

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Members Renner and Nuckolls

Other Members Present: Member Dean

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

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Ms. Michelle Anderson, Financial Reporting Specialist, County Auditor's Office

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the April 8, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting for approval. Hearing no corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen presented the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations to the Committee for approval.

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

Mr. Rick Dean, Vice Chairman, Legislative Sub-Committee, presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Approving and Adopting Additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee Recommendations to oppose Infringement on Citizens' Rights Conferred by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board approving and adopting additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee Recommendations to oppose Infringement on Citizens' Rights Conferred by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Segobiano offered a substitute motion. He pointed out that this Resolution has already had two hearings before the Legislative Subcommittee. Mr. Segobiano recommended that this is an issue that deserves full discussion by the entire Board.

Motion by Segobiano/Selzer to recommend that this Resolution be forwarded to the Full Board without discussion or recommendation.

Mr. Gordon indicated that he understands Mr. Segobiano's wish to have the full Board examine this issue. He stated that he wants to go on record today that he believes any action the Committee takes to send anything forward, with or without recommendation, is premature. Mr. Gordon advised that the Board is not in a position to make any substantive decisions regarding the Second Amendment. He noted that only the Courts of the United States, most specifically the Supreme Court, can make decisions regarding the Second Amendment. It rarely has addressed directly, as it may shortly, matters pertaining to the meaning of the Second Amendment.

Mr. Gordon suggested that this issue should be put on hold until it can be sent forward in a more substantive way. He advised that there are differing perceptions of what is the meaning of the Second Amendment. Mr. Gordon stated that, since the Supreme Court may settle a great many of those issues, he believes the County Board should wait until the Supreme Court's action. The Supreme Court has the ability to make Constitutional Law. Mr. Gordon noted that the Supreme Court also could decide to simply settle the issue at hand. The Supreme Court may only determine if the Washington, D.C. gun ban is constitutional or unconstitutional. Not knowing the authoritative decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Gordon recommends that the Resolution not be sent forward at all.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the substitute motion. Mr. Owens asked for a roll call on the motion. Chairman Sorensen advised that a "Yes" vote is to send this Resolution as presented by the Legislative Subcommittee to the full Board on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> without recommendation; a "No" vote puts the primary motion back on the floor.

Minutes of the Executive Committee  
May 13, 2008  
Page Three

Segobiano:	Yes
Gordon:	No
Owens:	Yes
Bostic:	Yes
Selzer:	Yes
Hoselton:	Yes
Dean:	Yes
Sorensen:	Yes

Motion carried seven to one.

Mr. Dean presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board approving and adopting additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee recommendation to support Full Federal Funding for Veteran's.

Motion by Dean/Owens to recommend approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board approving and adopting additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee Recommendation to Support Full Federal Funding for Veteran's Healthcare.

Mr. Selzer indicated that he was hoping there would be a definition in the Resolution detailing exactly what is considered full Federal funded healthcare. He expressed concern that this is not a County issue. Mr. Selzer stated that he does not understand why some of these issues come before the County Board. He asked what is full Federal funding for Veteran's healthcare. Mr. Dean replied that Mr. Jerry Vogler, Director, Veterans Assistance Commission, came before the Legislative Subcommittee and convinced the Subcommittee that it needed to act on this Resolution.

Mr. Selzer advised that he will vote "No" on this Resolution. He stated that he does not believe that all Veteran's should receive full healthcare. Mr. Selzer indicated that he defines full healthcare as getting all healthcare free for the rest of their lives. He stated that he does not believe this issue should be debated here in McLean County. Mr. Selzer added that it is a Federal issue, not a County issue.

Mr. Segobiano agreed with Mr. Selzer, but he believes some Veterans need full healthcare benefits. He asked Mr. Zeunik if the County really has any impact on some of these issues or is it simply a matter of supporting existing or new legislation.

Mr. Zeunik replied that this Resolution to support full Federal funding for Veteran's healthcare grew out of an effort by Lt. Governor Pat Quinn to encourage Counties to place an Advisory Referendum on the February primary ballot earlier this year. He indicated that Lt. Governor Quinn crafted language that was intended to let the Congress and the President know how the voters in Illinois felt about funding for Veterans' healthcare. Mr. Zeunik stated that Mr. Vogler recommended against placing it on the ballot as he felt it was a political stunt that had no value and would incur additional cost to add it to the ballot. Mr. Zeunik advised that McLean County decided not to place the advisory referendum on the ballot and the matter was referred to the Legislative Subcommittee.

Mr. Zeunik noted that Mr. Vogler spoke to the Legislative Subcommittee and recommended that Veterans' healthcare funding should not be subject to the whims of appropriation every year in Washington. Rather, Veterans' healthcare funding should be a federal mandate.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried with Mr. Selzer voting "No."

Mr. Dean presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board approving and adopting additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee recommendations to include funding for local Government road and bridge repairs in Capital Funding Programs.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board approving and adopting additional 2008 Legislative Subcommittee Recommendations to include Funding for Local Government Road and Bridge Repairs in Capital Funding Programs.

Mr. Selzer stated that this is an issue that affects McLean County and one which he supports.

Mr. Segobiano asked why this did not come through the Transportation Committee. Chairman Sorensen replied that this particular issue is Legislative in nature in that it is encouraging the Legislature and the Governor to pass a Capital Bill that includes funding for local government road and bridge repairs.

Mr. Gordon commented that this Resolution is directly related to what our State Legislature is doing, may do, can do. He pointed out that items d) and e) are less so. Mr. Gordon suggested that this is a basis for looking at what kinds of positions the County Board should support.

Mr. Dean advised that, based on the discussion held at the Legislative Subcommittee, the people who support the Second Amendment issue were concerned with our State Legislature enacting laws that would restrict people's rights in Illinois.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any further questions for the Legislative Subcommittee. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Dean.

Mr. David Selzer, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of the Resolution Establishing the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year.

Motion by Selzer/Bostic to recommend approval of a Resolution Establishing the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year 2009.

Mr. Selzer referred to a statement found under "12.27 Personnel" that states:

"To prepare for a potential reduction in the overall growth of County revenues as a result of the national economic slowdown and recognizing the need to manage staffing levels, the County Administrator is hereby directed to evaluate all current full-time equivalent staff levels in every County Office/Department and recommend adjustments in full-time equivalent levels."

Mr. Selzer commented that this means, in the next budget cycle, the County Administrator has been asked to justify all County positions. He advised that this Resolution does not mean there will be an employee freeze nor is it a potential lay-off for employees. It is simply a review of staffing levels.

Mr. Hoselton pointed out that the second paragraph on Page 39 begins as follows: "Every County Office/Department should review its Fiscal Year 2008 Full-Time Equivalent Staffing levels..." Mr. Hoselton would like to amend the Resolution to say "Every County Office/Department **shall** review..."

Chairman Sorensen asked if he is moving that as an amendment.

Motion by Hoselton/Segobiano to recommend approval of an Amendment to change the word **should** to **shall** on Page 39 of the Resolution Establishing the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year 2009.  
Motion Carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked for a vote on the original motion.

Motion Carried as amended.

Mr. Selzer presented a request for approval of a Resolution to authorize the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive Program.

Motion by Selzer/Owens to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive Program.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Selzer commented that there are some Department that will need to work very hard on succession planning.

Mr. Selzer presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board establishing the Annual Salary of the Circuit Clerk, Coroner, County Auditor and Recorder.

Motion by Selzer/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Establishing the Annual Salary of the Circuit Clerk, Coroner, County Auditor and Recorder.

Mr. Selzer advised that the salary increase was 4% in 2009 and 2010 and 4.5% in 2011 and 2012. He noted that all of the County non-union staff received a 2.5% across-the-board increase with an average step increase of 1.6% for a total of 4.1%. Mr. Selzer pointed out that the above rate increase does not exceed what any other employee receives and is less than union-represented positions.

Motion carried.

Mr. Selzer presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board setting Salaries of the Members of the McLean County Board.

Motion by Selzer/Segobiano to Recommend Approval  
of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board setting  
Salaries of the Members of the McLean County  
Board.

Mr. Selzer stated that this is following the trend established a few years ago putting in place a 2.5% raise for County Board Members. Mr. Gordon asked for a roll call.

Segobiano:	Yes
Gordon:	Yes
Owens:	No
Bostic:	No
Selzer:	Yes
Hoselton:	No
Dean:	Yes

Motion carried four to three.

Mr. Hoselton commented on item d) under "Items to be presented to the Board." He expressed concern about authorizing a salary above the maximum salary for an employee in the Recorder's Office. Mr. Hoselton indicated that this practice is becoming too prevalent within the County. He pointed out that the employee who receives a salary above the maximum salary is not always the best qualified. Mr. Hoselton stated that he does not believe an employee should receive a salary above the existing maximum salary. Mr. Selzer replied that he agrees with Mr. Hoselton. However, Mr. Selzer reported that this is a unique situation. He noted that an elected official has a budgeted dollar amount approved in the Adopted Budget. This item is budget neutral with no request for an additional appropriation. In addition, the salary increase is time-bound to end on December 1, 2008. Mr. Selzer explained that this is part of a transition plan in the Recorder's Office. Mr. Hoselton asked if the time limit is in the Resolution. Mr. Selzer replied that the time limit is included in the Resolution.

Mr. Owens reported that this issue was discussed very thoroughly at the Finance Committee meeting.

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

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Ben Owens presented a request for approval of the continuation of a Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant of \$4,110.00 for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Owens/Dean to Recommend Approval of the Continuation of a Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant of \$4,110.00 for the Sheriff's Department.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of the continuation of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Grant of \$22,176.00, Holiday Mobilization 2009, for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of the Continuation of an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Grant of \$22,176.00, Holiday Mobilization 2009, for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Selzer asked what is Holiday Mobilization. Mr. Zeunik explained that this grant allows the Sheriff's Department to hire back additional Deputies to patrol the County roads over specific holidays to increase DUI and traffic enforcement.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of First Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Office of the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of First Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and McLean County Office of the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court.  
Motion carried.

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

Mr. George Gordon, 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. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gordon.

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

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

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, reported that the Transportation 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. Hoselton.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, reminded the Committee that, during the preparation of the 2008 Budget, this Committee and the full Board approved his recommendation to delete the .80 full-time equivalent Human Resources Assistant and to add a .83 full-time equivalent Director of Administrative Services. Mr. Zeunik indicated that this change was made for two reasons. First, Ms. Lucretia Wherry the current Human Resources Assistant decided to be a full-time stay-at-home Mom, and, second, the position of Director of Administrative Services allows for succession planning in the Administrator's Office. Mr. Zeunik noted that Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, and he are both nearing retirement. The position of Director of Administrative Services was posted internally within the County, and it was advertised in *The Pantagraph* and on several websites that feature administrative positions in local government, including the *NACo Jobs* website and *Government Jobs*. Mr. Zeunik advised that 18 resumes were received, including resumes from four internal candidates. After interviewing six candidates, Mr. Zeunik announced that he is pleased to advise the Committee that Mr. Wasson has accepted the position as Director of Administrative Services.

Mr. Zeunik noted that Mr. Wasson brings 23 years of experience with County Government, including 22 years as the Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Wasson completed his Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Illinois in Springfield. Mr. Zeunik advised that, during his tenure with the County, Mr. Wasson has represented the County on several significant intergovernmental projects including the Greenways Study Group, the Historic Route 66 Bike Trail Linear Park and the McLean County Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. In addition, Mr. Wasson has worked on an interim basis in the Administrator's Office handling budget and personnel matters.

Mr. Zeunik stated that Mr. Wasson's extensive experience with the County, and his superb personnel and fiscal management skills as a department head are an excellent match for this position. He added that McLean County Government and the Board will be well served by adding Mr. Wasson as a key staff member

in the Administrator's Office. Mr. Zeunik asked the Executive Committee, as the oversight committee for the Administrator's Office, to join him in welcoming Mr. Wasson to his new position as Director of Administrative Services.

Mr. Selzer asked Mr. Zeunik if he would clarify the five areas that County Government should have authority over. Mr. Selzer indicated that he believes the five areas are: roads, courts, taxes, vital records and public health. Mr. Zeunik replied that those are the five general areas that he talks about when looking at the functions of County Government. Everything that the County Government does and is empowered to do as an agent of the State fits under one of those five categories.

Mr. Selzer requested that Mr. Zeunik prepare a statement on the purpose of County Government to share with Members of the County Board.

Ms. Bostic reported that last Thursday night was the McLean County Extension Foundation Board meeting. She noted that, by virtue of being on the County Board, she sits on the McLean County Extension Foundation Board. Ms. Bostic referred to the headlines in the news where the Governor had axed funding for Extension Programs state-wide. Ms. Bostic indicated that she asked Mr. Don Meyer, Extension Advisor, University of Illinois Extension, how much help was received from the University of Illinois (U of I) to get that turned around so the Governor would release the funding and get it flowing back out to the Extension offices. She advised that Mr. Meyer replied that no help was received from the U of I. In fact, Mr. Meyer told Ms. Bostic that the "powers that be" in the State Government had called the University of Illinois and told them to say nothing or their funding would be in jeopardy. Ms. Bostic indicated that the U of I called Don Meyer and told him not to speak to the press and he was not to convene a meeting of his Foundation Board to discuss the matter, but to say nothing or it could affect funding in the future. She advised that, by the time they sat down at the Thursday meeting, the Governor had backed off and said the funding would be released. Ms. Bostic indicated that she finds the entire issue very disturbing.

Ms. Bostic asked if the County's legislative lobbying group is doing anything. Chairman Sorensen replied that the people he has met with, including the lobbyists and other chairmen of County Boards who are members of Metro Counties, are all dumbfounded. He noted that our lobbyist, who is a fixture in Springfield for Metro Counties, referred to Springfield, that is, the legislative process, as the most dysfunctional legislature he has ever seen.

Minutes of the Executive Committee  
May 13, 2008  
Page Eleven

Ms. Bostic pointed out that Extension levies a property tax through the County. They will hold the requested levy at a cent and a half, and get their funding by those means. Ms. Bostic noted that the Extension Foundation dollars are invested through the University of Illinois and can be relied upon to take care of the budget gap. She stated that the Extension was told to budget for zero State matching dollars next year.

After a discussion, the Committee concurred that this issue is all politics.

Mr. Hoselton recommended that Members of the Committee watch a television program called "Illinois Lawmakers," which airs on Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. on Public Television.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional comments or questions.

Chairman Sorensen presented the April 30, 2008 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$380,383.66 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Minutes of the Executive Committee  
May 13, 2008  
Page Twelve

Motion by Hoselton/Selzer to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for April 30, 2008 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary