a number of revenue ideas including a dollar a pack cigarette tax; and securitizing the tobacco settlement money the State receives every year, which would mean instead of settling for \$300 million every year, the tobacco settlement would be sold off to someone else to speed up the payments and the State would receive a one-time billion dollar payment, but loss over the long run would be a bad idea.

Mr. Lindberg stated that since the State did not get the budget passed, the County is once again in jeopardy of losing some share of the Local Government Distributive Fund, which is where the County gets a share of sales income Personal Property Replacement Tax. He noted that last year the Chief Justice and the Governor agreed that they would increase the amount of probation reimbursement funding by \$15 million, but it didn't happen. Mr. Lindberg advised that we didn't budget for that money and didn't receive the money. He added that that money disappeared sometime Thursday or Friday. Mr. Lindberg indicated that we had been holding our ground on getting an increase in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget and that also disappeared. At this point, we are hoping to get the same amount of Probation reimbursement that we received last year.

Mr. Lindberg stated that once these types of budgets get passed, it takes 30 days to two months before we really know what it is in the budget. He noted that the Administrator's Office continues to stay on top of things. Mr. Lindberg advised that there is a great urgency to get the budget passed before the end of May because if it is not passed by that time, instead of a simple majority vote, a three-fifths majority vote will be required. He believes the State will complete the budget by the end of May.

Mr. Segobiano thanked Mr. Lindberg and the County Administrator's Office for keeping the County Board updated. Ms. Rackauskas also expressed her appreciation to Mr. Lindberg for keeping the Board members informed via e-mail.

Ms. Rackauskas referred to an article on the front page of the *County News* regarding the Local Jobs for Americans Act wherein communities with a population of over 50,000 could receive Federal money that will filter down to the local government instead of going through the State. She asked how this would affect McLean County. Mr. Lindberg replied that he will find out and let her know.

Chairman Sorensen advised that the Administrator's Office and he have been fielding requests from a number of individuals who want to address the County Board in regard to Zoning matters in the May cycle.

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Chairman Sorensen stated that, consistent with County Board rules, these requests have been denied for the following reasons:

- There are no zoning matters on the May County Board Agenda that are pertinent;
- Any topic that has been afforded a public hearing for public input are not eligible as discussion topics from the public at a County Board Meeting.

Chairman Sorensen indicated that the Administrator's Office is working on some guidance to members that you will receive, in writing, as to how the County Board will deliberate the pertinent topics on the June agenda.

Chairman Sorensen presented the April 30, 2010 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$534,699.93 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for April 30, 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 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary