

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bostic; Members Moss, Ahart, O'Connor, Wollrab and Wendt

Members Absent: None

Other Members
Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Administrative Services and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management; and Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Others Present: None

Chairman Bostic called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Chairman Bostic advised that, since there was no meeting in April, there are no minutes to be approved.

Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, County General Fund 0001, Facilities Management Department 0041 in the amount of \$289,127.00. He indicated that this Emergency Appropriation is to cover two different projects. Mr. Moody stated that the first project relates to the information item regarding the emergency replacement of the Old Courthouse Boiler.

Mr. Moody noted that, late this past winter, a leak was discovered in the multiple cells in the Old Courthouse boiler. After further investigation and consultation with the manufacturer and local boiler specialists, it was determined that at least three of the nine cells were leaking. Mr. Moody indicated that, to repair the boiler, it would be necessary to turn the boiler off, completely disassemble the boiler, unpack the cells and replace any leaking cells. This could cause more cells to suffer damage. Mr. Moody noted that the boiler was installed in April of 1994. The boiler serves as the main heating plant for the McLean County Museum of History.

Mr. Moody advised that, after a meeting with County Administration, a decision was made to replace the boiler under an emergency basis. He stated that the gas burner, controls and other non-boiler parts could easily be removed and reinstalled on a replacement boiler. Mr. Moody indicated that the budget amount needed to replace the boiler was \$33,600.00. He noted that County Administration approved the emergency replacement of the boiler.

Mr. Moody stated that the new Weil-McLain steam operated boiler, model number BG-988-SF, was ordered. County staff removed the old boiler and discovered that six of the nine cells were corroded through. Mr. Moody reported that the installation of the new boiler was completed on May 1, 2009.

Mr. Moody indicated that the second item contained in the Budget Amendment is for the re-cabling of floors 3-4-5 of the Law and Justice Center. He noted that those floors are primarily the Court's floors, including the Circuit Clerk offices on floors 3 and 4 and the Jury Commission on the 5th floor. During the major renovation project at the Law and Justice Center, all of the data cabling for the building was part of the project except for floors 3-4-5. Mr. Moody stated that Information Technologies is having problems with those floors. The project will allow offices located on those floors to function on a higher level of cabling, correct the data cabling pathways so that the cabling now reaches the fiber optic backbone on each floor, and allow the County's data cabling infrastructure to be well-provisioned for a future phone system conversion to Voice over IP.

Mr. Zeunik clarified that this is an unusual Budget Amendment because no money is being spent with this Amendment. Rather, money is being returned to the County. Mr. Zeunik advised that this is part of the initiative that was presented to the County Board last month to restore funds to the Fund Balance. He stated that the County set aside \$360,000.00 at the beginning of the year; \$160,000.00 of that was for the cabling project to complete floors 3-4-5 that were not touched during the renovation of the Law and Justice Center. Mr. Zeunik noted that, of the \$360,000.00, \$160,000.00 was set aside. He indicated that the bids came in at \$101,026.00. Mr. Zeunik advised that the recommendation to accept the bid is going to the Executive Committee next week from Mr. Craig Nelson, Director of Information Technologies. Of that total amount, the Circuit Clerk's Court Automation Fund, which is a fee supported fund and was set up specifically for this type of work, will contribute \$60,000.00, so the expense that is left to the General Fund is \$41,026.00. Mr. Zeunik stated that the other piece of the project is to replace the boiler at the Old Courthouse, at a cost of \$29,847.00. He indicated that, when you subtract the cost of those two projects from the \$360,000.00, we are returning \$289,127.00 to the Fund Balance of the General Fund.

Mr. Wendt expressed concern that, by returning the emergency funds to the Fund Balance, there will be no money available should an emergency arise. Mr. Zeunik responded that the Board made a commitment last month to only do essential capital projects. Projects that are not essential were eliminated and those funds were to be restored to the Fund Balance in the General Fund, which is what is being done now. Mr. Wendt stated that if we spend all of our General Revenue money at the end of the year and another boiler goes out, there will be no reserve funds to pay for the emergency. Mr. Zeunik explained that these funds are going into the General Fund, which is the reserve. He added that the funds had been set aside for capital projects, not for emergencies. Mr. Zeunik further explained that we are not eliminating the capital projects so that we can use the money to cover operating expenses. Projects that need to be done will be completed.

Motion by Ahart/Wollrab to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, County General Fund 0001, Facilities Management Department 0041.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bostic presented a Transfer of Funds as submitted by Mr. Lindberg, as follows:

- We respectfully request that you approve a transfer of funds from the Facilities Management budget for the Law and Justice Center (0001-0041-0050) to the Facilities Management budget for the Courthouse (0001-0041-0049). As Mr. Moody will inform you, it was necessary to replace the old Courthouse boiler on an emergency basis. Funds we had originally encumbered for a HVAC renovation and a data cabling project at the Law and Justice Center are available to cover the \$29,847.00 cost of the Courthouse boiler replacement.

Motion by Ahart/Wollrab to recommend approval of a transfer of funds from the Facilities Management Budget for the Law and Justice Center (0001-0041-0050) to the Facilities Management Budget for the Courthouse (0001-0041-0049)

Motion carried.

Mr. Moss asked what is the status of the steps on the west side of the Health Department building that are barricaded. Mr. Moody replied that the steps are decrepit and falling apart and have been barricaded since February. He indicated that the Health Department is responsible for the funding of the repairs. Mr. Moody explained

that the steps lead directly to Madison Street. Mr. Moody advised that the stairs will likely be eliminated, the area landscaped, and a sidewalk will be installed that will lead to the stoplight on the corner of Front Street and Madison Street so that people will cross the street at the light.

Mr. Moody expressed his appreciation to Mr. Zeunik for the support and dedication that Mr. Zeunik has provided to him and to the community. The Committee concurred.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Moody.

Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, reviewed his General Report. He advised that all of the revenue lines, including camping, watercraft, boat rental, etc. are all up from last year at this time. Mr. Steffa noted that the watercraft registration continues to increase. He indicated that camping reservations are up significantly, noting that the first day of camping reservations was extremely high. Mr. Steffa stated that over 2,400 camping site nights were reserved that first day. He attributed some of the increase to the fact that, because of the economy, more people are staying at home and taking advantage of local recreation.

Mr. Steffa reported that the IHSA Bass Fishing Tournament was very successful, with a huge crowd of spectators at the park. He noted that 12 schools were represented, with 48 students participating. Mr. Steffa added that the students caught some fish. He stated that the IHSA Bass Fishing Tournament talked to him about coming back again next year.

Mr. Steffa reminded the Committee that the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a dedication in memory of Mr. John W. English on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. He invited the Committee members to attend the dedication.

Mr. Moss asked who won the High School Bass Tournament. Mr. Steffa replied that Normal Community High School won. Mr. Moss asked who determines where the tournaments are held. Mr. Steffa responded that the IHSA makes that decision. He noted that the individuals who were in charge of the Tournament loved the Park. Mr. Steffa expressed his appreciation to the local Bass Club for their volunteer assistance with the tournament.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Steffa.

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Chairman Bostic presented the April 30, 2009 Property Committee bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor. The Property Committee bills include a Pending Total of \$14.97 and a Prepaid Total of \$341,699.68 for a Fund Total of \$341,714.65.

Motion by O'Connor/Ahart to recommend approval of the bills as of April 30, 2009, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bostic asked if there was any other business or communication for the Property Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Bostic adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary