

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 11, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sweeney, Members Sorensen, Gordon, Berglund, Bass, Bostic, Hoselton and Renner

Members Absent: Member Segobiano

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Other Members
Present: None

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Sheriff Dave Owens

Others Present: None

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes from the December 14, 2004 Executive Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Gordon/Renner to approve and place on file the minutes of the December 14, 2004 meeting.
Motion carried

Chairman Sweeney presented two reappointments and one appointment for which the Committee's advice and consent is sought.

Motion by Berglund/Bostic to recommend approval of the reappointments and appointment as recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

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Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, presented one item for action, namely a request for approval to apply for membership in Metro Counties.

Mr. Zeunik reviewed the membership of Metro Counties. He noted that the next meeting of Metro Counties is Monday, January 24th. If this request is approved by the Board next Tuesday, the County's petition to become a voting member would be on the Metro Counties' agenda the 24th. Mr. Zeunik advised the Committee that the budget issue is the biggest issue facing the State and the County. He expressed his hope that representation by Metro Counties would assist the County in Springfield to protect the County's limited funding sources from the State.

Mr. Zeunik stated that, among the counties that are current members of Metro Counties, several have new chairmen of their boards who will be attending the Metro Counties Board meeting for the first time.

Mr. Zeunik noted that funding for membership dues could be transferred from the County Board's Contractual Services line item, which was used last year for some one-time expenses.

Motion by Hoselton/Gordon to Recommend Approval
to Apply for Membership in Metro Counties.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Gordon asked if there is a record of which counties influence the Metro Counties group, noting that Cook County accounts for 43% of the State population. Chairman Sweeney replied that each county gets one vote with Metro Counties despite the population of the county. Mr. Zeunik further explained that each county has one representative on the Metro Counties Board and that representative is the Chairman of the County Board. The only other member who can vote in place of the Chairman is the County Administrator or County Manager, when designated.

Mr. Zeunik indicated that Metro Counties is the only organization he is aware of that has a record of getting more of the legislative measures they support introduced and passed than get defeated. He noted that Peoria County is also considering membership to Metro Counties. Mr. Zeunik further noted that, with Peoria, Tazewell, Winnebago, DeKalb and McLean counties, the central section of Illinois would be well represented. He indicated that all of these counties continue to employ their own lobbyists who work on issues specific to their county. Mr. Zeunik observed that Metro Counties looks for issues that all of the counties can support, which is one of the reasons they are successful.

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Mr. Hoselton asked if Metro Counties has a fully-manned office. Mr. Zeunik replied that the retired County Administrator from Lake County, Illinois, Mr. Ike Magalis, is the Executive Director of Metro Counties. There is no permanent office. Mr. Magalis can be reached through his cell or home phone numbers. He also noted that Mr. Kip Kolkmeier of Kolkmeier and Associates is Metro Counties' lobbyist.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the membership dues entitle the County to representation for the entire year. Mr. Zeunik replied that there is no additional cost. He further stated that if, at the end of the year, the County decides it is not worth the money, the County can withdraw from the organization.

Chairman Sweeney expressed his support of applying for membership in Metro Counties.

Mr. Bass asked how often the group meets. Chairman Sweeney replied that they meet on a quarterly basis, with three meetings in Springfield and one in a Chicago suburb.

Motion carried.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee reported that the Land use and Development Committee had no action items at this time.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Gordon. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Ms. Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee reported that the Property Committee had no action items and two items to be presented to the Board.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Ms. Bostic. Hearing none, he thanked her.

Mr. Duffy Bass, Chairman, Transportation Committee reported that the Transportation Committee had not items for action. He informed the Committee that Mr. Mitchell reported that the County is running low on salt.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Bass. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman, Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee had no items for action at this time.

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

Mr. Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee presented three items for action. The first is a request for approval of a contract with Woodford County for lease of space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center in Court Services.

Mr. Bass asked what is the cost to house a juvenile per day in the Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Zeunik offered to look up that information and forward that information to the Committee members.

Motion by Renner/Gordon to approve the Request for a Contract with Woodford County for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center—Court Services.
Motion carried

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of a contract with Logan County for lease of space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center in Court Services.

Motion by Renner/Bass to approve the Request for a Contract with Logan County for Lease of Space in the McLean County Juvenile Detention Center—Court Services.
Motion carried

Mr. Renner presented the final action item, namely a request for approval to apply for “Reallocated Available Funds” from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority from the FFY01 Budget for the Juvenile Detention Center for Court Services.

Motion by Renner/Berglund to approve the Request to Apply for “Reallocated Available Funds” from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority from the FFY01 Budget for the Juvenile Detention Center—Court Services
Motion carried

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Renner. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator reported on two informational items. He informed the Committee that there will be a County Board Orientation Workshop immediately following the Board meeting on Tuesday, January 18 in Room 404. Mr. Zeunik invited Board members to attend the meeting and noted that an orientation booklet will be available to the Board. He indicated that there will also be an Orientation Workshop on Monday, January 24 at 4:00 p.m. for those members who are unable to attend on the 18th.

Mr. Gordon asked if an e-mail will be sent to the Board members with the workshop information. Mr. Zeunik replied that an e-mail could be sent as a reminder.

Mr. Zeunik presented an update prepared by Ms. Becky McNeil, County Treasurer, regarding outstanding receivables due to the County from the State of Illinois. He noted that the receivables are primarily salary reimbursement, as follows:

- Supervisor of Assessments' salary reimbursement is owed for period September-December 2004, in the amount of \$10,300.56
- State's Attorneys Office, for the period October-December 2004, in the amount of \$36,934.50
- Court Services, for the period July-December 2004, for Probation Officers salary reimbursement, in the amount of \$1,004,432.62

Mr. Zeunik indicated that AOIC, in conversations with the County Treasurer, claims that the delay is a result of the adoption of the late budget by the General Assembly and the fact that they converted their data processing system last fall, which slowed down the issuance of checks. The vouchers are expected to be ready this week and then sent to the Controllers Office where they will be reviewed and released by the Controller.

Mr. Zeunik reported on grant funding, noting that:

- The IV-D Child Support Enforcement Contract, Circuit Court, is owed money for the period November and December 2004.
- The Circuit Clerk is owed money for November-December 2004.
- The State's Attorneys Office, from July-December 2004, is owed \$144,676.50. Mr. Zeunik explained that the State attributes this to the fact that the Contract between the State's Attorney and the Department of Public Aid was not finalized at the Department of Public Aid until last

week. The State is waiting for the information from the Department of Public Aid so that the Department of Revenue can release the vouchers for the checks to be issued.

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Mr. Zeunik indicated that this is another example of local governments being expected to manage their finances while the State does not seem able to manage its finances. The impact on the County, particularly with the salary reimbursement, is that the County is still meeting its payroll obligation every two weeks, which impacts cash flow and the cash available for other needs of the County.

Chairman Sweeney asked if this information would be in the Board Packet. Mr. Zeunik replied that he will include the information in the Board Packet.

Ms. Bostic informed the Committee that the County is still owed \$500,000.00 of grant money from the State for the Old Courthouse Dome renovation.

Mr. Sorensen noted that all of the outstanding funds owed to the County from the State equals almost \$2 million, which is 3 1/2 % of the County's annual budget.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Zeunik. Hearing none, he thanked him for the information.

Chairman Sweeney updated the Committee on the situation regarding the City of Bloomington's wish to withdraw from MetCom. He noted that the Intergovernmental Agreement that created MetCom was set up by the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and McLean County. Chairman Sweeney informed the Committee that the City of Bloomington is not in compliance with the Intergovernmental Agreement. He advised that the County and the Town of Normal are sending out a certified letter today to Mayor Markowitz notifying her that the City of Bloomington is not in compliance with the Intergovernmental Agreement. He also noted that the date that Bloomington thought they could get out of the Agreement has been extended until December 31, 2006. Chairman Sweeney informed the Committee that the City of Bloomington might not comply and they might file a lawsuit. Chairman Sweeney indicated that the media has already been calling and asking questions.

Chairman Sweeney distributed a copy of the certified letter being sent to Mayor Markowitz. He indicated that the City of Bloomington has not addressed the cost to the County, the Town of Normal and to themselves associated with their withdrawing from MetCom. Chairman Sweeney further explained that the City of Bloomington appears unconcerned with what ETSB says and has indicated that if they don't get what they want, they will file a lawsuit against ETSB.

Chairman Sweeney expressed his belief that the City of Bloomington is pushing to withdraw from MetCom before the new mayor takes office because he supports MetCom.

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Ms. Bostic asked where the City of Bloomington is getting the \$667,000.00 to buy the new CAD system. Chairman Sweeney replied that he believes the cost could go to \$4-5 million.

Ms. Bostic asked for clarification on the telephone surcharge, which is the funding source for MetCom. She wondered if the Bloomington phone exchanges would be separated out. Mr. Zeunik explained that the Illinois Commerce Commission has advised that, because McLean County chose to have a county-wide referendum to create the E-911 surcharge of \$1.25, it cannot separate out dollars by either telephone exchange or by political jurisdiction. Those dollars stay with the County-wide Emergency Telephone Systems Board, which was created as a result of that referendum. The Emergency Telephone Systems Board must make the decision of whether or not any of the monies collected would be remitted back to the City of Bloomington should they withdraw and start their own dispatch center.

Mr. Lindberg reported that when the City of Bloomington approached ETSB and asked them to either a) let them become their own primary public safety answering point, or b) give them funding like ETSB does for MetCom, ETSB turned down both requests.

Chairman Sweeney presented the December 31, 2004 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The fund total for the month is \$203,941.20

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Motion by Bostic/Renner to approve the Executive Committee bills for December 31, 2004 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary