

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 8, 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 Gordon

Members Absent: Members Hoselton and Nuckolls

Other Members Present: Members Caisley, McIntyre and Soeldner

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

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: Ms. Michelle Anderson, Candidate for County Auditor and Ms. Diane Benjamin, Candidate for County Auditor

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the August 11, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Renner to approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2009 Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations. There were no appointments or resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Gordon to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments as recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen introduced the two candidates for the appointment of County Auditor, Ms. Michelle Anderson and Ms. Diane Benjamin. He announced that each candidate will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves and answer questions.

Ms. Anderson expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to address the Executive Committee. She reviewed her background, noting that she grew up in Minier, Illinois where her father is a small business owner and her mother is a high school teacher. Ms. Anderson stated that she graduated valedictorian from Olympia High School. She attended Millikin University for one year and then transferred to Illinois State University to enter a premier accounting program. Ms. Anderson indicated that she graduated with a double Bachelor's Degree from ISU, one in Accounting and the other in Business Teacher Education. She added that she was in the Honors Program while at Illinois State.

Ms. Anderson advised that she was hired almost two years ago in the Auditor's Office as a Financial Reporting Specialist. Prior to her arrival at the County, she worked for Clifton Gunderson, LLP, a public accounting firm in Peoria, Illinois where she worked in their auditing department focusing on the government sector. Ms. Anderson noted that she has experience in auditing municipalities, special education districts, universities, county government and private industry.

Ms. Anderson indicated that her primary responsibility in the Auditor's Office is the preparation of the County's 220 page Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and coordination of the County's annual outside audit. She added that prior to her arrival at the County, the preparation of the CAFR was outsourced to the outside audit firm retained by the County. Ms. Anderson stated that she was responsible for writing the CAFR in 2007 and 2008. She noted that, in 2007, the County earned the Government Finance Officers Associations (GFOA's) Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting, and will likely receive the award again in 2008.

Ms. Anderson advised that she is also responsible for researching and implementing new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Standards. She added that so far in 2009, there have been three new GASB Standards. Ms. Anderson stated that one of the most cumbersome GASB standards was GASB 45, *Other Post Employment Benefits*, which required an actuarial study. She noted that she served as project manager during that study. Ms. Anderson indicated that in July of 2008, after the departure of the County's Internal Auditor, she assumed the duties of designing and carrying out internal audits throughout County offices.

Ms. Anderson stated that she is familiar with the County Auditor's Staff and the duties of the office, which include safeguarding of assets and ensuring that expenditures are appropriate. She noted that she is also familiar with the County's financial management software and all of the County's departments.

Ms. Anderson advised that she has developed a good working relationship with the Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads, earning their respect and trust, even while conducting audits. She added that she is a team player and is willing to work wherever she is needed. Ms. Anderson stated that she is familiar with the County budget and well as its current financial position.

Ms. Anderson indicated that if she receives the appointment, she would like to fill the position of Internal Auditor, which is an important function in the Auditor's Office. She stated that she will work with the County Administrator's Office to make sure that it fits within the budget.

Ms. Anderson advised that she feels she is qualified to fulfill the duties of County Auditor. She added that she has enjoyed serving the County as its Financial Reporting Specialist and would be honored to continue to serve the citizens of McLean County as their County Auditor.

Ms. Benjamin thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak with them. She reviewed her background prior to the information included on her resume, which is included in the Committee packet. She stated that she was in college for 11 years, which demonstrates that she doesn't quit.

Ms. Benjamin indicated that she transferred to Bloomington from Decatur, Illinois, which is where she was born. She noted that the company she worked for had branches in Peoria and Decatur, which were consolidated and reopened in Bloomington. At that time, Ms. Benjamin was appointed as manager of the office, the warehouse and the truck drivers. She noted that she was only in her mid-twenties at the time and attending college part-time. Ms. Benjamin stated that she resigned her position in order to attend college full-time.

Ms. Benjamin advised that she graduated from Illinois State University and passed the CPA examination. She indicated that her resume provides additional information regarding her experience and qualifications.

Ms. Benjamin stated that her qualifications include her management experience and accounting experience. She noted that she has run her own business, manages time efficiently, and has the ability to learn new things. Ms. Benjamin advised that she does a lot of computer programming, which she has combined with accounting. Ms. Benjamin indicated that she worked for a CPA firm that specialized in car dealers. The firm wrote a specialized software computer program for car dealers. Ms. Benjamin stated that she took over the computer programming, noting that this was a time when computer programs were still written in DOS. Eventually, she rewrote the program in Windows.

Ms. Benjamin advised that she has been looking for a position where she can use her talents and background. She added that she likes the opportunities that the County Auditor's job provides. Ms. Benjamin indicated that, with her accounting background, it would be a good fit for her. She added that she wants to get back into accounting because computer technology is constantly changing.

Ms. Benjamin expressed her appreciation to the Committee for their time.

Mr. Owens asked Ms. Benjamin if she is familiar with the GASB information. Ms. Benjamin replied that she read the CAFR from last year. She added that she is aware she has a lot to learn and to brush up on, noting that she has not had governmental accounting since college.

Mr. Renner asked both candidates what they think are the major challenges in the Auditor's job over the next one to four years. Ms. Anderson replied that internal auditing will continue to be very important. She added that GASB is constantly changing its standards, noting that there have been 11 new standards within the last two years. Ms. Anderson indicated that she goes to training on new GASB standards every year.

Ms. Benjamin stated that Ms. Anderson has the advantage of knowing the challenges because she has worked in the Auditor's Office. Ms. Benjamin indicated that she is aware that it is the taxpayer's money that must be safeguarded and it is important to her that all procedures in the Auditor's Office are done correctly.

Chairman Sorensen thanked the candidates for their presentations.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Tuesday, October 6, 2009 as "*It's Time to Talk Day*" and the month of October 2009 as "*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*" in McLean County.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Tuesday, October 6, 2009 as "*It's Time to Talk Day*" and the month of October 2009 as "*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*" in McLean County.

Motion carried.

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Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of the Task Force 6 Interagency Agreement 407020 with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for a grant of \$64,106.00 to be used to expand Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Units. He explained that this is a renewal of a pass-through grant for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Renner/Owens to Recommend Approval of the TF6 Interagency Agreement 407020 with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for a grant of \$64,106.00 for the Sheriff's Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of an extension of the Redeploy Grant from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services Community Services Agreement Fiscal Year 2010 for Court Services.

Motion by Renner/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Extension of the Redeploy Grant from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services Community Services Agreement for Fiscal Year 2010.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Paul Segobiano, Vice Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee, presented a request for approval of a County Watersheds Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion by Gordon/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of a County Watersheds Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Conservation District.
Motion carried.

Mr. Gordon referred to item C.2)b) in the packet, namely the "Request for approval of an amendment of the McLean County Regional Comprehensive Plan, previously approved on May 16, 2000." After a brief discussion, it was determined that this item should be included in the Board Packet as an "information item."

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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. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, announced that, due to illness, the Finance Committee did not have a quorum. He advised that the two items listed on the Agenda, as well as the Treasurer's Report, the August 5, 2009 Minutes and the bills will be considered at a Stand-up Committee meeting.

Mr. Owens announced that \$500,000 of the \$800,000+ reimbursement that was due from the State of Illinois has come in. Some of the funds will be electronically deposited and some will be sent by check.

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

Chairman Sorensen asked the Committee members who wish to express an opinion on the appointment of the County Auditor's position to please e-mail or call him. He noted that he would appreciate the input from all members.

Chairman Sorensen presented the August 31, 2009 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$541,918.72 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by Segobiano/Bostic to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for August 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 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary