

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009

The stated meeting for the month of March 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, Mr. Detente, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Kinney, Mr. Kuhlmeier and Mr. Wire.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, February 9, 2009 and the recess meeting of Wednesday, February 11, 2009 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Senn.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The County Administrator reported on the information recently received from the IMRF. Due to the severity of the IMRF's investment losses, the normal five-year actuarial recovery period has been extended to 30 years. The County's Regular IMRF rate will increase from 6.21% to 8.35% for 2010; the County's SLEP IMRF rate will increase from 16.05% to 17.56% for 2010. Using the 2009 salary budget as a base, the IMRF contribution would increase by more than \$240,000 or about 3.8 cents, which will come from other levies under the PTELL limit. The Reserve Statement for the County's Regular IMRF Account shows that during 2008, the balance was reduced from \$17.8 million to \$6.3 million and in the County's SLEP IMRF Account, the balance was reduced from \$6.3 million to \$2.2 million.

The County Administrator explained that the Federal stimulus legislation included a nine-month subsidy for COBRA insurance payments, retroactive to September 1, 2008. This subsidy is only available to people, terminated by the County; there is no subsidy for individuals who leave voluntarily. The Federal government will reimburse the County for 65% of the normal COBRA premium. The County will report the subsidy each quarter, when Form 941 is filed.

The County Administrator distributed copies of an article analyzing an Opening Meetings lawsuit, regarding the actions of the Champaign City Council. The article was from the March 2009 issue of the Journal of Illinois Institute for Local Government Law. He noted that roll call votes are not required to close a public meeting. However, the minutes should reflect the individual votes of each member.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McLeRoy reported that over 6,000 bills have been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly. The County Administrator has been given a listing of the bills involving county governments. HB 1 would allow an \$.08 per gallon surcharge on motor fuel, to fund debt reduction and capital improvements. There is no indication that this surcharge would be shared with local governments. HB 63 (SB 43) would require the prevailing wage to be

paid on all projects receiving Enterprise Zone or TIF District benefits. HB 493 would authorize a change in the wording of the Truth in Taxation Notice. HB 585 would raise the competitive bidding limit to \$30,000 from \$20,000. HB 817 would change the PTELL calculations for certain counties. HB 905 (SB 138) would require the adoption of local building codes and mandatory inspections. Inspectors must be licensed in their particular trade. County governments would be responsible for the unincorporated part of the county and all municipalities with a population under 5,000. Mr. McLeRoy noted that insurance companies do their own inspections and enforcement of building and safety standards. HB 916 and HB 918 would lower to 8%, from 10% the number of signatures required to place referenda and local public questions on the ballot. HB 2377 would impose monetary penalties whenever a bidder failed to comply with all Federal, State and local laws. HB 2665 would abate the property taxes on wind energy devices. Chairman Blum explained that this is a shell bill and the wording will change tomorrow. SB 1271 would require a special election to fill a vacancy when more than six months remain in the term of an office, with an annual compensation that exceeds \$21,000. The special election would need to be held two months after the vacancy occurs. SB 1648 would allow coroners to elect to participate in the IMRF SLEP program.

Mr. McLeRoy reported that support, in Springfield, for "conceal carry" legislation is split. He has been reelected to the UCCI Executive Board. Mr. Mikkelsen said that most Enterprise Zone projects have a budget too small for the capacity to pay the prevailing wage. Chairman Blum said that both NIDA and the RC&D are on record in opposition to requiring projects in Enterprise Zones and TIF Districts to pay the prevailing wage. Mr. Mikkelsen said that HB 593 (SB 1352) would require counties to license and regulate landlords.

Mr. Graham reported on his meeting with the Stephenson County half of the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission. Additional Federal funds are available as part of the stimulus package. However, these funds require a 20% local match and the funds must be spent within two years. However, the current Pecatonica Prairie Path plan is to spend its funds over a four to five year time period. This Federal stimulus funding is not helping local governments to provide additional jobs.

The County Administrator reported that Mr. Snavelly advised him that he did not have a report.

The Committee reviewed the February 2009 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$36,808.37 surplus in February. After the first three months of the 2009 fiscal year, revenues have exceeded expenses by \$7,117.55.

The Budgetary Status, Major Revenue Tracking, and Interfund Loan reports for February 2009 were distributed and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that the Sheriff's Reserve Unit has a new boat and trailer and are looking for \$15,000 for an engine and equipment. The Sheriff may have the necessary funding for the boat, from travel reimbursements from the State. SLANT would like the County to participate again in their program. If the County would provide a deputy, SLANT would pay the salary. SLANT funding is provided by a Federal grant. The question was raised whether the County would retain any grant funds in excess of

the deputy's salary. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Committee recommended participating in the SLANT program, subject to understanding the actual net cost to the County. His committee recommended approval of a resolution limiting the County's reimbursement rate for all medical services for jail inmates, to the Public Aid rates.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee recommended approval of an Agreement with Ridott Township to do their assessor work. She explained that they are studying an organizational analysis and questionnaire on the County Code, from the General Code Company.

Court Services – Ms. V. Hooper reported that her committee recommended approval of a Resolution for the establishment of a Legal Self-Help Center in Stephenson County. It would be located in the Freeport Public Library and accessible from the Internet. The Sheriff and the Probation Department continue to work on the Work Release Fee issue.

Nursing Center - Mr. Détente reported that his committee recommended upgrading the Nursing Center computer system, by purchasing a new server from Computer Dynamics. His committee once again approved the 3% wage increase for Mr. Fortney. The Building and Grounds Subcommittee is handling plans for upgrading the old County cemetery.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that his committee recommended approval of the resolution endorsing the inclusion of a First Source Hiring Agreement provision in all development agreements, entered into by the County, within the Economic Development Project Area, Mill Race Crossing.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that Freeport received \$799,842 and the County \$393,026 from the Federal stimulus package. Mr. Isbell anticipates using these funds to extend the Rock Grove Road project. His committee recommended approval of three resolutions for the County Board. Enforcement of the spring road postings began today. Mr. Détente said that he was contacted by an individual who felt that recent County work along the road caused flooding on his property. Mr. Kuhlmeier responded that the County did not remove a drive-way drainage tube as claimed.

Chairman Blum explained that the County's labor attorney advises that a unilateral implementation of the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive would be an "unfair labor" practice. The union would need to bring it forward when they bargain for their next contract.

Claims of \$604,260.43 were approved, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier.

The Committee adjourned at 8:08 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper.

Approved: April 13, 2009

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, April 13, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room