

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

The stated meeting for the month of December 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, Mr. Détente, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. Absent were Ms. S. Hooper and Ms. V. Hooper. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Kinney and Mr. Parker.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, November 9, 2009 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Détente, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The County Administrator distributed copies of an article, "Are Tax Amnesties a Good Idea?" from the Governing Magazine web site. The general tone of the article is rather negative towards the amnesty concept.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McLeRoy distributed material from UCCI regarding new legislation on the prevailing wage, video gaming, Freedom of Information and Open Meetings. UCCI has refunded the 2009 dues and anticipates refunding the 2010 dues. The UCCI Board member stipend payment, to the counties, will remain at \$300. UCCI is again discussing the employee health insurance issue. The next educational seminar is scheduled for February 24th. Chairman Blum has submitted a list of potential topics for the seminar. There was a discussion of the process that the State would have to go through to sell the Thomson prison to the Federal government.

Mr. Détente asked Mr. Snavelly to escort him in a walk through of the Nursing Center building to identified and prioritized necessary maintenance projects. Mr. Snavelly said that he is ready for snow plowing and salting at the Nursing Center. He still needs to put a sealer on the new headstone joints at the old cemetery.

The Committee reviewed the November 2009 revenue and expense amounts in the Employees Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$44,756.55 surplus in November. For the 2009 fiscal year, expenses exceeded revenues by \$69,930.49.

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

The County Administrator noted that several times through the budget process, there were statements about monitoring the 2010 budget and in particular the General Fund. There was a discussion on what information the Committee would like on a

monthly basis. Mr. Mulnix explained that the financial reports for the early committee meetings would not include the manual checks, written in the previous month. The A/P file, containing the manual checks, is usually not available until the Friday before the Finance Committee meeting. Chairman Blum said that he is interested in knowing about large expenditures before they happen, rather than after the money is spent. Department heads need to advise their oversight committees on what is going to happen rather than what has happened. Mr. Graham said that if revenue is running below budget, then the expense budget will need to be cut further. Chairman Blum said that there is new legislation to allow for reducing an elected official's budgets. Department heads need to review purchases with their oversight committee, even if the items are in the budget.

Chairman Blum said that a management committee has been formed to educate the public regarding the referendum to raise the Public Safety Sales Tax by \$.005. The managing committee consists of the Sheriff, Mr. Beintema, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Graham, Mr. Willging and himself. The committee will use brochures, postcards, yard signs, radio and newspaper announcements and buttons to raise public awareness and support. They will visit service clubs, editorial boards and hold town meetings. No public funds can be used to promote a "yes" vote on the referendum. The Sheriff's department will be the main beneficiary of these new funds.

In its November 30th meeting, the County Board referred back to this Committee the mileage reimbursement issue. The County currently uses the IRS business rate for mileage reimbursement. During the budget process, it was suggested that the County Board should reduce the rate to \$.25. Where appropriate, the Mileage budget lines were reduced, in anticipation of this change. On a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Committee recommended a two-tier mileage reimbursement standard: County Board members would be reimbursed \$.25 per mile and everyone else would continue to receive the IRS business mileage rate.

Chairman Blum explained that the 2010 County Board personnel budget lines were developed based on the per diems being paid for only County Board and standing Committee meetings. County Board members would no longer be paid a per diem for seminars, conferences and other community boards, such as NIDA, CVB, Mental Health, etc. There was a discussion of how this decision was made and included in the budget, without the general knowledge of all County Board members. The County Administrator said that this was discussed during the budget process and would have been explained to the full County Board on November 30th, but the County Board chose not to have the General Fund budget reviewed department by department. Chairman Blum said that he thought, by now, most County Board members were aware of this change.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn said that his committee recommended retaining partial funding for the front-door security personnel in the Public Safety Fund. Highland College has requested a third deputy for patrol on campus.

Administration – In the absence of Ms. S. Hooper, Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that there were no action items in her committee and noted that this was the first month that any one could recall with no raffle applications.

Court Services – In the absence of Ms. V. Hooper, it was noted that her committee did not have any action items.

Nursing Center - Mr. Détente said that one of the washing machines is being repaired rather than replaced. There will be no private pay increase for 2010. Earlier in the year two water heaters were replaced; it was originally thought that they would be covered under warranty, but the Nursing Center has had to pay for them. His committee approved a reduced amount for the monthly claims, but after further review, it was determined that the original total was correct.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that he did not have any action items. He noted that the old cheese factory in Kent was again in operation now as Nuestro Queso; they have 40 employees.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that he has one resolution for the County Board meeting. He noted that the Cedarville Road bridge is open.

Chairman Blum said that a major snow event is forecast for County Board day. If a quorum is not present, the meeting will be recessed to Thursday at 6:30 p.m. He explained that he has met with Comcast and learned that the County Board could impose a "peg" fee, of up to \$1.00 for improvement of the communications infrastructure. This would allow the County to retrofit the County Board Room with a new communication system and improve the quality of the broadcasts. The new FOIA rules take effect on January 1, 2010. The County needs to improve its grant reporting. A State agency has identified another grant missing from the annual audit. He reported on his meeting with Representative Sacia. He is very positive on the Federal purchase of the Thomson prison.

Claims of \$620,904.78 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier.

The Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier.

Approved: January 11, 2010

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, January 11, 2010 6:30 p.m.
Stewart Centre Board Room