

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

The stated meeting for the month of December was held in the Board Room, of the Stewart Centre, on the above date, with Mr. Senn, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Senn, Mr. Willging, Mr. Newton, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. Gilmour and Mr. Parker for Ms. S. Hooper. Absent was Ms. S. Hooper. County Board Chairman Blum was present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Clay and Mr. Wire.

Mr. Senn welcomed the new members of the Finance Committee.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, November 8, 2010 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Newton.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

On a motion by Mr. Gilmour, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Committee recommended approval of a resolution transferring the real estate property title to a purchaser, at auction, of a delinquent surplus property parcel.

NEW BUSINESS:

The County Administrator distributed the UCCI calendar for 2011. Chairman Blum noted that the legislative meeting will be March 29th and 30th, the annual outing is July 25th and 26th and the Lincoln Library reception is October 28th and 29th.

Mr. Snavelly reported that he did not have a specific report. Chairman Blum asked for an update on the lighting equipment purchases under the two grants. Mr. Snavelly said that he expects to have everything for the Courthouse and Nursing Center ordered, by the end of the week. There is a shortage of the type of ballasts required by the grants. He explained that the Circuit Clerk's mechanical filing system needs to be taken apart for repair; therefore, this would be the time to move it to the first floor. When the Probation Department move is completed, he will start on the Circuit Clerk's move.

The County Administrator distributed and reviewed his memorandum to department heads regarding a 10% payroll deduction increase for employee health insurance and his letter to HHS requesting a waiver on the annual limit requirements in the new Federal legislation. The County does not yet have a health insurance contract in place for 2011. The County has received several proposals from FHN/NIHP, but nothing from UMED. The Committee reviewed the November 2010 revenue and expense amounts in the Employees Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$50,750.01 deficit in November. For the 2010 fiscal year, expenses exceeded revenues by \$211,728.62.

The 10% premium increase for 2011 would generate only enough additional revenue to cover the 2010 deficit.

The Budgetary Status, Major Revenue Tracking, Cash Flow, and Interfund Loan reports for November 2010 were distributed and reviewed. The State is five months behind in their distribution of the County's share of Income Taxes, which is larger than the 2011 budget deficit. The Nursing Center has already repaid additional debt in December. The General Fund is nearly \$900,000 in debt to other County funds.

The County Administrator explained that during the budget process, the previous Finance Committee supported transferring the Social Security, IMRF and liability savings, from the proposed layoffs to the General Fund. However, the 2011 budget was adopted with a deficit and no layoffs. Therefore, the 2011 expenditures, in these funds, may be more than the new revenues.

The County Treasurer has received Tax Anticipation Warrant proposals from three banks, for the General fund. She anticipates another proposal tomorrow. The State owes the County Bridge Fund for work done in the 2010 fiscal year. There was a discussion on whether the various highway funds need Tax Anticipation Warrants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Willging reported that the new space allocation plan was distributed and would be discussed next month. A number of individuals have been identified to work on consolidating the County's 9-1-1/dispatching with the City's. The ETSB is working with Ogle County to function as the 9-1-1 back-up site; Ogle County uses the same software as Stephenson County. The State may take 3 to 4 months to approve a City-County 9-1-1 consolidation.

Administration – Mr. Parker reported that the County Clerk will have a three-precinct primary in Freeport, with one voting site. The County Treasurer has made the final distribution of the 2010 real estate property tax.

Court Services – Mr. Newton reported that his committee approved a salary/bonus plan for Probation Department employees. Mr. Pauley explained that Probation employees are employees of the Chief Judge. A longevity bonus of 1.5% for 2010 and 1.5% for 2011 was authorized by the Chief Judge with funds from the Probation Service Fee Fund. This would not be an increase in the employees' base salary. A question was raised on what would happen if an employee would leave after receiving the 2011 bonus; there was no specific answer. The approved amount from the Probation Service Fee Fund covers the bonus, but not the addition Social Security, IMRF and workers compensation costs. Mr. Pauley suggested increasing the transfer to \$25,000, the original estimated amount, approved by the Chief Judge. Mr. Newton also reported that a series of letters is being sent to individuals, who are delinquent in paying their court assessed fines and fees.

Nursing Center - Mr. Hilton reported that the Nursing Center repaid another \$40,000 to the General Fund, in December.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen said that the Enterprise Zone has received a ten-year extension, but now must get each of the taxing bodies to agree to authorizing benefits for another 10 years. HB 6900 would allow for a 20-year extension, without the requirement of getting the other taxing bodies to agree to the tax abatements a second time. The Blackhawk Hills RC&D has received a \$30 million grant for the board band fiber build out.

Public Works - Mr. Gilmour reported that Mr. Isbell has met with the solid waste haulers regarding a possible fee increase. Twenty applications have been received for the new consolidated position for Animal Control, Zoning/Emergency Management and Highway departments.

Chairman Blum reported that the Pearl City Co-Op was expanding its operation at Adkins Energy. The County Engineer let a bridge construction contract to a company that was not the low bid because the low bidder said that he would not meet the stated completion deadline. The State has requested information from the County for two possible manufacturing projects in Mill Race Crossing. The current Public Administrator, for the County, can no longer function in that capacity. The Public Administrator is appointed by the Governor.

Claims of \$743,905.38 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Hilton.

The Committee adjourned at 7:33 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Willging.

Approved: January 10, 2011

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, January 10, 2011 6:30 p.m.
Stewart Centre Board Room