

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Hoselton, Segobiano, Renner, Owens, and Nuckolls

Members Absent: Members Bostic, Butler and Gordon

Other Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies

Others Present: Mr. Ryan Leuty, Assistant Director, Information Technologies

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the June 19, 2009 Executive Committee meeting and the May 19, 2009 Stand-up meeting for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen advised that there are no Reappointments, Appointments or Resignations.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Monday, September 28, 2009 "*Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children*"™ in McLean County.

Motion by Segobiano/Renner to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Monday, September 28, 2009 as "*Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children*"™ in McLean County.
Motion carried.

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Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a contract between the County of McLean and Anderson Legislative Consulting for Professional Services.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the contract has changed. Mr. Lindberg replied that the contract has not changed.

Mr. Segobiano asked what kinds of results is the County experiencing with the aid of Anderson Legislative Consulting. Mr. Lindberg responded that, in this economic and political climate, no county is seeing positive results in the Legislature. He indicated that the benefit of having the consulting firm is in having representation at the table and attempting to prevent harmful legislative actions from happening.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that the entire Board be apprised that the County has a voice in the Legislature with Anderson Legislative Consulting.

Motion by Hoselton/Renner to Recommend Approval of a Contract between the County of McLean and Anderson Legislative Consulting for Professional Services.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to Ms. Stephanie Brown, a 2009 graduate and member of the Tri-Valley High School Track and Field Team.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to Ms. Stephanie Brown, a 2009 Graduate and Member of the Tri-Valley High School Track and Field Team.
Motion carried.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, reported that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Hoselton distributed a letter he received from a Bloomington resident praising Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer, on his assistance and professionalism.

Chairman Sorensen acknowledged that Mr. Schmitt has been very helpful in his district with providing detour signage on County roads.

Mr. Segobiano reported that he had recently had a complaint about the Highway Department. Mr. Hoselton indicated that he will look into the matter.

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

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies, introduced Mr. Ryan Leuty, the new Assistant Director of Information Technologies. Mr. Nelson advised that Mr. Leuty was an in-house candidate for the position among a very large candidate pool.

The Committee welcomed Mr. Leuty as the new Assistant Director of Information Technologies.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any questions on his Information Technologies Status Report. There were no questions.

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of an application for capital assistance to the Illinois Department of Transportation for SHOW BUS to provide rural public transportation in McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt counties – Building and Zoning.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of an Application for Capital Assistance to the Illinois Department of Transportation for SHOW BUS to provide Rural Public Transportation in McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties – Building and Zoning.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens noted that there are two additional action items to be presented to the Board.

Mr. Hoselton referred to the item to be presented to the Board requesting approval for the County Clerk to offer a salary above the starting maximum salary permitted under the County's Personnel Ordinance. He commented that it seems as though it has become a standard operation for the County Board to approve these requests.

Chairman Sorensen advised that over the last 12 months, there have been over 200 new hires in McLean County. Of those 200 hires, there have been five requests to hire the candidate at a starting salary above the maximum starting salary. Chairman Sorensen indicted that the Board only sees these types of requests and are not always aware of the volume of positions being filled pursuant to the normal guidelines.

Mr. Segobiano expressed concern with hiring new employees above the maximum starting salary. He pointed out that unemployment is increasing in McLean County. Mr. Segobiano indicated that, in his opinion, it is very likely that there are qualified individuals in the community who would be more than willing to take this job at its current salary.

Chairman Sorensen reminded the Committee that the Early Retirement Initiative resulted in a large amount of positions that needed to be filled. He pointed out that a few of the five requests for an increased salary were still under what the previous employees were making, thus saving the County money.

Mr. Lindberg advised that he is sensitive to the concerns of the Committee. He explained that the proposed candidate for the position has 15 years of experience working with elections. Mr. Lindberg indicated that had this person been hired by the County at step 1 fifteen years ago and garnered 15 years of County experience, she would be making the salary that has been requested. He added that the Elections position requires some specialized skills. Mr. Lindberg also noted that the salary request for the proposed candidate does not provide a raise; it is the same salary she currently receives from another employer.

Mr. Owens stated that the Elections position has had a history of rapid turnover. He noted that the County Clerk advises that the position requires a great deal of overtime, which is difficult for an employee with small children. Mr. Owens indicated that the proposed candidate is aware of the long hours, is experienced in the elections cycle. He expressed optimism that this individual would stay in the position for a long time.

Mr. Hoselton asked what the difference is in the salary being requested. Mr. Lindberg replied that the salary for the previous employee, with two years of election experience, was \$15.74 per hour and the request for the proposed candidate, with 15 years of experience, is \$19.86 per hour.

Mr. Nuckolls expressed concern that approving requests for new hires above the maximum starting salary has become a trend with the County Board.

Chairman Sorensen advised that you cannot look at the trend of hiring five employees at a salary above the starting maximum salary out of over 200 hires, without acknowledging the impact of the Early Retirement Initiative (ERI). He stated that there are really two issues being discussed, namely:

- Looking at this specific position for the Elections Administrator;
- Broader issue of the hiring process.

Mr. Owens suggested that the Board have the opportunity to go into Executive Session at the full Board Meeting should they wish to discuss this position.

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

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Coroner's Office. Mr. Renner explained that the Coroner's Office receives grant funds every year from the Death Certificate surcharge fund, which can only be used towards either equipment purchases or updates in the lab.

Mr. Renner advised that a member of the Justice Committee expressed some concern following the meeting on one particular section of Ms. Kimmerling's request, namely the request for a software license/maintenance agreement to purchase software and equipment to collect data from cell phones (\$2,700.00). The Committee member was concerned with the Coroner's Office having this type of investigative tool rather than other law enforcement personnel. Mr. Renner cautioned that the Committee member may ask the Board to pull this section of the request and send it back to the Justice Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Renner indicated that he contacted Ms. Kimmerling who provided the following supportive information regarding the request:

- Two Deputy Coroner's and she have attended the Cell Phone Forensics training course offered by the local MTU8 (the agency responsible for providing law enforcement training to our community);
- We currently have cell phone download equipment and have used it in several death investigations. This is not a new investigative tool. We are looking to upgrade our equipment to keep in line with the technological advances made in cell phones.
- Many times the information obtained (via texts and voice mails) is used in the Coroner's Office's manner of death determination, e.g. whether a person's death was an accident, suicide, homicide, etc.

Mr. Segobiano asked if the Sheriff's Department supports the Coroner's Office utilizing this technology. Mr. Renner replied the Sheriff's Department supports the Coroner's use of this technology.

Mr. Renner indicated that he believes the additional information from Ms. Kimmerling may alleviate the concerns of the Justice Committee member.

Motion by Renner/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Coroner's Office.
Motion carried.

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, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen advised that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Segobiano referred to an article in *The Pantagraph* regarding the \$350,000.00 expense for Bloomington to dig wells. He expressed concern that the County contributes money towards a Regional Watershed Study that does not benefit the County. Mr. Lindberg responded that the County and the Town of Normal each contribute \$10,000.00 per year for the Study and the City of Bloomington's share is \$53,000.00. He indicated that it is beneficial for the County to be involved in the Study so that the County is aware of what is going on regarding this issue.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that this commitment be reviewed to determine if it should be eliminated.

Mr. Segobiano suggested that the County Board be brought up to date on this issue.

Mr. Owens reminded the Committee that there will be a short workshop on *Roberts Rules of Order* following the County Board meeting.

Chairman Sorensen informed the Committee that Mr. Wasson's father passed away on Sunday night.

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Chairman Sorensen presented the June 30, 2009 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$374,107.69 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Owens/Renner to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for June 30, 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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary