

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Members Cavallini, Nuckolls, Kalapp, Moss, Dean, Owens

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Christine Northcutt, County Administrator's Assistant

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services

Others Present: None

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes of the October 14, 2003 Executive Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Bass/Berglund to approve and place on file the minutes of the October 14, 2003 meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented reappointments, appointments and one resignation for which the Committee's advice and consent is sought.

Motion by Renner/Berglund to recommend approval of the reappointments, appointments and resignation as recommended by the Chairman. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney informed the Committee that the next item is the introduction and presentation by candidates seeking appointment to the County Board Seat in District #4. There are three applicants, the first is former State Representative Gordon Ropp.

Mr. Ropp informed the Committee that he is delighted to have the opportunity to come before the Committee this evening. Mr. Ropp stated that he offers some unique experience, having served four years in the Executive Branch of State Government and 14 years in the Legislative Branch of the State of Illinois.

Mr. Ropp continued that he has been involved in community activities. Mr. Ropp advised the committee that he has been a 4H Leader for quite some time. Mr. Ropp informed the Committee that he is also a land owner, a former farmer and a tax payer. Mr. Ropp noted that he feels that there is a tremendous opportunity in State and Local Government. He explained that he was somewhat intrigued with this position because he noticed that when the last vacancy occurred, it seemed that there were very few people who were interested. In summation, he noted that he has a commitment to good government and the need for qualified individuals to step forward to be a part of the governmental process. He stated that the Committee may be interested in one other items which is a bill which took two years to draft. This bill put all of the County Government statutes in one chapter of the statutes. He stated that he was the sponsor of that bill. He welcomed any questions that the Committee may have.

Mr. Owens asked Mr. Ropp what subcommittees he served on in the State Legislature. Mr. Ropp replied that in 14 years there were a number of them. Mr. Ropp noted that he served on the Agriculture Committee, (Chairman), Minority Spokesman, Executive Committee, Appropriations Committee, State Government Committee, and Higher Education Committee. He noted that those are the few that he can recall at this time. There were no other questions for Mr. Ropp at this time.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next candidate is Mr. David Hole. Mr. Hole thanked Chairman Sweeney and Members of the Committee. Mr. Hole stated that he would like to take this opportunity to address the Committee, as an applicant for the County Board Seat in District #4. Mr. Hole noted that he will be informing the Committee of who he is, why he is applying for this position and how he can serve the citizens of McLean County. Mr. Hole advised the Committee that he has lived in a few other communities other than Bloomington and Normal. He has called Normal, McLean County, home since 1998. After graduating from MacArthur High School, in Decatur, Illinois, Mr. Hole noted that he entered the United States Army and spent 23 years working as a personnel manager, a team chief and a senior non-commissioned officer. While he was in the service, his wife, Chris and his two children had the opportunity to live in some small rural areas, some suburban areas and some large metropolitan areas, such as Washington, D.C. They were able to see in those different communities, how different groups of people would come together and function as a community. As he prepared to retire from the Army and began to look for a place to call home. Mr. Hole and his wife took many things into consideration, such as crime rate, schooling, employment opportunities and cost of living. Of all of their choices, they chose Normal and McLean County. They have made new friends and have a church home and are involved in community activities.

Mr. Hole stated that recently, while helping manage the Republican Campaign for the County Board Seat, he had the opportunity to learn a bit more about the Board and began to appreciate the active role that the Board has taken in areas of the County, such as the growth and development of the County, holding taxes steady in the face of increasing costs, and addressing some of the emergency communication needs of the County. Mr. Hole informed the Committee that what drew him to apply for the Board Seat was that the Board seemed to be genuinely interested in solving the issues in the best interest of the people of the County.

Mr. Hole noted that his 23 years of government service has given him a diverse background and a wide range of experience. Mr. Hole stated that some of his achievements in the military and now at State Farm Insurance have involved working with diverse groups of people coming together as a group, forming a consensus and recommending an effective solution. Mr. Hole explained that he is proud of some of the decorations and achievements that he has received over the years, but they are testaments to the abilities and accomplishments that groups of people achieve. He is grateful to contribute to those efforts, but he realizes that they are never a one-man show, they are a group effort.

Mr. Hole noted that public service is a big part of his life. Since the early days of deciding to join the army, throughout his career, he has found ways to volunteer his time and abilities for good causes no matter where he was. Mr. Hole stated that he looks forward to doing the work of McLean County, and contributing his background and experiences, learning from others on the Board and helping realize all of the great possibilities of the County.

Chairman Sweeney asked the Committee if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Hole for his time.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the last candidate is Ms. Ann Harding. Ms. Harding stated that she does not have a prepared speech this evening. She welcomes questions from the Committee. Ms. Harding stated that she was pleased to be asked to submit her name for consideration for this position. Ms. Harding informed the Committee that she works at Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) and has been there for 16 years. Her position is to help students prepare for interviews and she noted that she is a bit uncomfortable being on the other side. She stated that she has been a member of the community since 1969 and her resume outlines her community service.

Ms. Harding stated that she participates in a lot of community service on a smaller scale through organizations such as the Red Cross and the Easter Seals. At every graduation ceremony at IWU, former president, Mr. Minor Meyers' advice to the graduates was always: *"Go forth and do well, but more importantly, go forth and do good"*. Ms. Harding stated that she has always taken that to heart and every year, after

the ceremony she thinks about how she could add to the community and this opportunity seems to be the next level. Ms. Harding informed the Committee that she has no experience politically and no political agenda. She stated that serving on the Board is a step that she can take to do good for the County.

Chairman Sweeney asked if there were any questions. Mr. Hoselton stated that in reading Ms. Harding's bio, it appears that she has a pretty full agenda. Mr. Hoselton asked where will County Government fit in with her list of activities. Ms. Harding replied that she has always stood by, God first, family second, job third, so the County would probably be fourth on the list. Ms. Harding noted that some of the community involvement goes along with her job and some of the projects are completed. She noted that she understands that there are meeting commitments and as her students say, she will schedule the meetings on her day planner and be prepared for them.

Chairman Sweeney thanked Ms. Harding.

The next item on the agenda is a request for approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for former Board Member Susie Johnson.

Motion by Gordon/Berglund to recommend approval of a Resolution of Appreciation for former Board Member Susie Johnson. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next three items are from Information Services and he invited Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, to present each item.

Mr. Nelson stated that the first item is a request for approval of a contract with Bloomington Computer Services (BCSC) to assist Information Services with the implementation of the Windows 2003 system. They were awarded a contract to help design this system and Information Services would like to use them for the implementation.

Motion by Hoselton/Sorensen to recommend approval of a contract with BCSC for implementation of the Windows 2003 system. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson stated that the next item is a request to discard proposals received and to issue a new Request For Proposal (RFP) for a property tax administration system. Mr. Nelson apologized to the Committee because he inadvertently included language from a former RFP as he was building a new one. It excluded some language that we would like to have included. As a result, Mr. Nelson stated that he needs approval to discard the proposals that he received and issue a new RFP.

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Motion by Hoselton/Renner to recommend approval of the request to discard proposals received for the property tax administration system and to issue a new RFP. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson stated that the next item is a request to purchase Microsoft Licensing for the aforementioned Windows 2003 conversion under the Government Services Administration (GSA) contract.

Motion by Bass/Gordon to recommend approval to purchase Microsoft Licensing for the Windows 2003 under the GSA Contract. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney thanked Mr. Nelson. Chairman Sweeney stated that the next item on the agenda is a report from the Rules Subcommittee. He turned it over to Mr. Sorensen.

Mr. Sorensen stated that the Rules Subcommittee met this month at the request of the Executive Committee to consider a request from WJBC, News Director, Colleen Reynolds regarding the use of the audio system for all County Board Oversight Committee Meetings. As a result of that meeting, the Administrator has prepared a Resolution that the Rules Committee feels is a workable solution in terms of reasonable expectations for County Government and, at the same time, is fiscally responsible.

Motion by Sorensen/Gordon to recommend approval of a Resolution Approving the use of County Board Room Audio System at Oversight Committee Meetings.

Mr. Hoselton stated that in looking at the proposal and in speaking with personnel who handle this facility, he would recommend that this proposal be deferred until the County Offices move into the Government Center. If these meetings are held after 4:30 p.m., Mr. Newby will have to set the audio system up and have someone to man the system. Chairman Sweeney asked if there was any other discussion.

Ms. Bostic stated that since the members of the press have approached this Committee, she feels compelled to note that she finds it offensive when they walk into a meeting 10 –15 minutes after a meeting starts and ambush members of a Committee as they exit a meeting.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he would like to echo what the other members have stated. He commented that the County is being asked to supplement the media's workforce. His concern is the additional cost that the County will incur to accommodate their lack of workforce.

Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Zeunik if he would brief the Committee on the monetary issues that the Rules Committee discussed. Mr. Zeunik stated that he informed the Rules Committee that the sound system used in the County Board room is an old system, which was purchased when the County Board was still located in the Old Courthouse. The batteries for the microphones need to be charged 24 hours prior to their use. That is the reason for the 24 hour notice requirement in the Resolution. Secondly, it is sometimes difficult to find replacement batteries because of the age of the system. Those are the major issues. The County needs to be notified in advance so that Mr. Newby can prepare the equipment for use. Because of the age of the system it has been standard operating procedure at the Executive Committee Meeting, the County Board Meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeals and Coroner's Inquest Meeting to have the use of the audio equipment and a member of the Facilities Management staff available to monitor the system during those meetings.

Mr. Zeunik stated that the cost becomes a factor when the meetings run beyond the 40 hour work week. Most of the Committee meetings begin before the end of a normal work day with the exception of the Justice Committee, Land Use and Development Committee and the Executive Committee.

Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Zeunik if, at the Rules Committee Meeting, it was made clear by Ms. Reynolds, that the intent is not to use audio equipment at every Committee Meeting, but that it would only be requested when there was a topic on the agenda that the media was interested in covering. Mr. Zeunik replied that is correct. Mr. Zeunik stated that Ms. Reynolds admitted that she is aware that WJBC does not attend all Oversight Committee Meetings. She was hoping that if there is an item on the agenda that they view as being newsworthy, they would notify the County, not less than 24 hours before the meeting, that they would be attending and the County would set up the audio for that particular meeting. Mr. Gordon added that he felt that they intended to make this request infrequently. Chairman Sweeney stated that is what they are saying now, but what if they change in the future to every meeting.

Mr. Renner stated that when he first heard of this request, he wondered how the media outlets decided whether or not they would make a request for audio. Chairman Sweeney stated that they would be reviewing the agendas in advance and then making that determination. Mr. Renner stated that they could, in fact, request audio at every meeting. Chairman Sweeney stated that is correct.

Mr. Zeunik asked Mr. Newby what is the cost for the batteries. Mr. Newby replied that Facilities Management buys new batteries once a year at \$37.00 - \$38.00 per battery.

Mr. Sorensen stated that most of these issues were talked about at the Rules Committee Meeting. They even discussed the need for the Government Center's Board Room to be wired for sound.

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Mr. Sorensen stated there is nothing in this Resolution about the County taping these meetings. The intent is only to assist the media in receiving a clear, audible signal to rebroadcast on the radio. The Rules Committee did not recommend approval of the original request, which was to provide audio at all Oversight Committee Meetings. This Resolution is a compromise.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he wanted this to be delayed for a month in order to receive a cost analysis from the County Administrator.

Chairman Sweeney stated there is a motion on the floor to approve. He asked Mr. Zeunik to call the roll.

Member Bostic	"No"
Member Berglund	"No"
Member Gordon	"Yes"
Member Hoselton	"No"
Member Bass	"Yes"
Member Renner	"Yes"
Member Segobiano	"No"
Member Sorensen	"Yes"

Chairman Sweeney stated that because he has to break the tie, he would like the record to be clear. He is voting "yes" because he would like for the full Board to make the decision at the County Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 18th.

Motion carried by a vote of 5 – 4.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next item is a request to approve a Resolution of Congratulations for the 2003 University High School Boys Golf Team that won the State Championship.

Motion by Bass/Gordon to recommend approval of a Resolution of Congratulations for the 2003 University High School Boys Golf Team that won the State Championship. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney moved on to the Committee reports.

Mr. Duffy Bass, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, stated that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action at this time.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, brings no items for action at this time.

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman of the Justice Committee, stated that the Justice Committee brings one item for action. That item is a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the McLean County State's Attorney's Office for the IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program.

Motion by Renner/Sorensen to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the McLean County State's Attorney's Office for the IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program. Motion carried.

Mr. Renner stated that there are no other items for Committee action. There we no questions for Mr. Renner.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee, stated that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no items for action.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman of the Property Committee, stated that the Property Committee brings two items for action. The first item is a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Facilities Management, Department 0041 – Health Department Building 0046.

Motion by Bostic/Berglund to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2003 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Facilities Management, Department 0041 – Health Department Building 0046. Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic stated that the second item is a request to approve a Watercraft Lease Agreement with Illinois State University for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Motion by Bostic/Hoselton to recommend approval a Watercraft Lease Agreement with Illinois State University for the Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic stated that the remaining items will go before the Board.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he has a question regarding the bids for the sale of the McBarnes Building. The sale of the building exceeded all expectations and he wondered if

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the County Administrator could put together a cost analysis for discussion on the floor of the Board regarding using a portion of the proceeds of the sale for the Electronic Monitoring System that has been discussed for so long in McLean County. This would not burden the taxpayers. This is an unexpected source of revenue, which might be viewed as a one-time grant to help alleviate the over-crowding in the jail.

Mr. Renner stated that, for the Committee's information, the Justice Committee is nearly \$50,000.00 short for funding a six month program.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next item is the report of the County Administrator.

Mr. Zeunik stated that at the November Executive Committee Meeting the Recommended Budget for the County Board is presented. Historically, this is the last budget considered. The Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget includes revenue in the amount of \$14,591,532.00, which represents a 2.3% increase over the prior year and expenses of \$1,262,174.00, which represents an increase of 13.71% over Fiscal Year 2003. Included in your agenda packet is a summary of the significant changes in both revenue line items as well as the reflection of a new grant received during the current Fiscal Year which will continue into Fiscal Year 2004. It accounts for a large part of the increase in expenses next year. There is also a summary of the major changes in the expense lines that are reflected in the Recommended Budget for 2004. As previously noted, when the budget was presented in September, McLean County, like many other local governments, finds it necessary to increase our property tax levy in the General Fund to offset reductions in State funding. We anticipate a reduction of \$250,000.00 in State Income Tax Revenue which is a direct result of the budget negotiations in Springfield, wherein the Governor's Staff recommended and the Legislature enacted a new formula that reduces the amount coming to Local Governments through the Local Government Income Tax Distributive Fund. Local Governments throughout Illinois expect to see a 9% decrease as a result of this action. Personal Property Replacement Tax dollars will be down, which is more a reflection of the slow economy. In Illinois, in particular, we continue to see major employers who have yet to rehire employees who were reduced or laid-off and we see other employers continue to make further cuts, in terms of their employment force. Major contract expenses that continue in the County Board's Budget are the commitment to the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center. The County's share is based on the Intergovernmental Agreement, and that number is up very slightly. Mr. Zeunik noted that he would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Mr. Gordon asked if the projected \$40,000.00 cut in the inheritance tax revenue appears to be in line with what has been collected thus far this year.

Mr. Zeunik stated that line item is nearly impossible to project. Part of the problem is that in a number of instances, it is not unusual to see increases in revenue reported in the last quarter of the fiscal year. In August, during the preparation of the

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Recommended Budget, the \$60,000.00 looked appropriate based on what had been collected through the first six months of the year and in reviewing the past 3 – 4 years.

Motion by Sorensen/Renner to tentatively approve the County Board's FY 2004 Recommended budget as submitted. Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that in their packets, there is the Consideration of the Revised Recommended Fiscal Year 2004 Departmental Budgets and the Revised Property Tax Levy for 2003, which reflects changes made by the Oversight Committees during Committee deliberations. On Sunday, November 9th a notice of a proposed property tax levy increase was published in *The Pantagraph* consistent with Truth in Taxation requirements under Illinois Law. We are required to publish a Truth in Taxation Notice when our Property Tax Levy increases by 5% or more. The Board will also be required to hold a public hearing prior to the County Board Meeting next Tuesday, November 18th. Mr. Zeunik noted that he is pleased to acknowledge that, if you have been following the Truth in Taxation Notices that appear in *The Pantagraph*, McLean County has done a relatively good job, even though our tax levy is up 5.2%. The Oversight Committees have done a good job in terms of holding the line on spending in the Fiscal Year 2004 Recommended Budget.

Chairman Sweeney stated that he would turn it over to Vice-Chairman Sorensen for the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee Budgets.

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Executive Committee as submitted. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Finance Committee with the exception of the Bloomington Election Commission. Motion carried.

Mr. Segobiano asked if the Bloomington Election Commission was left out because of the usual objection by the Finance Committee. Chairman Sweeney replied that is correct. Mr. Sorensen informed the Committee that the Finance Committee advanced the Bloomington Election Commission's Budget without recommendation. This is done as an annual protest because the County Board has no control over this budget, but is required by law to fund it.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next item is the Justice Committee and Chairman Renner.

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Motion by Renner/Sorensen to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Justice Committee as amended. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney stated that next item is the Land Use and Development Committee and Chairman Gordon.

Motion by Gordon/Renner to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Land Use and Development Committee as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney stated that the next item is the Property Committee and Chairman Bostic.

Motion by Bostic/Berglund to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Property Committee as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney noted that the last item is consideration of the Transportation Committee and Chairman Bass.

Motion by Bass/Sorensen to recommend tentative approval of the Departmental Budgets under the Oversight of the Transportation Committee as presented. Motion carried.

The remainder of the budgetary items will be handled by Vice-Chairman Sorensen.

Motion by Sorensen/Renner to recommend approval of the Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, as recommended by the Oversight Committees. Motion carried. Member Hoselton voted "No".

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to recommend approval of the 2003 Property Tax Levy Ordinance. Motion carried. Member Hoselton voted "No".

Motion by Sorensen/Renner to recommend approval of the

Amendment to the Full Time Equivalent Resolution
for Fiscal Year 2004. Motion carried.

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Motion by Sorensen/Bostic to recommend approval of the
Five Year Capital Improvement Budget as recommended by
the Oversight Committees. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented the bills as recommended and transmitted by the County
Auditor for payment. The fund total for this month is \$194,340.23.

Motion by Bostic/Sorensen to recommend approval of the
Bills as of October 31, 2003 as presented by the County
Auditor. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was
adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt

Recording Secretary

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