

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Other Board Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, 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 July 13, 2010 Executive Committee and the June 15, 2010 Stand-up meetings 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/Owens to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as recommended by the Chairman.

Mr. Segobiano pointed out the large number of reappointments being made. Chairman Sorensen responded that McLean County is fortunate to have so many people willing to serve on the various commissions within the County, including the Drainage Districts and Fire Districts.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what the Drainage Districts accomplish. Chairman Sorensen replied that rural Drainage Districts deal with ground water run-off in geographic areas. He added that ground water that runs between farms and neighbors' land can cause damage to farm fields if not channeled correctly with drain tiles.

Ms. Bostic advised that the Drainage Districts deal with making sure that no one channels water from their property to a neighbors' property causing erosion in the fields. She indicated that the Drainage Districts originally levied money to get the ground tiled. Chairman Sorensen noted that many of the Districts still have a small levy on the farmland in their districts. He added that the Districts collect a small real estate tax on all of the acreage in their district to maintain proper drainage.

Chairman Sorensen cited Jude LaCasse for all the work she does to maintain the records, search for prospective appointees, and prepare the paperwork for all of the Chairman's appointments.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee, presented a request for approval of a Resolution to fund seven \$500.00 Recycling Grants to small municipalities within McLean County; and the renewal of a three-year contract between the Ecology Action Center and McLean County, the city of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to provide continuing administration and implementation of the McLean County Solid Waste Program.

Motion by Gordon/Bostic to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to fund seven \$500.00 Recycling Grants to small Municipalities within McLean County; and the Renewal of a three-year Contract between the Ecology Action Center and McLean County, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to provide continuing Administration and Implementation of the McLean County Solid Waste Program.

Motion carried.

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

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

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

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, was unable to attend the Executive Committee. Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval to apply for an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Mr. Lindberg explained that this Grant is for a key component of the overall Historic Route 66 Bike Trail. He indicated that the County was able to obtain 80% of the funding. Mr. Lindberg stated that the County's match, if successful, will come in two future years so there is time to plan ahead. He added that the nearly \$2,000,000 project will cost the County less than \$50,000 per year.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to Recommend Approval to Apply for an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, McLean County Bridge Fund 0121, McLean County Highway Department 0055.

Mr. Lindberg advised that this is for a project that was not done the prior year, so the funds lapsed back to the Fund Balance. The money will be re-appropriated this year so that the project can be completed.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, McLean County Bridge Fund 0121, McLean County Highway Department 0055.
Motion carried.

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented two requests regarding SHOW BUS. The first is a request for approval of a Downstate Public Transportation Operating Assistance Grant Agreement for 2011 to assist SHOW BUS – Building and Zoning.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of a Downstate Pubic Transportation Operating Assistance Grant Agreement for 2011 – Building and Zoning.

The second request is for approval of a Revised Motor Vehicle Lease Agreement between McLean County and SHOW BUS Public Transportation, NFP – Building and Zoning.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of a Revised Motor Vehicle Lease Agreement between McLean County and SHOW BUS Public Transportation, NFP – Building and Zoning.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of the Critical Personnel Hiring Requests submitted by the County Administrator's Office. He advised that the request was amended at the Finance Committee Meeting to increase the request from the State's Attorney's Office from two Assistant State's Attorney I positions to three Assistant State's Attorney I positions. Mr. Owens explained that Mr. Yoder received a resignation on Monday from an Assistant State's Attorney I, which reduced the misdemeanor attorneys from two to one. He stated that Mr. Yoder has agreed to fill the Assistant State's Attorney I position with a recently graduated law student who will act as a Legal Assistant I. Mr. Owens indicated that the law student has graduated and taken the bar examination, but will not be seated until November. He noted that the law student is allowed to practice law in the court system with supervision.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there is an expectation that this person will become an Assistant State's Attorney I. Mr. Owens replied that Mr. Yoder has had an eye on this student for the past three years and intends to place him in the Assistant State's Attorney I position.

Mr. Segobiano asked if all of these positions have been vacated since the reduction taken earlier in the year. Mr. Owens responded that these vacancies have taken place since the reduction and the funds are in the budget for the positions. He noted that several of the requested positions fall under the critical care guideline to comply with statute.

Chairman Sorensen clarified that when the Board put the hiring freeze in place, this process was created whereby no replacement hiring can be done without going through this approval process. Ms. Bostic added that no new dollars are involved.

Mr. Owens advised that Mr. Wasson informed the Finance Committee that this "Critical Personnel Hiring Requests" item will probably be on the agenda every month.

Chairman Sorensen directed the Administrator's Office to occasionally provide a report to the Board that includes the requests that make it to the Finance Committee for consideration, as well as those requests that do not rise to that level. He indicated that this information would assist in maintaining balance in the message to the Board and to the community.

Mr. Segobiano advised that the important information that needs to be imparted to the public is that no new dollars are being spent.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that he and Mr. Wasson have been trying to design graphic illustration that reminds the Board and the public that the 24 positions cut by the County remain gone, and these positions are ones that have been vacated subsequent to that action. He noted that there are instances of requests for hires that have not been considered for recommendation. Mr. Lindberg stated that in most cases of rehires, there is at least one month's delay or attrition in this process that also saves the County funds.

Chairman Sorensen reminded the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee that this is an election year and there will be at least one new elected Department Head. He advised that inevitably there are creative requests from new Department Heads to rearrange or make changes in staff. Chairman Sorensen noted that, in the past, the Board has given new County-wide Elected Officials an opportunity to make changes.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of the Critical Personnel Hiring Requests as Amended at the August 4, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting to include one additional Legal Assistant I position in the State's Attorney's Office – County Administrator's Office.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens indicated that the Illinois Department of Public Aid conducted a survey of the McLean County Nursing Home last week. He stated that the Nursing Home had only three minor violations, which are being corrected. Mr. Owens noted that several other County Nursing Homes in the State have received as many as 15 or more violations. He added that Champaign County is in direct violation and is losing its funding immediately. Mr. Owens stated that the County should be very proud of its Nursing Home.

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

Ms. Bette Rackauskas, Chairman, Justice Committee, 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, Coroner's Office 0031. Ms. Rackauskas explained that this Ordinance recognizes the receipt of \$1,000 from the McLean County Funeral Directors Association, which will be spent to enhance their photography equipment.

Motion by Rackauskas/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, Coroner's Office 0031.

Motion carried.

Ms. Rackauskas presented a request for approval of the renewal of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant, Agreement Number 809120 to expand the Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Unit – Sheriff's Department. Ms. Rackauskas explained that this is the continuation of a pass-through grant for the Task Force Six, which is a multi-agency investigative unit.

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of the Renewal of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant, Agreement Number 809120 to Expand the Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Unit – Sheriff's Department.

Motion carried.

Mr. Segobiano expressed his support and appreciation for the work done in the rural areas by the Task Force Six Narcotics Unit.

Ms. Rackauskas advised that there are several other items that will be presented to the Board.

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the July 31, 2010 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment as well as a transfer of \$40,098 in the Information Technologies Department. The Fund Total is \$432,150.71 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by Owens/Gordon to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for July 31, 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 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary