

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

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 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, O'Connor and Butler

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Other Board Members Present: Members Soeldner and McKibbin

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 February 8, 2011 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 advised that there are no reappointments, appointments or resignations.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of the Renewal of the EJustice Software Maintenance Contract for 2011 for Information Technologies.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that last year the County was required to pay \$140,000 for the maintenance of the EJIS system after the previous provider went bankrupt. He noted that there was a provision in the contract to increase the maintenance fee by 5%, but the company chose not to increase the fee, so it remains \$140,000. Mr. Lindberg added that an arrangement was put in place where the other participating municipalities will be paying about \$53,000 of that amount, the County will pay \$51,000 out of the Court Automation Fund and the balance will be paid from the Information Technologies budget.

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Motion by Segobiano/Gordon to Recommend Approval of the EJustice Software Maintenance Contract for 2011 – Information Technologies.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Agreement to provide professional consulting services between MAXIMUS Consulting Services, Inc. and the County of McLean, Illinois – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Lindberg explained that MAXIMUS is considered the established organization that does cost studies. Frequently, in statute, if you want to consider increasing a fee for a service you must have a cost study to justify the increase. The interest is in the GIS fees through the Recorders Office for the benefit of Regional Planning and other GIS activities, in certain Sheriff's fees and in some of the fees and charges that run through the County Clerk's Office. Mr. Lindberg advised that the cost of this agreement will be split between Regional Planning, the Sheriff's Department and the County Clerk's Office. He added that it was important to get this completed in the spring so that whatever the findings of MAXIMUS are and the desires of those departments are, rate changes can be incorporated.

Mr. Owens asked if the Record's Office will pay part of this fee. Mr. Lindberg replied that it will only come out of Regional Planning, the Sheriff's Department and the County Clerk's Office. He indicated that the Recorder's Office is not the beneficiary of these potential fee increases. Mr. Lindberg noted that the Recorder is aware of this agreement and may make a statement that he believes that the Property Taxes should be paying for these services and that he does not support a fee based structure.

Motion by Owens/Rackauskas to Recommend Approval of an Agreement to provide Professional Consulting Services between MAXIMUS Consulting Services, Inc. and the County of McLean, Illinois – County Administrator's Office.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to the Lexington High School Cheerleading Team as per the recommendation of Member Cavallini.

Motion by to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to the Lexington High School Cheerleading Team.

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Mr. Segobiano commented that the Board Rules allow for the Chairman to send a letter of congratulations. He noted that there are so many situations in McLean County for which elementary and high school students have excelled that he believes the Chairman should have a blanket authority to send out a letter of congratulations to all of these students. Mr. Segobiano added that only those situations where State championships are won should they be invited to come to a Board Meeting for recognition.

Chairman Sorensen stated that there is a provision in the Rules that allows him to send letters of congratulation without Board action. He advised that Board Members can make a recommendation that he send specific letters of congratulation. Mr. Lindberg pointed out that the Rules currently provide that letters are sent at the discretion of the Board Member.

Chairman Sorensen indicated that currently letters and resolutions are prepared at the recommendation of Board members. He reiterated that letters of congratulations are easily sent without Board approval. Chairman Sorensen noted that it is difficult to identify all of the instances of achievement without the input of the Board members.

Mr. Soeldner suggested that the Board members be notified when a letter of congratulations is sent out.

Mr. Lindberg advised that it would be unsuitable to leave it up to the administrator's staff to decide who should receive letters. Rather, the letters of congratulations should be generated at the request of Board Members. The Rules currently state that it is up to the individual Board Member whether they want to do a letter or do a full resolution.

Ms. Rackauskas pointed out that most recognition is given to sports accomplishments. She suggested that acknowledgement also be given to other areas such as fine arts and scholastic achievements.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Jim Soeldner, Acting Chairman, Transportation Committee, 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 Highway Department Fund 0122, McLean County Highway Department 0055.

Motion by Soeldner/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, McLean County Highway Department Fund 0122, McLean County Highway Department 0055.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Soeldner briefly reviewed the items that are going to the Board.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Chairman, Finance Committee, 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/Butler to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2011 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2011 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of Critical Personnel Hiring Requests – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of Critical Personnel Hiring Requests – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Owens advised that Ms. Cindy Brand, Jury Commission, attended the Finance Committee meeting to request that a part-time employee be changed to a full-time employee. Currently, there is one part-time employee who works four days a week and one part-time employee who works one day a week. Under the Critical Personnel Hiring Request, there was a request to fill the one-day part-time position, as that person quit. Mr. Owens noted Ms. Brand attended the meeting to see if the request could be modified to change the remaining position from part-time to full-time and not replace the one-day part-time position. He indicated that one of Ms. Brand's reasons for this change is that she anticipates retiring in a couple of years and this would be a succession plan for the Jury Commission. Mr. Owens advised that Ms. Brand's request precipitated a long discussion at the Finance Committee.

Mr. Owens stated that the Committee turned down Ms. Brand's request and recommended that, during the budget process, she make her request again. He noted that Ms. Brand agreed to do that solution.

Ms. O'Connor pointed out that the cost to the County was not in the increase in salary from four days to five days, but in the additional benefit cost of \$4,400.

Chairman Sorensen stated that he appreciates that the Finance Committee recognized that this is a budget cycle issue.

Mr. Lindberg pointed out that Ms. Julie Osborn is retiring from the Auditor's Office after 19 years of service. He invited the Committee Members to attend an Open House for Ms. Osborn on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in the Auditor's Office from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented four transfer requests that can be acted upon together. He advised that these transfers are done each year. They are, as follows:

- Request for approval of a Resolution transferring monies from the Working Cash Fund 0002 to the F.I.C.A./Social Security Fund 0130, Fiscal Year 2011.
- Request for approval of an Ordinance transferring monies from the Health Department Fund 0112 to the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Fund 0110, Fiscal Year 2011.
- Request for approval of an Ordinance transferring monies from the Nursing Home Fund 0401 to the Tort Judgment Fund 0135, Fiscal Year 2011.

- Request for approval of an Ordinance transferring monies from the County General Fund 0001 to the I.M.R.F. Fund 0131 and the Tort Judgment Fund 0135, Fiscal Year 2011.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for an explanation of these transfers. Mr. Lindberg responded that this is an exercise that is done every spring for cash flow purposes. He noted that the County's General Fund depends largely on Property Tax Revenue and the first half Property Tax bill will not go out for another month or so. The County will not see Property Tax Revenue until June. Mr. Lindberg stated that this puts several County funds in a difficult cash-flow position.

Mr. Lindberg reported that in 1975 the General Assembly established the *Downstate Working Cash Fund*, for which the County levied. The *Downstate Working Cash Fund* produced \$742,423, which is forever on the County's books and which can be identified this time of year as the first step in helping the County through this cash flow problem.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the County has very seldom gotten to the point where it was necessary to actually make these transfers, but it is necessary to have the transfers approved should the need arise. He added that the borrowed funds must be paid back prior to October 1.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Transferring Monies from the Working Cash Fund 0002 to the F.I.C.A./Social Security Fund 0130, Fiscal Year 2011; to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Transferring Monies from the Health Department Fund 0112 to Persons with Developmental Disabilities Fund 0110, Fiscal Year 2011; to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Transferring Monies from the Nursing Home Fund 0401 to the Tort Judgment Fund 0135, Fiscal Year 2011; and to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Transferring Monies from the County General Fund 0001 to I.M.R.F. Fund 0131 and the Tort Judgment Fund 0135, Fiscal Year 2011.

Motion carried.

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

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Ms. Bette Rackauskas, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Sheriff's Department 0029 – Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Rackauskas/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Sheriff's Department 0029 – Sheriff's Department  
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, presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Approving the Recommendations of the Solid Waste Technical and Policy Committee.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if this grant is for educational purposes or actual recycling. Mr. Lindberg replied that it is to buy recycling bins and to pay a contractor to remove the materials, but it can also be for educational purposes.

Mr. Segobiano noted that the schools apply for this grant.

Motion by Gordon/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Approving the Recommendations of the Solid Waste Technical and Policy Committee.  
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. Segobiano asked what the County's stand is on a single election commission which is being proposed by the League of Women Voters. He noted that Board members are being questioned on where they stand on this proposal.

Chairman Sorensen advised that there has been a long history of debate regarding this issue. He stated that the County has looked at the cost structure of the Bloomington Election Commission versus the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Sorensen believes that, based on analysis that has been done many times over the years, there is some cost savings if the voters of Bloomington were to dissolve the Bloomington Election Commission and the function were rolled into the County Clerk's Office. He stated that the problem is that this is not what the League of Women Voters is proposing. Rather, the League of Women Voters is proposing that the Bloomington Election Commission be dissolved and that a new County-wide election commission be established. Chairman Sorensen indicated that this creates all of the same redundancy of cost. Mr. Gordon added that the League of Women Voters also want the election function of the County Clerk's Office to go into that County-wide election commission.

Chairman Sorensen indicated that the redundancy of management costs is the only savings that may exist. He noted that some management dollars would be saved if all of the elections were part of the County Clerk's Office. If a new County-wide election commission is created, it re-establishes the redundancy of management because you would have an executive director of the newly formed County-wide election commission and still have a County Clerk.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the League of Women Voters want three things, namely:

1. Convenience of the voters;
2. Cost savings, if there is any;
3. Non-partisan chief election official.

Mr. Lindberg stated that to accomplish that, two things need to be done. First, all of the qualified voters within the Bloomington Election district would need to vote on the following state statute wording: "Shall the city election law be rejected"? The voters would have to be willing to go to the polls and vote to dissolve the election commission with no guarantee what will happen in the future. Mr. Lindberg stated that, second, you would have to go back to the voters with a second referendum asking them if there is a will to establish a County-wide election commission.

Mr. Segobiano asked if there is an election commission like this in Springfield. Mr. Lindberg responded there is one in DuPage County.

Ms. Rackauskas noted that this is a very complex issue and voters need to be educated about the process.

Mr. Lindberg advised that Senator Koehler has introduced Senate Bill 1838 which would streamline the referendum process and allow this reorganization to be done with one referendum, but he does not know what the chances are of the Bill passing. He noted that the Bill has been assigned to committee, but he doesn't know who may be supporting it. Mr. Lindberg stated that if the Bill were to pass, that would be a good time to take another look at the issue.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that, in regard to the one case in Illinois where a county election commission was created, it may have been created by a special act of the Legislature. He added that there has been at least one local election commission that was dissolved.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if it would be possible to bypass having a general election commission and have it all fall under the County. Mr. Lindberg responded that if the voters in the Bloomington Election Commission district want to dissolve the current commission, it would automatically be combined with the County. He noted that the County Clerk's Office would then need to add staff, which is an additional cost.

Ms. Bostic asked how the Bloomington Election Commission is funded. Chairman Sorensen reminded the Committee that for many years the County's Finance Committee would forward to the Board a Bloomington Election Commission budget without recommendation. He explained that this is because, under state law, the County Board is required to fund a municipal election commission. Ms. Bostic asked if it is ultimately funded through Property Tax monies. Chairman Sorensen responded that it is funded through County-wide property taxes.

Mr. Soeldner stated that he doesn't believe the citizens of Bloomington would ever vote to dissolve the Election Commission.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the statute says that the County will fund the salaries of the executive director, the assistant director, and three commissioners, and will pay an amount relative to the amount paid in 1984 when the separate election levy was eliminated. The total amount the County pays is about \$558,000.

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Mr. Lindberg explained that previously there was a separate election levy formed and in 1986 the separate election levy went away and the County became responsible.

Chairman Sorensen concluded that the League of Women Voters is trying to put the responsibility on the County Board. He added that the League of Women Voters could get it on the ballot by petition, which they don't want to do because it is too much work or because they don't seem to want to start the public education process for that purpose. Chairman Sorensen stated that the League of Women Voters want the County to take the lead on this issue.

Ms. Rackauskas asked when the Bloomington Election Commission started. Chairman Sorensen replied that he doesn't know the exact year, but it was started as a result of a state law that said municipalities over a certain size can have their own election commission if they wanted one.

Mr. Lindberg advised that if the Board decided to support a referendum, both the Bloomington Election Commission and the McLean County Clerk might be opposed to it.

After additional discussion, the Committee decided to invite representatives of the League of Women Voters, the Bloomington Election Commission and the County Clerk's Office to attend the Executive Committee meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss and resolve the issue.

Chairman Sorensen presented the February 28, 2011 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Prepaid Total is \$176,786.20 and the Fund Total is the same.

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Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval of the Executive Committee bills as of February 28, 2011 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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary