

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

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

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: Mr. Eric Ruud, First Assistant State's Attorney; Mr. Gene Asbury and Mr. Paul Young

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes from the February 8, 2005 Executive Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Bostic/Bass to approve and place on file the minutes of the February 8, 2005 meeting.  
Motion carried

Chairman Sweeney announced that there are no reappointments, appointments or resignations.

Chairman Sweeney presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming the Week of April 10-16, 2005 as National County Government Week: Honoring County Heroes.

Motion by Renner/Berglund to Recommend approval of the Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming the Week of April 10-16, 2005 as National County Government Week: Honoring County Heroes.  
Motion carried.

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Chairman Sweeney presented a request for approval of a Resolution Approving and Adopting the 2005 Legislative Program. He announced that the Legislative Committee met on Monday, March 7. Chairman Sweeney noted that four of the six State Representatives and State Senators attended the Breakfast, including Representative Dan Brady, Representative Shane Cultra, Representative Keith Sommer and Senator Bill Brady. He stated that the idea, presented by Mr. Zeunik during the budgeting process regarding the Property Tax Reduction Initiative, was well received by the four individuals. Even though it would not go on the Legislative Agenda for 2005, the Legislative Group agreed to look at the proposal throughout the year to see if the initiative can garner support. Chairman Sweeney stated that the initiative mirrors the change in State law that reduced the General Fund maximum tax rate from \$.28 to the current rate of \$.25 in exchange for a ¼ cent sales tax in the incorporated areas and a 1 cent sales tax in the unincorporated areas. The request now is to take it from \$.25 to \$.21 in exchange for an additional ¼ cent sales tax. Chairman Sweeney indicated that he would also share this proposal with Metro-Counties.

Motion by Gordon/Renner to Recommend Approval of  
the Resolution Approving and Adopting the 2005  
Legislative Program.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Matt Sorensen presented a request to approve a Resolution to Amend the Rules of the County Board of McLean County as submitted by the Rules Subcommittee. He advised that the Rules Subcommittee met several times and is requesting approval of a series of amendments to the Rules of the McLean County Board.

Motion by Gordon/Renner to Recommend Approval of  
a Resolution to Amend the Rules of the County Board  
of McLean County.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney asked Mr. Eric Ruud, Assistant State's Attorney, to clarify the informational item regarding the appointment to the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority.

Mr. Ruud indicated that he will discuss the legal authority for the County Board in appointing commissioners to the Airport Authority and about the legal history behind the creation of the Airport Authority. Under the Statute dealing with the appointment of Boards of Commissioners for Airport Authorities, a lot of the authority depends upon the size of the County's population and how many cities, towns and villages there are within the boundaries of the Airport Authority.

Mr. Ruud stated that McLean County's authority for appointments is located under Section B of 3.1 of the Appointment Statute for Airport Authorities. The Authority says that where there are two or more municipalities within the corporate boundaries of an Airport Authority (which is the case with Bloomington and Normal), then one commissioner is appointed by Normal, one by Bloomington, one commissioner is appointed from the areas within the Airport Authority that are located outside of the municipalities, two commissioners are appointed at-large, which means they can be appointed from Bloomington, Normal or the unincorporated areas. Mr. Ruud noted that the Administrator's Office had received calls from people interested in being appointed who said that they live in the unincorporated territories. He explained that does not mean all of McLean County, but rather that you would have to live within the unincorporated, non-city, non-town territory, but within the boundaries of the Airport Authority.

Mr. Ruud explained that, out of the five commissioners, the County can appoint three and two can be "at-large." Mr. Ruud referred to the original court file from 1964 that created the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority. The petition was filed in court before the Honorable Associate Judge Wayne C. Townley. Judge Townley entered an order fixing the boundaries of the proposed Airport Authority District. Those boundaries, by court order of March 12, 1964, were all of Bloomington, all of Normal and the legally described unincorporated territory. After Judge Townley identified the proposed boundaries of the new Airport Authority in 1964, he directed that a referendum be held. Once the proponents of the Airport filed their petition thereby creating a court case, the court ordered that an election be held. The order created a polling place for that small unincorporated territory to vote on the issue of whether or not to create the Airport Authority.

The judge ordered that a ballot be created to vote on whether or not to establish the Airport Authority and he ordered that an election be held on Tuesday, April 14, 1964. The results of the election were obtained and presented to Judge Townley who, on April 27, 1964, certified the election results approving the establishment of the Airport Authority and identified, in his court order, that certain unincorporated territories lying outside of the districts shall be part of the described territory. Mr. Ruud identified the very small, two-block area described as the territory lying outside of the municipalities. It was specifically created, by the court, that it should be all of Bloomington, all of Normal and that small area called Colonial Meadows subdivision.

Mr. Ruud indicated that the territory was created intentionally to be that small section. Mr. Renner asked if it was such a small area because of the subsequent incorporation of the adjoining areas since then.

Chairman Sweeney stated that one of the current Airport Commissioners lives in Colonial Meadows. That individual is up for re-appointment or he may resign. If he resigns, an appointment for his seat must come from that small two-block area. Chairman Sweeney reported that he has asked Representative Dan Brady and Senator Bill Brady to go to the House and Senate with a new Bill to ask that the State law regarding the appointment be changed. He noted that Metro Counties is supporting the Bill, as well as Bill Anderson, the County Lobbyist.

Mr. Zeunik stated that the only other Airport Authority that meets the same criteria as McLean County is Coles County. When the Coles County Airport Authority was established, the Airport Authority encompassed the entire County, so the unincorporated area outside of the two municipalities was the balance of the County. Therefore, our proposed Legislation will have no impact on them.

Mr. Zeunik explained that the proposed Legislation will permit the County Board Chairman to recommend to the County Board three appointments to come from anywhere within the corporate boundaries of the Airport Authority. It would eliminate the exclusive appointment from the one area, which remains the only area not annexed to the City or the Town but included in the petition back in 1964. The property owners who live there are the only residents in unincorporated McLean County who pay taxes to the Airport Authority but do not pay taxes to Bloomington or Normal. Mr. Zeunik noted that, after researching all of the properties in McLean County which do not pay taxes to Bloomington or Normal but pay taxes to the Airport Authority, he found that most of the properties are vacant lots, businesses or rental properties. The pool to draw from for an appointment is, therefore, restricted to this one two-block area.

Chairman Sweeney recommended that this vacant appointment be tabled for a month or two to see what happens in Springfield with the proposed change to the law. He stated that he believes it is imperative to get the law changed.

Mr. Gordon asked what the timeline is on the current Airport Authority member's term. Chairman Sweeney replied that the term ends in April, but the commissioner can serve as long as necessary until the law can be changed.

Ms. Bostic asked what the rationale was with the judge in 1964 not to tax all of McLean County for the Airport. Mr. Ruud replied that it was in the province of the petitioners to decide the size and shape of their boundaries.

Mr. Segobiano expressed his support of the proposal but shared his concern that the proposal did not go to the full Board for action and approval before it was placed in the hands of the State legislators in Springfield. Chairman Sweeney replied that there was a time limitation and he made the decision to proceed with the proposal.

Mr. Duffy Bass, Chairman, Transportation Committee reported that the Transportation Committee has no items for action.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman, Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee has no items for action. He pointed out to the Committee the informational item regarding the McLean County Board Rescinding the Accelerated Method of Property Tax Billing and Approving and Adopting the Method of preparing one Final Property Tax Bill. Mr. Sorensen advised that it has been a goal for many years to get to a point where a final tax bill can be calculated in time for the Spring billing cycle as opposed to processing a Spring bill and a Fall bill. He acknowledged the team work done by County offices to meet this goal. Mr. Sorensen stated that this change will save the County \$25,000-\$30,000 a year in handling costs.

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

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee presented five items for action. He presented a request for approval of an Emergency approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160 – State’s Attorneys Office 0020.

Motion by Renner/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160.  
Motion carried

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160 – Court Services 0022.

Motion by Renner/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2005 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Domestic Violence Grant Fund 0160 – Court Services Department 0022.  
Motion carried.

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Mr. Renner presented a request for approval of a Resolution transferring monies from the General Fund 0001 to the COPS in Schools Fund 0166 for Fiscal Year 2004 – Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Hoselton asked what school is involved in the COPS Program. Mr. Lindberg replied that when the grant was received in 2000, they solicited proposals from schools. At that time, Tri-Valley and Olympia schools expressed an interest. When it was finalized, the Olympia Schools had withdrawn and Tri-Valley was the only school in the program. Mr. Lindberg indicated that the year described in the Resolution is the final year of the program. When the Federal Funds ended, the County had an obligation to retain the officer in the school for one more year, which is the cost reflected in the Resolution.

Motion by Renner/Berglund to Recommend Approval of the Resolution Transferring Monies from the General Fund 0001 to the COPS in Schools Fund 0166 for Fiscal Year 2004 – Sheriff's Department.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to raise community awareness during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). This grant is to be used to set up a booth at the Eastland Mall on April 16, 2005 to educate people on victims' rights.

Motion by Renner/Gordon to Approve a Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to Raise Community Awareness during National Crime Victims' Week (NCVRW).  
Motion carried

Mr. Renner presented a request for approval to apply for a Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency – ESDA.

Motion by Renner/Bostic to Approve the request from ESDA to apply for an Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IMEA) Disaster Assistance and Preparedness Grant.  
Motion carried

Mr. Renner informed the Committee that the Circuit Clerk would like to install an ATM machine on the third floor to provide an opportunity for customers to get cash to pay their court obligations.

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Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee reported that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no action items to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Gordon. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Ms. Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee presented three items for action. Ms. Bostic presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Requesting the Public Building Commission of McLean County to Approve Financing for the Remodeling of certain areas of the McLean County Law and Justice Center – County Administration.

Motion by Bostic/Sorensen to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board Requesting the Public Building Commission of McLean County to Approve Financing for the Remodeling of certain areas of the McLean County Law and Justice Center.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic presented a request for approval to apply for an Illinois Conservation Foundation Grant – Parks and Recreation.

Motion by Bostic/Hoselton to Approve a Request to Apply for an Illinois Conservation Foundation Grant.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic presented a request for approval to apply for an Illinois Special Wildlife Funds Grant – Parks and Recreation.

Motion by Bostic/Bass to Approve a Request to Apply for an Illinois Conservation Foundation Grant.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic indicated that Mr. Gene Asbury was available to show the plans for the proposed renovations of the Law and Justice Center.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Ms. Bostic. Hearing none, he thanked her.

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Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator reported that he has nothing to report to the Committee.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions for Mr. Zeunik. Hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman Sweeney presented the February 28, 2005 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The fund total for the month is \$200,613.28 with the prepaid total the same.

Motion by Renner/Berglund to approve the Executive Committee bills for February 28, 2005 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.



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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