

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

The stated meeting for the month of May was held in the Board Room of the Stewart Centre, 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 and Mr. Kuhlmeier. Absent was Mr. Mikkelsen. 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, March 9, 2009 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Detente.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Blum explained that ten years ago, the County Board worked with the adjoining property owners to straighten the boundaries of the Blackhawk Monument site. A recent land survey of the area showed that the County had obtained more land than it realized. Two quit claim deeds have been drawn up and reviewed by the State's Attorney, to return the excess land to the previous owners. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier, the Committee recommended that the County Board approve the two quit claim deeds, to return the excess land, at the Blackhawk Monument site, to the previous property owners.

Mr. McLeRoy explained that the Illinois General Assembly is working on a Comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan. UCCI has developed a resolution supporting the current Capital Infrastructure Plan legislation. Since this bill is moving rapidly, UCCI needs the County's preference by Friday. There is no guarantee that the local share of the Motor Fuel Tax distribution, as stated in the bill, will not change before the bill is finalized. The draft resolution does request that the current Motor Fuel Tax distribution formula not change. There are bills in the General Assembly to increase the Income Tax, the Sales Tax, the Motor Fuel Tax and the annual licensed vehicle fee. On a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Committee recommended approval of the UCCI resolution, in support of the Comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan.

Mr. McLeRoy noted that the Federal government has yet to write the rules and regulations for how to spend the transportation stimulus money. IDOT is still waiting to distribute these funds.

Mr. McLeRoy reviewed some of the local government bills in the Illinois General Assembly. SB 138 would require the adoption of local building codes and mandatory inspections, to be established and paid by the Illinois Capital Development Board; however, the Capital Development Board would seek its funding from the counties. HB 62 on PTELL referendums has been referred to the rules Committee. The unions are supportive of SB 43 which would require the prevailing wage to be paid on all projects receiving Enterprise Zone or TIF District benefits; however HB 63, the House version of this legislation, has been referred to the Rules Committee. HB 242 would regulate debt service extensions under PTELL. HB 585 (SB 1414) would increase the non-competitive bid ceiling by \$10,000 to either \$30,000 or \$35,000 based on type of service and equipment. There are 22 pension bills in the General Assembly, including ones that would make coroners and probation officers eligible for SLEP.

Mr. McLeRoy reported that the Federal stimulus legislation includes rental assistance for the homeless, which includes utility costs. According to IDOT, the US Route 20 four-lane project is not ready to bid and therefore not eligible for Federal stimulus funding.

UCCI will hold regional training meetings between late August and mid October. Counties would select the topics and locations. The annual UCCI meeting is scheduled for July 27th and 28th at Eagle Ridge. Chairman Blum and Mr. Wire attended the first session of the Leadership Academy.

Mr. Kuhlmeier distributed and reviewed a proposal, prepared by the County Engineer, to build a new salt storage facility behind the new Highway buildings. He also reviewed the problems purchasing salt, these past two years. Mr. Isbell had listed a number of situations where the Highway Department had assisted other County departments, at no charge. The construction proposal includes \$420,000 of non-Highway Department funds. The total cost of the project for material purchase, construction costs and filling with salt is \$532,500. The difference, \$112,500, would be covered with Highway funds. Mr. Détente challenged the "assisting other County departments, at no charge" claim. He noted that the Highway Department does not pay any rent, to the Nursing Center, for the land that the current storage shed occupies. The question was raised and discussed as to whether the salt storage shed land is "owned" by the Nursing Center, the Highway Department or the whole County. Funding of this project will be discussed further during the budget process. The new facility would house salt and none of the other equipment currently being housed in other storage buildings in the immediate area.

Mr. Snavely reported that the mower previously used to cut the grass at the old "poor farm" cemetery was sold by the Sheriff. He recommended that Nursing Center maintenance people cut the grass at the cemetery. However, access to the site is difficult. There is now a flower garden in the area used last year to enter the cemetery. Mr. Snavely noted that he has not seen the judges' plan for the vacated space in the Courthouse.

The Committee reviewed the April 2009 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$132,373.08 deficit in April. After the first five months of the 2009 fiscal year, expenses have exceeded revenues by \$89,779.06.

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

The County Administrator redistributed the PTELL calculation worksheet used for the 2009 budget. He reminded the Committee that due to the severity of the IMRF's investment losses, there will be a sharp increase in IMRF rates next year. For the 2010 budget, the County Board needs to identify 4 cents, under the "cap", that can be transferred to the IMRF levy from other County levies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that his committee recommended approval of a budget amendment to recognize a \$12,300 grant to the Emergency Management Agency. The "mold problem" at the Courthouse turned out to be a non-issue. He will be meeting with the judges and Courthouse department heads about the vacated space.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee approved eight raffles. The FHA PILOT issue should be resolved soon. Her committee recommended that Chairman Blum alter the current order of County Board voting, by having the person who made the motion, vote first and then continue from that point, through the list of County Board Districts. The real estate property tax bills will be mailed around the first of June.

Court Services – Ms. V. Hooper announced that she did not have any action items.

Nursing Center - Mr. Détente announced that he did not have any action items. He reported that the new kitchen floor is finished and that the kitchen would be fully operational by the end of the week. The old "poor farm" cemetery project is still developing as the State provides guidance. Mr. Kuhlmeier report that the hallway, around the kitchen, is cluttered. He is concerned with the safety of the employees and contract workers, moving through the hallway. Mr. Détente reported that the January "tag", was assessed at \$8,100, which the County can have discounted to \$5,265, with an immediate payment. There was a discussion on efforts to ensure that only licensed employees are allowed to drive County vehicles. There was a discussion on the importance of keeping personnel issues confidential.

Planning and Development – In the absence of Mr. Mikkelsen it was reported that his committee recommended approval of the 2011–2012 Jane Addams Trail budget. His committee approved the erecting of an informational sign at the Blackhawk Monument site. Chairman Blum noted that Mr. Mikkelsen would also miss Wednesday's County Board meeting.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that he has a resolution for the County Board meeting. The speed limit on Lancaster Heights Road is being set at 30 MPH. The Cedarville bridge project is set to be let by the State, with the work done by late Fall. The Spring tour is scheduled for June 15th. The Highway Department plans to use several young people from the Economic Disadvantage Youth program and inmates from the jail, for road clean up.

Chairman Blum said that he did not have a report.

Claims of \$868,684.85 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper.

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m., on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Senn.

Approved: June 8, 2009

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, June 8, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room

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