

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sweeney, Members Sorensen, Segobiano, Gordon, Bass, Renner, Hoselton, Nuckolls and Bostic

Members Absent: None

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

Other Members Present: None

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: None

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes from the December 12, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Renner/Bass to approve and place on file the minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented the Appointments, Reappointments and Resignation for approval.

Motion by Gordon/Renner to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and resignation as recommended by the Chairman.

Mr. Segobiano asked what is the Regional Planning Commission doing within the County. Mr. Zeunik replied that Regional Planning is currently updating the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is done every five years. He added that Regional Planning also reviews projects being considered in the County, specifically in terms of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Segobiano asked if the Town of Normal or the City of Bloomington planners are employees of the Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Zeunik replied that neither one are employees of the Planning Commission. He stated that Regional Planning has also completed Comprehensive Plans for a number of the rural cities, towns and villages, and they have assisted smaller communities in developing zoning ordinances.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented a request for approval of an Ordinance amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designating an Area Located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone."

Motion by Renner/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designating an Area Located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone."

Mr. Hoselton asked for an explanation of the phrase "...no fee shall exceed \$250,000.00." Mr. Zeunik explained that this is the change being proposed for adoption by the three local governments. Previously, the fee was based on the size of the project, such as the Wind Farm in eastern McLean County. As part of the Enterprise Zone application, there was a significant fee paid by the Wind Farm. Mr. Zeunik indicated that there was also a smaller project, the AFNI project, on the west side of town, which had the same fee schedule as the Wind Farm project. He stated that it became apparent that it is more appropriate for the fee to be based on the savings in State sales tax dollars and to put a cap on the fee so that it doesn't go above a certain amount.

Mr. Hoselton expressed concern with the amount of money that the Economic Development Council (EDC) will receive from the Enterprise Zone. He asked that the Executive Committee get a report from the EDC detailing their budget and how it is spent. Mr. Zeunik advised that the County has two board positions on the EDC Board. He also noted that the Chairman of the County Board and the mayors of Normal and Bloomington sit on the EDC Board as ex-officio members. Mr. Zeunik indicated that EDC provides a report to all members of the Board in terms of where EDC stands financially. He stated that the reports could be made available to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the three Enterprise Zone amendments that have been approved, to date, have helped EDC in terms of their cash flow and operation.

Mr. Zeunik reported that the EDC recently completed a campaign to obtain pledges from the business community to fund their operations. He stated that EDC raised approximately \$3.2 million in pledges over five years. Mr. Zeunik added that most of that money came from private business and commitments from the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, McLean County, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland College.

Mr. Hoselton asked how many salaried positions are there at EDC. Mr. Zeunik replied that EDC currently has four salaried positions. Mr. Hoselton requested that the Executive Committee receive a report on the salaries. Chairman Sweeney replied that EDC is preparing a report on their plans, including who has contributed and how the money will be spent. He offered to share the EDC monthly report with the Committee and will provide a yearly report on EDC personnel salaries.

Mr. Sorensen commented that, since the Chamber of Commerce and EDC split, the EDC is accumulating a larger amount of funds to assist economic development in comparison with the funds that the Chamber of Commerce receives to assist smaller businesses. Chairman Sweeney replied that the reason the two entities split up is that the Chamber was benefiting from the funding provided to the EDC.

Mr. Sorensen commented that the County has been wise in how the Enterprise Zone has been amended in the past. However, he expressed concern that, if we continue to stretch out the Enterprise Zone, there may not be any square footage left for future needs. Mr. Zeunik replied that, under current Illinois law, Counties are limited to 13 square miles in an Enterprise Zone. With the proposed addition currently being considered, we are still below the 13 square miles limit. It is expected that we will gain additional land back as the east side Wind Farm is constructed and as the legal description of that Enterprise Zone is further refined.

Mr. Zeunik advised that, last year, the County proposed to the Legislature that rather than having an Enterprise Zone defined by 13 square miles regardless of the size of the County, it be defined on a percentage of land area. He noted that McLean County is the largest County in land area in Illinois and our Enterprise Zone can be no larger than the Enterprise Zone in the smallest County in Illinois. Mr. Zeunik indicated that the County will once again pursue that change in Springfield this year.

Mr. Sorensen asked how much of the 13 square miles has been utilized, including the current request. Mr. Zeunik replied that we are currently at 12.82 square miles. He pointed out that the Horizon Wind Farm will be completed by the end of this year, at which time, they will release some of the square mileage used from the Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he has the same concerns as Mr. Hoselton and Mr. Sorensen. He is concerned that the Enterprise Zone area will be used up before future, potential projects are identified that might need to take advantage of the Enterprise Zone. Further, Mr. Segobiano expressed his desire that the rural areas of the County benefit from the funds the EDC is distributing. Chairman Sweeney assured Mr. Segobiano that the funds are benefiting all of McLean County. He reminded the Committee that the EDC Report will be shared with the Committee.

Mr. Gordon pointed out that the Enterprise Zone is currently at 12.82 square miles, which includes the .02 square miles that Normal is currently requesting. He stated that he believes there may be other areas within the Town of Normal that is anticipated to be included in their current request. Mr. Zeunik replied that Normal's request does include possible additional development which will occur in the uptown area of Normal.

Mr. Hoselton pointed out that the Carlock Wind Farm may be unable to be part of the Enterprise Zone unless mileage is refunded from the Horizon Wind Farm. Mr. Zeunik responded that if the Zoning Board and the County Board recommend approval, it is expected that Carlock Wind Farm will make a request to be part of the Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Segobiano asked what would happen if the request from Normal is denied. He suggested that the Enterprise Zone area be reserved for the potential use of the proposed Carlock Wind Farm should they make such a request in the future. Mr. Zeunik stated that, under the manner in which the Enterprise Zone was created in McLean County, if any one of the three local governments were to deny this request, the entire request would be denied.

Mr. Gordon asked how much territory would be required if the proposed Carlock Wind Farm were to be recommended by the ZBA and the County Board. Mr. Zeunik replied that a legal description has not yet been prepared and the Carlock Wind Farm has not requested an Enterprise Zone designation. He added that, without the legal description, it is impossible to know what square mileage would be needed.

Mr. Zeunik further noted that the Carlock Wind Farm does not yet have a Special Use to build the Wind Farm. Therefore, they cannot ask for something until they have the ability to proceed. Mr. Zeunik reviewed the process that needs to take place before the Carlock Wind Farm can be considered for the Enterprise Zone. He explained that, after the Zoning Board completes its hearings and depending upon the recommendation that the Zoning Board makes to the County Board, the County Board then acts. Mr. Zeunik indicated that if the County Board wants to pursue designating the Carlock Wind Farm as part of the Enterprise Zone, the Carlock Wind Farm must complete an application and file the application with EDC as the Enterprise Zone administrator. He explained that part of that application would be a detailed legal description that would identify all of the proposed locations for the wind turbines as well as any access needed to get to the turbines. This would then establish the proposed size that will then be weighed against the available Enterprise Zone mileage.

Mr. Hoselton asked how many square miles is the Town of Normal requesting. Mr. Zeunik replied that they are requesting .0289 square miles. Mr. Hoselton recognized that this is a very insignificant amount of square mileage and should not affect the potential request from the Carlock Wind Farm.

Mr. Sorensen asked if the figure can be made available on how much of the Enterprise Zone will be released by the east side Wind Farm that can be used for the Carlock Wind Farm or other projects.

Mr. Segobiano proposed that the following questions be answered before the current request is recommended for approval:

- How much of the Enterprise Zone will the Carlock Wind Farm need?
- How much of the Enterprise Zone will be available?
- How much of the Enterprise Zone will be released from the east side Wind Farm?

Ms. Bostic suggested that the developers of the Carlock Wind Farm contact representatives in the State Legislature to have the Legislation regarding Enterprise Zones changed.

Mr. Zeunik indicated that Horizon Wind Farm committed, as part of their application, that, as they develop the project in phases, they will go back and redefine legal descriptions to release land that could be used for the Enterprise Zone. Mr. Zeunik stated that he can provide that information to the Committee.

Mr. Segobiano expressed his opinion that the Carlock Wind Farm must succeed.

Mr. Renner stated that approving the small amount of square mileage that has been requested from the Town of Normal will not make or break the Carlock Wind Farm's success as a potential Enterprise Zone applicant.

Mr. Zeunik advised that the prospective Wind Farm in Carlock is a very contentious project with many detractors. He indicated that the locations may be modified from their current specifications. Mr. Zeunik reiterated that it is very premature to even speculate what the final project may look like.

Chairman Sweeney asked for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried, with member Segobiano voting
"present."

Chairman Sweeney presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement creating and operating an Enterprise Zone in McLean County.

Motion by Sorensen/Bostic to Recommend Approval
of a Resolution of the McLean County Board
Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental
Agreement Creating and Operating an Enterprise
Zone in McLean County.
Motion carried with member Segobiano voting
"present."

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any further questions or comments. There were none.

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

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Bass.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman, Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, reported that the Justice Committee brings one item for action to the Executive Committee, namely a request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the FY'2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Purchase of a vehicle -- EMA.

Motion by Renner/Nuckolls to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Purchase of a Vehicle – EMA.

Mr. Segobiano expressed his concern that an Emergency Appropriation for \$50,000.00 be requested this soon after the FY'2007 budget was approved. He indicated that he felt that negotiations should have been conducted between EMA and the Administrator's Office on the EMA's budget to accommodate the purchase of a truck. Further, he expressed his belief that the 38 year old truck and the 22 year old truck are not outdated. Mr. Zeunik replied that the expense of the truck was not considered in the EMA budget because the truck was not for sale at that time. He stated that had the truck been available when the budget was being prepared, the budget would have been amended to include the purchase of the truck. Mr. Zeunik concurred with Mr. Segobiano's concern about the timing of the budget amendment. However, he added that he believes the value added to the County by replacing a 1968 vehicle and a 1984 vehicle with a 1990 vehicle is greater than the consideration of having to make a budget amendment in January.

There was a lengthy discussion on the value of maintaining a Rescue Squad within McLean County versus disbanding the Rescue Squad. Ms. Bostic suggested that the local and rural police and fire departments have sufficient equipment and training to take care of any emergencies.

Mr. Zeunik reported that the Rescue Squad as an entity within the County Budget was abolished in 2006 and assumed under ESDA, which is now EMA. He stated that Mr. Hawk is recommending that the purchase of the new Emergency Management vehicle (EMA vehicle) is the next step in that process. This vehicle will be used to provide complementary services that are still needed in the community and still used by other agencies in the community, but not the services currently being provided by the local and rural fire departments.

Ms. Bostic requested that the Committee be given a report on how often the fire districts ask for the assistance of the EMA vehicle.

Mr. Sorensen asked that this motion be tabled until such a time when the Committee can obtain the EMA vehicle run log for the last 12 months.

Mr. Renner recognized the concerns expressed by members of the Committee. However, he advised that the Justice Committee recommended approval to purchase the vehicle partly because the Rescue Squad was abolished and the assistance now being offered by the EMA is under the leadership of Mr. Hawk.

Mr. Hoselton asked who owns the Command Center vehicle. Mr. Lindberg replied that the vehicle is managed by EMA, but it is assigned to both Livingston and McLean County. He stated that this new EMA vehicle would be a complement to the Command Vehicle.

Chairman Sweeney asked Mr. Sorensen if he would like to make a motion to have this request sent back to the Justice Committee.

Motion by Sorenson/Segobiano to Recommend that the Request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Purchase of a Vehicle for EMA be sent back to the Justice Committee.

Motion carried.

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

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. He announced that Item E.1)a) will not be presented to the Board on Tuesday, January 16th because the Public Hearing has been carried over to the February Committee meeting.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions or comments. 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 Sweeney asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

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Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator stated that he had no items to present to the Committee.

Chairman Sweeney presented the December 31, 2006 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Prepaid Total is \$312,695.79 and the fund total is the same.

Motion by Sorensen/Segobiano to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for December 31, 2006 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 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary