

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

The stated meeting for the month of June 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. Gilmour, Mr. Kinney, Mr. Kuhlmeier and Mr. Wire.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, May 11, 2009 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Mr. Detente.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Blum reported that he had received a letter from DCEO stating that the County audit, for the year ending November 30, 2008, is due by the end of August 2009.

Chairman Blum reported that he had received a letter from Ronnie Bush, asking for contributions to the Back to School Celebration, so they could purchase 1,000 backpacks, for kids going back to school in August. He would like any contributions by July 1st.

Mr. Déteinte questioned the manner in which, the Executive Session was listed on the agenda and the fact that no action item was listed, after the Executive Session. There was a discussion on how to meet the Open Meeting requirement for action items, without prematurely revealing the purpose of the Executive Session. The County Administrator said that he would continue to consult with the State's Attorney on this issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Blum reviewed last month's discussion regarding the proposal, prepared by the County Engineer, to build a new salt storage facility behind the new Highway buildings. He reported that he has discussed this with Senator Bivins and Representative Sacia. He is hoping to get funds from Springfield for the proposed salt shed, traffic signals at the intersection of Pearl City Road and Kiwanis Drive, and the Mill Race Crossing development.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Blum introduced Craig Beintema and Rebecca Thompson from the Health Department and asked them to explain the Federally Qualified Health Center program. This is a Federal program to help fund health centers in communities that are medically under served. These health centers are governed by boards, with a 51% patient majority. The health centers provide primary care, mental health services and dental care. The health centers receive Federal grants and enhanced Medicare and Medicaid payments. Crusader Clinic in Rockford is a Federally Qualified Health Center.

A portion of the funding comes from the community. It is expected that a health center in Stephenson County would grow to be a regional center, covering Stephenson, Carroll and Jo Daviess counties and possibly Green County, in Wisconsin. The community funding would be from local businesses, medical providers and units of government. It is expected that the funding would be from \$500,000 to \$650,000. There would be additional funding resources beyond the grants and Medicaid. The grants are for three years, with three-year renewals. FHN and the Monroe Clinic have committed to help. If the County became involved with this program, it would replace the current Health Department Clinic. A provisional budget has not been developed yet. Chairman Blum said that he would expect Stephenson County to be the lead county for this project. The Health Center employees would be County employees and their costs would be reimbursed by the partnering counties and organizations. The Federally Qualified Health Center program applications are due October/November and are awarded on a competitive basis.

Mr. McLeRoy reported that the Illinois General Assembly is still working on the State budget. UCCI has received legal opinions on the mandatory duties and responsibilities of sheriffs and FOIA requests for the salaries of county employees. Copies of these opinions have been given to Chairman Blum and the County Administrator.

Mr. McLeRoy reviewed some of the local government bills in the Illinois General Assembly. SB 43, which would require the prevailing wage to be paid on all projects receiving Enterprise Zone or TIF District benefits, has been placed on hold. SB 138, which would require the adoption of local building codes and mandatory inspections, to be established and be paid by the Illinois Capital Development Board, has passed both houses. SB 1648, which would allow County Coroners to be covered by SLEP IMRF, has failed. SB 1691, which would increase the maximum income limitation, under the senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption, to \$55,000, has passed both houses.

Mr. McLeRoy read from a report by the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois analyzing the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Block grants are available for improving energy efficiency. The State may drop its funding for the State's Attorney and the Public Defender, in the 2010 budget.

Mr. McLeRoy thanked Chairman Blum for his list of recommended topics for the regional seminars UCCI will hold between late August and mid October. The annual UCCI meeting is scheduled for July 27th and 28th at Eagle Ridge. A golf outing, winery tour and dinner are planned for Monday, with two seminar sessions on Tuesday. UCCI registration is due by July 15th, but room reservations are due by July 3rd.

Chairman Blum announced that he was just advised by Mr. Kane that earlier this evening, the Warren School District approved the Enterprise Zone property tax abatement, for the EcoGrove Wind Development project.

The County Administrator explained that Mr. Snavelly advised him, earlier today, that he did not have a report.

The Committee reviewed the May 2009 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$23,124.88 surplus in May. After the

first six months of the 2009 fiscal year, expenses have exceeded revenues by \$66,637.78.

The Budgetary Status, Major Revenue Tracking, Cash Flow, and Interfund Loan reports for May 2009 were distributed and reviewed. Mr. Détente questioned the outstanding loan balance, for the Nursing Center, as stated on the Interfund Loan report. The County Administrator said that he would review the matter with the County Treasurer.

The County Administrator distributed and reviewed the Tax Computation Report, as issued by the County Clerk. Chairman Blum noted the impact, by Enterprise Zones and TIF Districts, on the County's Equalized Assessed Value.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that he has met with the Courthouse department heads, regarding the reallocation of office space. The Sheriff has sold one of the Expeditions and only one of the Crown Victorias remains to be put into service. He explained that Judge Hauser said that a person could not be put in jail for not paying fines, unless it could be proved that the non-payment was “willful”.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee discussed the County Treasurer's procedures for making interfund loans. A property tax payment plan would be available to taxpayers, in 2010. 400 to 500 property tax bills have been returned for bad addresses.

Court Services – Ms. V. Hooper announced that her committee approved starting a Narcotics Anonymous Teen Recover Group using Youth Diversion Fee revenue.

Nursing Center - Mr. Détente reported that he is still working with the State on the old “poor farm” cemetery project. He has met with the veterans group to clear up the paper work on the land for the All Veterans Memorial Park. The Nursing Center census is down. The kitchen and dish room project is practically finished.

Planning and Development – In the absence of Mr. Mikkelsen it was noted that there were no action items from his committee.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that several roads were submitted to the State for the emergency repair program. Mr. Isbell will report to the County Board on his emergency deployment to southern Illinois for storm clean-up.

It was noted that during the Court Services meeting, several committee members had questioned why the County was paying membership dues for the judges. However, this issue was not included in the committee minutes.

Chairman Blum said that he did not have anything further to report.

On a motion by Mr. Détente, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper, the Committee went into Executive Session, on a roll call vote, for Employment/Appointment Matters. (Aye: Mr. Senn, Ms. S. Hooper, Ms. V. Hooper, Mr. Détente, Mr. Kuhlmeier, Mr. Graham;

Nay: None.) The Committee came out of Executive Session, on a motion by Mr. Détente, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier. Mr. Graham announced that Employment/Appointment Matters were discussed, but no action was taken.

Claims of \$647,317.68 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Mr. Detente.

The Committee adjourned at 9:47 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Mr. Senn.

Approved: July 13, 2009

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, July 13, 2009 6:30 p.m.
Stewart Centre Board Room

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