

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of October was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Graham, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Graham, Mr. Senn, Ms. S. Hooper, Ms. V. Hooper, Ms. Kubatzke, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Détente and Mr. Kuhlemeier.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, September 8, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The County Administrator distributed and reviewed a letter from the Executive Director of the IMRF. Due to the current problems in the financial markets and the resulting investment losses, the IMRF is projecting employer rates to increase by approximately 23% in 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

The County Administrator explained that last month the County Board received the 2007 Annual Financial Report (Audit) and laid it over. During this month's meeting, the County Board needs to officially accept the Annual Financial Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McLeRoy thanked those who participated in UCCI's regional seminar at Sauk Valley College. UCCI's annual dinner and seminar is scheduled for October 17th and 18th, at the President Lincoln Museum and Library, in Springfield. The seminar topics are "The Presidential Election and Implications for Local Government" and "Developing the Future Educational Agenda for County Board Members".

Mr. McLeRoy reviewed SB 2654, which would require local governments, without a building code, to adopt one. Counties would be required to provide building inspectors to those units of government without inspectors. Chairman Blum noted that Senator Bivins and Representative Sacia would be at Wednesday's County Board meeting. This would be an opportunity to question them on current legislation. There was a discussion regarding the State getting involved in matters that are local zoning issues. The Illinois Senate will have a new president in January, 2009. The State continues to struggle with getting a Capital Plan adopted. Mr. McLeRoy gave Chairman Blum a catalog of State programs to assist units of local government.

Mr. Skurla reported on his activities on behalf of the County. He is working on various leads for Mill Race Crossing; a number of these leads were from the DCEO. The Trim-Rite project never developed and Blackhawk Biofuels went elsewhere. He is now working on alternative projects. A developer has not been found that would take over all of MRC. He identified several projects that never materialized. He recommended that the County require an impress account, funded by each potential developer, for

anticipated projects to cover the County's upfront expenditures. He has been working on the Supportive Living Facility to help the Stephenson Nursing Center. This would be a feeder institution for the Nursing Center. The Nursing Center Foundation would be a 40% owner of the SLF. The SLF site is applying for inclusion in the Enterprise Zone. Mr. Skurla also is working on the annual reports required, by DCEO, for the Economic Development Area. He is working on a "first source hiring agreement" for inclusion in each Development Agreement with potential developers. Ed Yde explained that it has been a long process to get the Supportive Living Facility to this point. He is hopeful of breaking ground in April 2009.

Mr. Snavely said that he did not have a report.

The Committee reviewed the September 2008 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$4,312.19 surplus in September. After the first ten months of the current fiscal year, expenses have exceeded revenues by \$66,995.24.

The Budgetary Status, Major Revenue Tracking, and Cash Flow reports for September 2008 were distributed and reviewed. Chairman Blum identified several funds ahead or over budget. Since there were no new or repaid loans during the month, the Interfund Loan Report was not distributed.

The Committee established the following dates for the four budget hearings: Tuesday, October 21st, Thursday, October 23rd, Tuesday, October 28th and Thursday, October 30th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that his committee continued their discussion on the use of cell phones in the Courthouse. His committee approved a resolution in support of conceal carry legislation. The Coroner and Sheriff budgets were forwarded to the Finance Committee. A repair bill on the new roof on the Public Safety Building was not approved. The County Administrator noted that since the committee meeting, the Sheriff has received an even lower offer, from Citizens State Bank, on financing the replacement squad cars.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee forwarded the County Clerk budgets to the Finance Committee. They reviewed the delinquent tax process and schedule. Her committee also reviewed the new Liquor Code.

Court Services – Ms. V. Hooper reported that her committee recommended approval of a budget amendment transferring \$15,000 from the Contingency Account to the Dependent Children Fund. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Finance Committee concurred in recommending approval of a budget amendment transferring \$15,000 from the Contingency Account to the Dependent Children Fund. Her committee asked the State's Attorney to draft an ordinance restricting the use of cell phones in the Courthouse.

Nursing Center - Ms. Kubatzke reported that her committee created the position of Recording Secretary to do committee meeting minutes. Her committee recommended approval of a budget amendment transferring \$225 to fund this position for the

remainder of the fiscal year. On a motion by Ms. Kubatzke, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Finance Committee concurred in recommending approval of a budget amendment transferring \$225 to fund this position for the remainder of the fiscal year. Her committee is working on getting salt for this winter. There was a discussion on the salt shortage facing all local governments. It was recommended that the Nursing Center consider using a snow plowing/salting service. All but \$4,000 of the Tax Anticipation Warrants have been repaid. The Building and Grounds Subcommittee is working on long-term projects at the Nursing Center. Work on restoration of the old cemetery will continue into 2009. The new stone and plaque will be here this month.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that his committee recommended continuing with James Snyder, as bond counsel, even though he has changed law firms. His committee also recommended supporting NICAAs application for a new rehab grant. There was a discussion of a “first source hiring agreement” for inclusion in Mill Race Crossing Development Agreements.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that he did not have any action items, but did have a resolution for the County Board.

Mr. Isbell reported on the early retirement meeting he had last month, with several department heads. The State’s Attorney has one eligible person who he is sure is not interested. None of the eligible people in Probation plan to participate. The Sheriff has several people who could participate. The Sheriff’s first year savings are estimated at \$29,546, with second year savings of \$42,254. The IMRF early retirement liability must be repaid within ten years. The implementation process includes identifying a 12-month period, in which the employee has to announce their early retirement date.

Chairman Blum reported that the salary subcommittee has not had an opportunity to study the salary situation, of the appointed department heads, and make any recommendations. Recommendations will be made at one of the budget hearings or at the November Committee meeting.

Mr. Détente recommended that the Finance Committee limit the 2009 expense budget to the 2008 amounts. He expressed his concern with the lack of development in Mill Race Crossing and the need to generate an increment to repay future TIF bonds.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$608,178.05 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper.

The Committee adjourned at 8:28 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier.

Approved: November 7, 2008

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Friday, November 7, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room