

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Segobiano, Renner, Owens, Bostic, Butler, and Nuckolls

Members Absent: Members Gordon and Hoselton

Other Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: None

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the July 14, 2009 Executive Committee meeting for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen presented the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Renner to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented two requests that can be acted upon together regarding Fund 0103, the WIC Program. The first is a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 in the Health Department. The second is a request for approval of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 in the Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Renner to recommend approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 in the Health Department; and to recommend approval of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 in the Health Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105 in the Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to recommend approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105 in the Health Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented two requests that can be acted upon together regarding Fund 0107. The first is a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 in the Health Department. The second is a request for approval of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 in the Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Renner to recommend approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2009 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 in the Health Department; and approval of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2009 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 in the Health Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens advised that Ms. McNeil updated the Finance Committee on the receivables due from the State of Illinois. He noted that most of the funds due from the State are for salary reimbursements to the Corrections and Probation Officers. Mr. Owens indicated that the State of Illinois owes the County approximately \$800,000.00. He added that the State has always been behind in reimbursing Probation salaries, but the delinquency has escalated since the State budget crisis.

Chairman Sorensen commented that about three years ago we went through a similar cycle where the County was due \$800,000-\$900,000 from the State.

Mr. Owens pointed out that some of those reimbursement funds have been signed off and sent to the Comptroller who has not released the funds due to the State's financial condition. He recommended that the Executive Committee read the minutes from the Finance Committee for further information on the lengthy discussion regarding the reimbursement due from the State.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Owens.

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Law and Justice Commission Mobil Team (MTU) #8 and McLean County Court Services – Court Services.

Motion by Renner/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Law and Justice Commission Mobil Team Unit (MTU) #8 and McLean County Court Services – Court Services.
Motion carried.

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval to apply for a JAG Recovery Law Enforcement Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Motion by Renner/Segobiano to Recommend Approval to Apply for a JAG Recovery Law Enforcement Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority – Sheriff's Department.
Motion carried.

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Mr. Renner referred to item C.2)c) on the agenda, namely a request for approval to award the bid for Jail Food Service to Aramark in the Sheriff's Department. He informed the Committee that by out-sourcing the jail food service, the County may save over \$200,000.00. Mr. Renner added that this will have minor impact on personnel.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Renner.

Mr. Paul Segobiano, Vice Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee, reported that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Segobiano.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, advised that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen reported that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator stated that he had no items to present to the Committee.

Mr. Segobiano referred to the discussion at the last County Board meeting regarding the current Personnel Policy. He recommended that the Finance Committee review the current Personnel Policy and either recommend to the Board that we continue with the Policy or make appropriate salary changes, if necessary. Mr. Segobiano expressed his concern that the County has recently approved several requests to offer a salary above the starting maximum salary permitted under the County's Personnel Ordinance. He recommended that the Personnel Policy reflect the accurate salary for each position and that the practice of offering a salary above the starting maximum salary be discontinued.

Mr. Nuckolls concurred with Mr. Segobiano. He expressed his hope that the County will end the practice of finding extra money to offer a salary above the maximum starting salary. He pointed out that his employer has had to impose a pay freeze due to the difficult economic times. Mr. Nuckolls added that the employees are very well aware and accepting of the situation.

Mr. Segobiano indicated that his position does not reflect against a department head or a particular individual, but a position. He reiterated that the salary structure needs to be reviewed.

Chairman Sorensen stated that it is appropriate for the Executive Committee to ask Committees of the Board to evaluate issues, such as this.

Mr. Nuckolls asked for an explanation on an issue that was recently passed at a Board meetings regarding watching the budget. Chairman Sorensen replied that budget reductions were recently approved by the County Board and supported by the Department Heads and Elected Officials. Mr. Nuckolls asked why this wasn't brought up at the meeting last month when the request to offer a salary above the starting maximum salary was introduced and approved. Chairman Sorensen responded that it is very important to remember that every new hire does not require a budget adjustment. Out of 200 new hires, five requests were made in the last year for a salary above the starting maximum salary.

Chairman Sorensen expressed his appreciation and support of the members of the Committee regarding this issue. He reiterated the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Finance Committee review those parts of the Personnel Policy that address the issue of requests to offer a salary above the starting maximum salary.

Chairman Sorensen advised that the 2010 budget appears to be tighter than it has been since he has been on the board. He noted that there are discussion topics of no across-the-board raises this year. Chairman Sorensen indicated that the Finance Committee and the County Administration are looking for ways to make sure that the County does not add to the problem of layoffs. He advised that it is going to be a very aggressive year. Chairman Sorensen added that Board members may have to make difficult decisions regarding employees and department heads.

Mr. Segobiano pointed out that some of the allocations the County provides to other entities need to be re-evaluated. He also expressed his frustration with the State of Illinois for its inability to reimburse the County for money it is due.

Mr. Owens stated that if any members of the Committee have any specific comments or questions about the Personnel Policy for the Finance Committee to consider, he would be happy to address those issues.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that a wage freeze could be considered before considering lay-offs.

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Chairman Sorensen presented the July 31, 2009 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$303,620.15 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for July 31, 2009 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary