

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bostic, Members Sweeney, Moss and Dean (3:40 p.m.)

Members Absent: Members Ahart and Harding

Other Members

Present: None

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

Department Heads/

Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, Eleventh Circuit Court; Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management Department

Others Present: Ms. Connie Johnson, Auditor's Office

Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation, reported that camping nights at COMLARA Park continue to run at a record rate, as well as annual watercraft registrations. He noted that, from this point forward, camping nights will be dependant upon the weather. Mr. Wasson stated that, during the summer season, reservations are required for weekend stays. He indicated that watercraft registrations for the fall will be determined by recreational activities, primarily fishing.

Mr. Wasson noted that the daily watercraft registrations have been down since the spring, which reflects a slower Crappie fish season. He stated that all other recreation activities, boat rental and beach facilities, reflect the loss of five weekend days during the summer season due to weather. Mr. Wasson added that the boat rental and use of the beach will also diminish with school back in session.

Mr. Wasson advised that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently informed him that they have recommended to their Advisory Committee a change in fishing regulations for Evergreen Lake for next year. These changes include a change in Crappie regulations, a change from a 25 fish creel limit to a 9 inch minimum length limit and a 15 fish creel limit for Crappie next year. Mr. Wasson stated that this is being recommended due to the fact that there has been a heavy Crappie fishing pressure over the last two or three years and some concerns about the ability to generate year classes on an annual basis.

Mr. Wasson noted that the Crappie population is good right now. The biologists are concerned that there may be some effect over the next few years if Crappie fishing pressure continues at its current level without some restrictions, especially length limits. He reported that the Parks and Recreation Department did an on-line survey on their Website over the spring and summer and the responses were overwhelming in support of limiting both creel and size limit on Crappie. Mr. Wasson stated that the Department monitors all of the fish species and does fishery survey work in both spring and fall in cooperation with the DNR. He noted that this is the only adjustment the biologists are recommending as the rest of the fishery is in good health at this time.

Chairman Bostic advised that she received a call in August from a gentleman who lives in rural Allen Township whose family owns three kayaks and who would like a reduced boat registration cost for a family. Mr. Wasson replied that they are evaluating the boat registration fee for next year and will likely come to the Committee with an adjustment that addresses the large surge in kayak registrations. He noted that kayaks have become the "boat of the day." Historically, there has been a flat fee on boat registration regardless of size or horsepower of the boats. Mr. Wasson indicated that boat owners with more than one watercraft, similar to the kayak situation, have asked for a discount if they register more than one watercraft. He stated that the staff will likely recommend a discount for multiple watercraft registrations by the same person. Mr. Wasson noted that this discount should have minimal impact upon revenue.

Mr. Dean arrived at 3:40 p.m. thereby establishing a quorum.

Chairman Bostic asked if Mr. Wasson spoke to the gentleman who had called her. Mr. Wasson replied that he did speak with the gentleman and let him know that different options were being evaluated, including the possibility of a discount. He noted that he let the gentleman know that there would be no change during this season.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Wasson.

Chairman Bostic called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

Chairman Bostic presented the Minutes of the Thursday, August 2, 2007 Property Committee Meeting and the July 24, 2007 Stand-up Committee Meeting. Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Bostic accepted and placed the minutes on file as submitted.

Chairman Bostic presented a request for approval to display Silent Witness Exhibits in the Lobby of the Government Center, October 1, 2007 as submitted by Ms. Jennifer Ho, Risk Management. She noted that this display has been exhibited for several years. Chairman Bostic recommended that Ms. Ho contact Mr. Jack Moody to make the arrangements. Mr. Moody stated that, because of the construction in the Law and Justice Center, Ms. Ho is asking that the display be placed in the lobby of the Government Center. He indicated that there is no problem with having the display in the Government Center lobby. The Committee concurred that it would be appropriate for Ms. Ho to work with Mr. Moody to arrange the display.

Mr. Will Scanlon, Trial Court Administrator, Eleventh Circuit Court, presented a request for approval to display a poster in the Law and Justice Center dedicated to Judges who have served in the Armed Forces. He explained that the Circuit Court was provided a copy of a poster from the Illinois Judges Association honoring judges (active and retired) who have served in the military. Mr. Scanlon advised that the Circuit Court would like to have this poster suitably framed and unveiled in conjunction with the Veteran's Day celebration. The poster would be permanently displayed in the McLean County Law and Justice Center. He recommended that the poster be displayed on the 5th Floor.

Mr. Scanlon stated that the following local judges are named on the poster: Judge Luther Dearborn, Judge Ronald Dozier, Judge John Freese, Judge Robert Freitag, Judge James Souk and Judge W. Charles Witte.

Mr. Moody stated that Mr. Greg Koos, Executive Director of the McLean County Museum of History, advised him that the Veteran's Association is organizing Veteran's Day festivities around the Courthouse Square. Mr. Scanlon indicated that he will contact Mr. Koos to make arrangements to be part of that ceremony.

Motion by Dean/Sweeney to recommend approval to Display
a Poster in the Law and Justice Center dedicated to Judges
who have served in the Armed Forces.
Motion carried.

Mr. Moss recommended that the names of the local judges be highlighted. Mr. Scanlon replied that he will find a way to highlight the local judges.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Scanlon.

Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management, reported on the Ameren IP Rate Relief program. On August 28, Governor Blagojevich, signed a Bill enacting \$1 billion of rate relief for Ameren IP and Com Ed customers. Mr. Moody reported that, after researching this new law, he learned that the relief is strictly residential and the County will not be able to participate.

Mr. Dean asked if Mr. Moody had studied the Electric Cooperative being promoted by the Chamber of Commerce to help local businesses buy power from a third-party or retail electric supplier at a reduced cost. Mr. Moody replied that he attended a meeting regarding this Coop. He stated that the County locked into a contract last December for electrical rates that are very low. Chairman Bostic asked if we locked that rate in for two years. Mr. Moody replied that the rate is locked in for two years. He pointed out that the County's gas rate is also locked in at a low rate for two years.

Mr. Moody reviewed the status of the renovation of the Law and Justice Center, as follows:

- 6th Floor
 - Occupied by State's Attorney and Public Defender;
 - Construction is going very well;
 - Renovation is being done around offices that are still functioning and, therefore, the progress is slower than in a vacant area;
 - Construction being done in phases;
 - As an area gets completed, the offices get moved around;
 - Should be completed by middle of October.

- 3rd Floor
 - Occupied by Circuit Clerk's Office;
 - Remodel needs include:
 - Counter needs remodeling;
 - Removal of a vault;
 - Install carpet;
 - Children's Foundation child care waiting room.
 - Work is not done yet because asbestos needs to be removed, which will be done at the same time as asbestos removal on 1st floor.

- Jail Control
 - Simplex Control System has been installed

- 1st Floor
 - Will be completed in three major phases;
 - East side is almost completed – expect the move to take place around the end of September;
 - Remodel will then begin on the west side of the 1st floor where the Sheriff's office is currently located;
 - Final asbestos removal;
 - South end of 1st floor will be the receiving area for inmates;
 - Jail booking area;
 - Estimate completion in January.

- Parking Lot (three phases)
 - Phase 1, which is the north end by the Health Department building, is complete;
 - Phase 2, the center section, is ready to begin;
 - Phase 3 is the south end by the Sheriff's Department and Coroner's Office.
 - Largest area
 - Completion of parking work expected by middle of October.

- Outside Lights
 - Have been removed
 - New lights have been installed

- Stairs
 - Have poured concrete on the steps adjacent to the parking deck;
 - Installing rebar for stairs off Front Street;

Mr. Moody advised that the remodel project at the Law and Justice Center has been going for a full year and should be completed in January.

Mr. Moody reported that he has been in communication with Mr. Greg Koos regarding the bid specifications and drawings for the work on the outside of the Old Courthouse. The tentative project dates from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. are as follows:

- Draft documents to County staff for review by November 1st;
- Bid documents will be ready to be sent out December 1st;
- Bid opening will be January 15, 2008;
- Contract award on or about March 1, 2008;
- Work will begin April 1, 2008.

Mr. Moody explained that most of the work needs to be done with an outside temperature at or above 40 degrees, which is why the work will not begin until March.

Mr. Moody stated that the three areas in this phase of the contract are the exterior stonework, the balustrades on top of the Old Courthouse and the outside stairs. He indicated that he expects the work to be completed by September or October of 2008.

Mr. Moody reviewed the proposed Highway Garage. He noted that Chairman Bostic and he have met with the Highway Department Engineer and his staff and the architect on the plans for the garage. Mr. Moody reviewed the following:

- Start advertising in The Pantagraph for the RFP Bid Numbers on September 25th;
- The bids will be on the street October 2nd;
 - Contractor can request complete set of drawings and bid manual at the County Highway.
- Pre-bid meeting at the County Highway at 9:00 a.m., October 9th;
- Bid Opening is at 1:00 p.m. on October 23rd;
- Bid results will be presented to the Property Committee on Thursday, November 1st for review and recommendation;
- Bid results will be presented to the Transportation Committee on Tuesday, November 6th;
- Full recommendation, bid and contract consideration will be presented on November 20th at the County Board Meeting;
- Once approved by the Board, construction will begin on or about April 15, 2008.
- Should take two months to construct.

Chairman Bostic advised that the set of plans are available for any members who would like to look at them.

Mr. Moody indicated that he is continuing to work with Anthony McCauley, the Boy Scout who is developing landscaping plans for the Fairview Sign area. He noted that Anthony is acquiring mandatory signatures from the Boy Scout District representatives. Mr. Moody stated that Anthony needs only one more signature. He stated that Anthony plans to complete the project in September.

Mr. Moody reported on the status of the movie, *Normal Again, The Movie*. He indicated that Mr. Koos and he received a communication from the producers of the movie which is projected to begin on September 24th. Mr. Moody noted that the film will take two weeks of filming rather than one week. This means the Museum of History will be closed for two full weeks.

Property Committee Minutes
September 6, 2007
Page Seven

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Moody.

Chairman Bostic presented the August 31, 2007 Property Committee bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor. The Property Committee total is \$330,923.91 and the prepaid total is the same.

Motion by Moss/Sweeney to recommend approval of the bills as of August 31, 2007, which have been reviewed and recommend for transmittal by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bostic asked if there was any other business or communication for the Property Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Bostic adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary