

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 13, 2002, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sweeney, Members Sommer, Salch, Bass, Gordon, Sorensen, Segobiano, Pokorney and Berglund

Members Absent: None

Other Board

Members Present: Members Owens, Hoselton and Rodman

Staff Present: Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mrs. Carmen Zielinski, County Administrator's Office

Others Present: None

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes of the July 16, 2002 and July 23, 2002 meetings for approval.

Motion by Sommer/Berglund to approve and place on file the minutes of the July 16, 2002 and July 23, 2002 meetings.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney, Chairman of the Executive Committee, stated that there are 10 reappointments, one appointment, and no resignations for which the Committee's advice and consent is sought.

Motion by Bass/Pokorney to recommend approval of the 10 reappointments and the one appointment. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented a request received from the Village Board of Stanford to change the location of the Polling Place in Allin Township and a request received from Normal Township to change the location of two Polling Places.

Motion by Gordon/Sommer to recommend approval of the request received from the Village Board of Stanford to change the location of Polling Place in Allin Township and a request received from Normal Township to change the location of two Polling Places.  
Motion carried.

Mr. B.H. "Duffy" Bass, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, stated that there were no items for action from the Transportation Committee at this time.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2002 General Fund Adopted Budget.

Mr. Sorensen stated that this ordinance represented the action taken by the County Board in July asking County officials and appointed department heads to reduce General Fund budgeted expenditures to more closely reflect projected General Fund revenues. Mr. Sorensen noted that the list displays a short fall from the goal. The Finance Committee is diligently working to bring those departments that weren't able to initially reach the set goal into compliance.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2002 General Fund Adopted Budget.

Mr. Segobiano was surprised that some departments were able to meet the set goals and others were not. Mr. Sorensen stated that the Finance Committee had the same concerns. The Finance Committee recommended that the following actions be approved. First, accept the \$613,617.00 budget cuts achieved and forward the amendments to the Executive Committee. Second, send Thank you letters to the departments that reached the set goal. Third, send letters to those departments that did not reach the set goal asking why they weren't able to meet the goal as directed.

Mr. Sommer thought that it wasn't mandated that the departments meet the set goals. Mr. Sorensen answered the County Board passed a Resolution to change the County budget by \$686,350.00 at the July 23, 2002 meeting. The required reduction per department was specified by the Administrator's Office. Mr. Sorensen will keep the Committee advised of the situation.

Motion carried.

Mr. Sorensen presented a request for approval of Amendments to the Resolution Authorizing and Directing the McLean County Auditor to Establish Methods and Procedures for Reporting and Accounting of Fixed Assets, As Amended – County Auditor's Office

Motion by Sorensen/Berglund to recommend approval of Amendments to the Resolution Authorizing and Directing the McLean County Auditor to Establish Methods and Procedures for Reporting and Accounting of Fixed Assets, As Amended – County Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Mr. Sorensen presented requests for approval of Ordinances of the McLean County Board Amending the 2002 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 – WIC Program; Fund 0105 – Health Promotion Program, and Fund 0106 – Case Management Program – Health Department.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to recommend approval of Ordinances of the McLean County Board Amending the 2002 Combined Appropriations and Budget Ordinances for Fund 0103 – WIC Program; Fund 0105 – Health Promotion Program, and Fund 0106 – Case Management Program – Health Department. Motion carried.

Mr. Sorensen presented for approval of a Resolution to Not Place the Property Tax Extension Limitation (Tax Caps) Referendum on the November 2002 Ballot.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to recommend approval of Committee Recommendation to Not Place the Property Tax Extensions Limitations (Tax Caps) Referendum on the November 2002 Ballot.

Mr. Segobiano asked why the Executive Committee was voting on this issue. If the Finance Committee made a recommendation, then the County Board should consider the Finance Committee recommendation, debate this issue and come to a decision. Chairman Sweeney explained that one Committee should not make the decision for the twenty County Board members. Mr. Segobiano suggested that the recommendation made by the Finance Committee be sent to the County Board without further discussion.

Mr. Hoselton expressed his concern that the Tax Cap Referendum will be shot down before it can be decided by the voters. Mr. Hoselton noted that the McLean County Board's make up is rather unique and it is a certainty that many of the Board members will not be affected if the tax cap referendum question is not placed on the ballot. However, for individuals on Social Security and on fixed incomes, the tax cap would be very beneficial. It is the responsibility of the County Board members to allow the voters to make their own decision by placing the referendum on the November ballot. Mr. Segobiano agreed that the people should have the right to vote for it or against it. It should not be a decision that the County Board makes for them.

Mr. Pokorney noted that Board members agreed on the process that this issue would be discussed and recommended, one way or the other, by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee before it goes to the County Board for final action. However, Mr. Pokorney expressed his concern that if the Executive Committee votes in favor of this Resolution, due influence would be placed on Board members to follow suit. Mr. Pokorney favors sending this issue to the County Board without any action from the Executive Committee.

Substitute motion by Segobiano/Bass to recommend sending the Property Tax Extension Limitation Referendum issue to the County Board without any recommendation or action from the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sweeney called the roll:

Gordon:	No
Sommer:	No
Bass:	Yes
Pokorney:	Yes
Segobiano:	Yes
Sorensen:	No
Berglund:	No
Salch:	No

Chairman Sweeney stated that with a vote 3 in favor and 5 opposed, the substitute motion was defeated.

Mr. Gordon voted against the substitute motion because it is his belief that an Executive Committee recommendation, by itself, would not influence a member of the County Board.

Mr. Sorensen has some concerns with the subject of representation. The biggest flaw with the issue of placing this referendum on the ballot is the fact that the residents of the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal would have the ability to vote in a tax cap for other areas of the County. Allowing the majority to vote on this issue, when the issue won't affect the majority of the voters, is not right.

Mr. Bass asked Mr. Zeunik if the County's tax rate had ever exceeded the 5% rate. Mr. Zeunik answered that the 5% rate has been exceeded two or three times in the past fourteen years. Mr. Bass asked if in the event that the 5% rate has to be exceeded, can the 5% be set aside in case of an emergency. Mr. Zeunik stated that the law states that the extension limiting rate should be 5% or the cost of living inflation rate. Presently, due to the inflation rate, the maximum extension limiting rate increase would be less than 2%.

Mr. Sommer stated that there really is no such thing as a real tax cap. For example, Livingston County has had tax caps and has been levying against the tax caps for two years. On his son's property in Livingston County, property taxes increased 7% this year. This increase illustrates how tax caps do not really cap property taxes, especially in light of the decrease in farmland values. Mr. Sommer commented that for low income families living on a fixed income current law permits the assessed rate to be frozen.

Mr. Owens commented on the representation side of the referendum issue. Mr. Owens stated that he would rarely vote against placing an issue on a ballot, because voters should be allowed to exercise their right to vote. As a representative of the City of Bloomington, allowing his constituents to vote on an issue that does not affect them would be a problem.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to recommend approval of the Finance Committee recommendation to Not Place the Property Tax Extensions Limitation (Tax Caps) Referendum on the November 2002 Ballot.

Motion carried 6-1-1, with Member Pokorney voting "No"  
and Member Segobiano voting "Present."

Mr. Gene Salch, Chairman of the Property Committee, stated that the Committee has no items for action.

Mr. Joe Sommer, Chairman of the Justice Committee, presented a request for approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to receive a share of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance – Sheriff's Office

Motion by Sommer/Gordon to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to receive a share of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance – Sheriff's Office.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Sommer presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2002 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, ESDA Department 0047.

Motion by Sommer/Salch to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2002 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, ESDA Department 0047. Motion carried.

Mr. Sommer presented a Legal Opinion regarding the Re-Organization/Re-Structuring of the Emergency Telephone System Board and the Metro McLean County Centralized Communications Center for the Committee's information and review.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee presented a request for approval of the Regional Planning Service Agreement with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

Motion by Gordon/Salch to recommend approval of the Regional Planning Service Agreement with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney asked whether there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, Chairman Sweeney asked whether there were any other business and communications matters to address.

Chairman Sweeney presented the bills as recommended by the Auditor's Office for approval.

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Motion by Gordon/Berglund to recommend approval of the bills and transfers as recommended by the Auditor's Office as of July 31, 2002.  
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski  
Recording Secretary

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