

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

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Members Gordon, Bostic and Selzer

Other Members Present: None

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: Ms. Michelle Anderson, Financial Reporting Specialist, County Auditor's Office

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the November 13, 2007 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 to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Owens/Renner to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments as recommended by the Chairman.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance Establishing the County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2008.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2008.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the Calendar Year 2008.

Motion by Renner/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the Calendar Year 2008.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (for SHOWBUS and Safe Havens Grants) – County Board.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance (for SHOWBUS and Safe Havens Grants) – County Board.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Ben Owens, Vice Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee brings three items for action to the Executive Committee. The first is a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Rural Public Transportation between McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties – Building and Zoning. Mr. Owens explained that this Agreement amends the Rural Public Transportation Intergovernmental Agreement to add DeWitt County.

Motion by Owens/Renner to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Rural Public Transportation between McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties – Building and Zoning.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the McLean County Law Library, McLean County and the McLean County Bar Association – Circuit Court.

Motion by Owens/Renner to Recommend Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the McLean County Law Library, McLean County and the McLean County Bar Association – Circuit Court.  
Motion carried.

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Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2007 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0102 (Dental Sealant Grant) – Health Department

Motion by Owens/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2007 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0102 (Dental Sealant Grant) – Health Department.  
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, reported that the Justice Committee brings several items for action to the Executive Committee. The first item is a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Circuit Court 0016.

Motion by Renner/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001 – Circuit Court 0016.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of the Illinois State Police Task Force Six Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Unit Grant #405220 – Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Renner/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Illinois State Police Task Force Six Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Unit Grant #405220 – Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Segobiano commented that he read an article in *The Pantagraph* indicating that the City of Bloomington is considering withdrawing from the Task Force Six. Mr. Zeunik replied that the City of Bloomington, at one time, considered pulling out of Task Force Six or some other entity to operate independently. He advised that he will find out the status of Bloomington's participation with Task Force Six. Mr. Zeunik noted that he will have a report before the Board Meeting.

Motion carried.

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Authorizing participation as a member in the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Response pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the County of McLean and the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association – E.M.A.

Motion by Renner/Nuckolls to recommend approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Authorizing participation as a Member in the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Response pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the County of McLean and the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association – E.M.A.

Mr. Hoselton asked for a review on this Resolution. Mr. Zeunik advised that this Resolution is patterned after the Illinois Law Enforcement Assistance System (ILEAS) and the Fire Department system, which is MABIS. He indicated that this provides the same sort of assistance for Emergency Management Agencies across the State.

Mr. Segobiano indicated that he talked with Bloomington and Normal Fire Fighters who feel that this Agreement is not a cohesive Agreement. He pointed out that, since the County dissolved the Emergency Squad, it appears that Bloomington, Normal and the rural Fire Departments are all working independently. Mr. Zeunik replied that this Agreement specifically has to do with the Emergency Management Agency. He stated that it formalizes the ability to provide mutual assistance between Counties. Mr. Zeunik added that this is already being done, absent this Agreement, in Macon County and other Counties where they have had weather related problems. This Agreement simply formalizes the assistance in terms of a separate Agreement for the Emergency Management Agencies.

Mr. Segobiano expressed concern that this will eventually cost the taxpayers money.

Chairman Sorensen asked for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

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

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen reported that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, Chairman Sorensen reported that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, reported that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee. He recommended that the members review the items that will be submitted to the Board next week.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, indicated that he had nothing to report to the Committee, but would answer any questions.

Under Other Business and Communications, Mr. Segobiano expressed concern regarding the Water Resource Study. He cited the water crisis in Georgia. Mr. Segobiano indicated that he is disturbed that the City of Bloomington is considering drilling wells within the corporate limits of the City as a source of water for the City, noting particular concern for the small communities in McLean County. Mr. Segobiano reminded the Committee that, in the archives, there is a Water Resource Study. He asked that the County Board be kept apprised on what is going on and what should be done with the Mahomet Aquifer.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that the Board be notified on the status of the long-range agreement between the three governmental bodies regarding water plans. He further recommended that a joint meeting be held between Bloomington, Normal and the County to discuss this situation and to determine a course of action.

Mr. Segobiano expressed a general unease that Bloomington is independently making decisions regarding water resources, Task Force Six, etc. He further expressed his belief that the County needs to be an equal partner with Bloomington and Normal on all of the Intergovernmental Agreements, including Task Force Six and the Water Resource Study. Mr. Segobiano also cited the East Side Bypass and the Enbridge Pipeline as potential issues facing the County. He noted that he distributed an article in the County Board member's mailboxes regarding the Enbridge Pipeline.

Mr. Hoselton advised that, several years ago, the County Association of Mayors was established. He stated that the City of Bloomington, at that time, wanted to connect the water supply of the rural communities to form a network. Mr. Hoselton advised that the Association of Mayors rejected the idea. He noted that several townships in the southwest part of the County organized their own Water Authorities. Mr. Hoselton agreed with Mr. Segobiano that the County has not been kept informed on ideas or decisions made by the City of Bloomington.

Mr. Segobiano informed the Committee that the Enbridge Pipeline is considering laying the pipeline underneath the Mackinaw River. He expressed concern on how this may affect the water supply.

Mr. Segobiano reiterated his desire that the County be treated as an equal partner with Bloomington and Normal.

Mr. Owens advised that, when he first came on the Board in 2000, he remembers attending Intergovernmental meetings held between Bloomington, Normal and the County. He noted that he was told by former Chairman Sweeney that "they" (unnamed) did not want to hold Intergovernmental meetings.

Chairman Sorensen expressed his appreciation for the comments. He pondered the amount of money that the McLean County taxpayers have poured into the cooperative water studies over the years with the vision that a regional water source would be developed.

Mr. Nuckolls asked if the water study was disbanded as far as the governments are concerned. Mr. Zeunik replied that the study continues and, each year, the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the County appropriate money to continue to have the Illinois Department of Natural Resources monitor the test wells that they drilled when they did their investigative study of the availability of water in the Mahomet Aquifer. Mr. Zeunik indicated that, each year, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources takes readings on the test wells and each year they update the report in terms of what they find in the recharge capacity and what the capability is of the Mahomet Aquifer. He stated that the reason nothing is moving forward on the Regional Water Study and the reason Bloomington is looking within the City for a water source is that the water authorities in Eastern Tazewell County and Western McLean County proposed a governmental structure that left the City, the Town and the County without a place at the table. He indicated that the water authorities declared that:

- They would provide the water;
- The City, Town and County must pay for the water;
- The City, Town and County could either help them treat the water or build their own water treatment plant;

- The City, Town and County would have no say in the governing structure.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the City of Bloomington found these conditions unacceptable. Since Bloomington would be the primary user as the Town of Normal does not need an additional water resource at this time, the Mayor and the City Manager decided they would not continue to negotiate with the water authorities. Mr. Zeunik stated that Bloomington, therefore, looked for other interim solutions that would give them an additional water supply.

Mr. Zeunik noted that the water authorities in Eastern Tazewell and Western McLean County do not have the ability to finance the development of the water system without a guaranteed contract from the City of Bloomington. He added that the only way the water authorities could go to the capital markets and issue bonds to build out the system is to have a guaranteed contract from a city the size of Bloomington who will buy millions of gallons of water every year. The City's position is that if they are going to be the primary customer, they should have some say in the operation and management of the water supply.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the City made an effort, prior to this, to consider building a regional water plant. The City needed commitments from all of the smaller municipalities to become customers, but the smaller communities were not interested. Mr. Lindberg added that the Town of Normal would like to have a regional sewer plant located downstream from them.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that the three governments, namely the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the County of McLean, need to sit down at a table, face to face, to make a decision. He noted that the City holds a trump card, namely money. He pointed out that many of the small communities in the area may be engulfed by the growth of Bloomington and Normal.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional comments. Hearing none, he presented the November 30, 2007 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Prepaid Total is \$223,569.30 and the fund total is the same.

Motion by Owens/Renner to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for November 30, 2007 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 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary