

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 14, 2001 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other County Board Members Present: Members Owens, Rodman

Staff Present: Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Martha B. Ross, County Administrator's Assistant, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services; The Honorable Ronald Dozier, Circuit Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Others Present: Ms. Lisa Piper, LCSW, Acting Chief Executive Officer, The Children's Foundation; Ms. Debbie White, Program Director, The Children's Foundation; Mr. Gary Fish, President, Community Advisory Board, Children's Foundation; Mr. Doug Poag, Member, Community Advisory Board, Children's Foundation

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes of the July 10, 2001 and July 24, 2001 meetings for approval.

Motion by Bass/Berglund to approve and place on file the minutes of the July 10, 2001 and July 24, 2001 meetings. Motion carried.

The minutes of the July 10, 2001 and July 24, 2001 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

Chairman Sweeney, Chairman of the Executive Committee, stated that there are fourteen reappointments and six appointments upon which the Committee's advice and consent is sought. There are currently no resignations to consider.

Motion by Berglund/Salch to recommend approval of the Appointments and Reappointments as presented by the Chairman. Motion carried.

Mr. Zeunik presented the request for funding from the County Board to the Family Visitation Center. He explained that he had been approached by The Honorable Ronald Dozier, Circuit Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, regarding the procedure for seeking a one-time monetary grant from the County to assist with the support of the Family Visitation Center. Mr. Zeunik noted that the Executive Committee should first receive the request, since all grant-related fund falls under the purview of the County Board's budget, which is under the purview of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Zeunik suggested that the Family Visitation Center write a letter addressed to the Chairman of the County Board, requesting an opportunity to address the Executive Committee. In addition, the letter should include with the letter should be any informational material that would assist the Committee members in understanding both the overall mission and daily functions of the Family Visitation Center.

Ms. Lisa Piper, Acting Executive Director, Children's Foundation, explained that the Family Visitation Center ("Center") has lost its grant funding from the Illinois Domestic Violence Prevention Agency ("IVPA") as a result of a change in their guidelines for funding awards. Therefore, the Center is seeking alternate sources of funding in order to remain open and available to its clientele until more permanent funding can be sourced. She emphasized that the loss in grant funding is not related to the quality of services provided by the Center. Rather, the available funding is currently being granted to outlets that provide primary intervention on behalf of children and parents, and the Center's designation was changed to that of a secondary intervention program. Thus, the Center became ineligible under the present guidelines. Ms. Piper stated that it is hoped that a return to the previous eligibility guidelines will occur within a year, making State grant funding again available to the Center in the future.

Ms. Piper explained that the mission of the Center is to provide a safe, neutral environment for supervised child visitation and exchanges. She explained that the Center has demonstrated its ability to deter potential incidents of domestic violence during visitation and exchanges. No new referrals are accepted at this time, due to the present caseload. Volunteers to provide services at the Center are utilized whenever and wherever possible.

Mr. Gordon asked what portion of the denied grant did the \$10,000.00 requested donation represent. Mr. Piper responded that it represented just under one-third of the total grant, which was expected to be approximately \$32,000.00. She added that the amount requested at the present time would cover operating costs for the Center for the fourth quarter only.

Mr. Gordon asked whether the Center or the Children's Foundation had requested financial assistance from any other governments or governmental agencies. Ms. Piper responded that no such requests have been made at this time.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he supported the general concept of the Family Visitation Center, but that the request should have been presented to the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal as well as to the County, in equal increments. He explained that he did not discount the need for the Center and its function. However, it is difficult to justify funding this expense from tax monies.

Mr. Segobiano remarked that it might also be fruitful for the Center to explore other non-profit agencies in the community for assistance, in funds, volunteer personnel and facilities. Ms. Piper

responded that space availability is not a pressing need. Rather, a staff person is needed to schedule exchanges, make appointments for supervised visits, and be available to monitor those supervised visits. She noted that other governmental entities may be approached in the near future, but they have not been approached yet.

Mr. Segobiano remarked that even though this is a one-time request, there is a concern that one-time grants will become perpetual. He stated that Bloomington and Normal should both be approached with regard to their participation and contribution as well.

Mr. Sommer mentioned that the issue of funding sources for family-related services was discussed at the Justice Committee last summer. Pursuant to a new State law, a request was presented to the Justice Committee to increase the filing fees on all court cases. The additional fees collected would be used to fund this service. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court opposed this option on the basis of whether it was constitutional to impose a fee on all cases for this purpose.

Mr. Sommer asked why the County Board should be the entity that picks up the need for funding to a family-related service provider. He noted that he would be in favor of increasing court-related fees to raise funds, but that option is not currently available.

Mr. Sommer stated that the requested amount of \$10,000.00 might only serve as a temporary measure to keep the Center operating in the immediate future. However, he noted that there is not presently a plan to fund the Center beyond the fourth quarter of 2001. Mr. Sommer also noted that if the County is approached for a financial contribution, both Bloomington and Normal should be approached as well. Ms. Piper remarked that there is an Advisory Board currently working on a long-term solution.

Mr. Gordon asked whether the Illinois Domestic Violence Prevention Agency is expected to alter their criteria for the applicable grant for next year and when would next year's grant application be submitted. Ms. Piper responded that this grant runs on a State fiscal year, which will begin on July 1st. Mr. Gordon then asked what provision is anticipated beyond December 2001 through July 2002 when the next Fiscal Year begins. Ms. Piper responded that long-term funding sources outside the usual grant have not yet been identified.

Mr. Gordon asked whether funding options are being explored overall. Mr. Piper responded that the Center is beginning to explore other funding options for future consideration.

Mr. Owens asked what percentage of County residents actually utilize the services of the Family Visitation Center. Ms. Debbie White opined that the County percentage of families utilizing the Center's services were likely not higher than those of either Bloomington or Normal.

Mr. Segobiano commented that consideration of the issue should go to the full Board for discussion and consideration without a specific recommendation from the Executive Committee. He noted that the larger percentage of people who utilize the services of the Family Visitation Center probably reside within Bloomington and Normal, as opposed to the County. Therefore, the full Board should have the opportunity to consider the matter.

Mr. Bass asked whether the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington have both been approached with regard to providing funding for the Family Visitation Center. Ms. Piper stated that the Center is in the process of approaching both governmental entities.

Ms. Berglund asked whether the requested \$10,000.00 from the County will just allow the Center to keep operating through December 2001. Additional funding would be needed to operate the Center from December 2001 through July 2002. Ms. Piper concurred.

Mr. Segobiano remarked that the need for additional funding sources would likely be ongoing. If there is not new funding forthcoming from the State, new sources will need to be identified in the near future.

Mr. Bass asked whether there is an appeal process available through the State, whereby the Center could appeal the funding termination decision. Ms. Piper responded that she is not aware of an appeal process available for such funding terminations. She remarked that the Center received only 30 days notice of the funding termination, and therefore, was somewhat taken by surprise. There is significant positive feedback for the program, and it is hoped that a return to funding via the usual grant process will occur next year.

Ms. White commented that the Center is receiving assistance from an Illinois State University professor who is donating her time to review other funding opportunities. She explained that the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

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Center is aware of the need for the development of alternative and additional funding sources outside the auspices of the usual grant, in the event that it may not be available in the future.

Judge Dozier stated that, although the Center is beginning to explore alternative funding options and availability, there is an immediate need for funding at this time, in order for the Center to remain open. Some requests and proposals may take up to 10 months to complete before any actual funds are received. Help is needed now during this interim period.

Mr. Owens asked whether the Center had contacted the offices of State Representative Dan Rutherford, State Representative Dan Brady, or Illinois Senator John Maitland for assistance in identifying and obtaining funding. Ms. Piper responded that such assistance has not yet been sought.

Motion by Gordon/Salch to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the County Board to the Family Visitation Center to finance safe visitation exchanges and supervised visits.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he would vote "present" on the motion. He explained that he did not want to vote "no" without the benefit of further discussion with the full Board. He noted that the full Board should also have the benefit of knowing what Bloomington and Normal intend to do with regard to any requests for funding they may receive from the Center.

Mr. Pokorney asked, in the event that the motion is defeated in the Executive Committee's session, would it then die, or would it go to the full Board for consideration. Chairman Sweeney explained that even if the motion was defeated by the Executive Committee, it could still be introduced at the County Board meeting. However, the subject would need to be introduced by a Board member.

Chairman Sweeney called for a roll call vote. He reminded the assembly that only members of the Executive Committee would be permitted to vote on the motion before the Committee. He also stated that the Chairman would vote on this issue.

Mr. Gordon voted	"yes"
Mr. Sommer voted	"yes"
Mr. Segobiano voted	present
Mr. Bass voted	"yes"
Mr. Pokorney voted	"yes"
Mr. Sorensen voted	"yes"
Ms. Berglund voted	"yes"

Mr. Salch voted "yes"
Chairman Sweeney voted "yes"

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Chairman Sweeney declared that the motion had carried. He stated that Ms. Lisa Piper should plan to attend the regular September meeting of the County Board, and be available to present the Family Visitation Center's request for funding at that time.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Hudson and McLean County, and an Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois State University ("ISU") and McLean County. Both agreements are for the implementation and support of an Integrated Justice Information System ("IJIS"). He stated that the agreement with Illinois State University is a milestone in the

IJIS System in that it marks the inclusion in the system of all the major law enforcement agencies in the County. There are also now a number of the smaller law enforcement agencies included in the system.

Motion by Sommer/Bass to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Hudson and McLean County and an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Illinois State University and McLean County to Implement and Support an Integrated Justice Information System.

Mr. Gordon asked whether the additional wording in the text of the ISU Agreement affected the terms of the ISU Agreement only, or whether it applied to both Agreements. Mr. Nelson explained that the additional text applies only to the terms of the ISU Agreement. He further explained that the terms of both Agreements had been reviewed and approved by the Chief Civil Assistant State's Attorney Eric Ruud.

Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, Information Services Department 0043. He noted that this Emergency Appropriation is needed in order to amend the budget to create a revenue line to receive the grant funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the design, development and implementation of an Automated Disposition Reporting system for the Circuit Clerk's IJIS system.

Motion by Sommer/Pokorney to approve the request for an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance General Fund 0001, Information Services Department 0043 for the Illinois Criminal

Justice Information Authority-Automated Disposition Reporting
Grant. Motion carried.

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Mr. Nelson reported that the County's conversion to the new Microsoft Outlook Email system is now complete. Additionally, all employees will soon be able to access their Email and desktop files from remote locations outside of their individual workstations. This will facilitate greater access to stored information and files in the event that employees are away from their workstations.

Mr. "Duffy" Bass, Chairman of the Transportation Committee, presented a request for approval of an 80,000 pound weight limit resolution, Weston Road Truck Access Road Program ("TARP") Agreement. He explained that the contract delineates the terms for improvements to the Weston Road from Illinois Route 24 to Pontiac. The portion of road affected by this Agreement will be designated an 80,000 pound truck route. In so doing, McLean County will receive \$75,000.00 for its one-mile portion of road and its work at the Route 24 intersection. Livingston County will receive \$180,000.00 for their work on three miles of road. The McLean County Weight Limit Resolution authorizes the 80,000 pound weight limit on McLean County Highway 13 for one mile on the Weston Road and Route 24 to the Livingston County line.

Motion by Bass/Berglund to approve the request for an 80,000 Pound
Weight Limit Resolution, Weston Road TARP Agreement. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass noted that the Towanda-Barnes project is well underway. He asked the indulgence of the members and their constituents, as well as all County citizens, throughout the term of construction.

Mr. Matt Sorensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee had no items for action. He noted that the Committee would present to the Board the responses by the Department Heads and Elected Officials to the Outside Auditor's Management Letter of Advisory Comments.

Mr. Bass asked whether all employees, or at least Department Heads, in the Law and Justice Center were bonded. Mr. Zeunik responded that the County maintains an umbrella insurance policy as a part of its Risk Management policy. This first dollar policy covers the County and all its employees in the event that the County suffers a non-property related loss at the hands of an employee. He explained that, according to State law, Elected Officials must post a Public Officials Bond, with the amount of that bond set by law.

Mr. Bass asked for clarification of the term "first dollar coverage." Mr. Zeunik explained that the term refers to the fact that there is no deductible or self-insured retention. Mr. Bass asked

whether such a provision has been utilized. Mr. Zeunik responded that it has been utilized with the recent alleged theft in the Sheriff's Department.

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Mr. George Gordon, Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee, stated that the Committee has no action items. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Land Use and Development Committee did not take place for lack of a quorum. All agenda items will be considered at a Stand-Up meeting prior to the County Board meeting on August 21, 2001.

Mr. Joseph Sommer, Chairman of the Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of a contract for professional legal services between the State's Attorney's Office and the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor. He explained that this is a contract renewal to cover the cost of the drug prosecutor in the State's Attorney's Office.

Motion by Sommer/Pokorney to approve the request for a Contract for Professional Legal Services Between McLean County State's Attorney and the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sommer presented a request for approval of a grant application to be submitted by the Juvenile Detention Center to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts ("AOIC"). He noted that this request was initially presented at the Justice Committee meeting in July 2001, and the Committee recommended the application. Since that time, however, the AOIC has made a change in the procedure, now requiring a local matching amount of 10%. Additionally, the full amount of the grant was somewhat reduced.

Mr. Sommer stated that the Committee deemed the grant still necessary. It includes computer hardware and a vehicle.

Motion by Sommer/Bass to recommend approval of the Grant Application to be submitted by the Juvenile Detention Center to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts. Motion carried.

Mr. Sommer noted that agenda item 5(E)(2)(a), a request for approval of a personal services contract between McLean County and Ms. Diana Zadorskaya, will be withdrawn. It will be presented at a later date.

Mr. Gene Salch, Chairman of the Property Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Capital Improvement Fund 0901. The \$7,595.00 appropriation is to cover the expense of new air conditioning units at the Fairview Building.

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Motion by Salch/Sorensen to approve the request for an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance Capital Improvement Fund 0901, Fairview Building Capital Lease 0360, Fairview Building Program 0051. Motion carried.

Mr. Salch presented a Lease for Roof Space on the top of the Watterson Towers Building, Illinois State University campus, Normal, Illinois. The roof space will be used for the installation, operation and maintenance of two-way radio equipment for Facilities Management, E.S.D.A., and the McLean County Highway Department.

Motion by Salch/Gordon to recommend approval of a Lease Agreement For Roof Space on Watterson Towers, Illinois State University campus, Normal, Illinois, between McLean County and Illinois State University. Motion carried.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, further addressed Mr. Bass' previous questions regarding the bonding of County employees. He explained that the current carrier for the commercial crime fidelity bond insurance for all County employees is The Hartford Insurance Company. The annual premium on that policy is \$8,776.00.

Mr. Zeunik presented the Fiscal Year 2001 Estimated McLean County Equalized Assessed Value ("EAV"): \$2,572,706,665.00. He explained that this number is further adjusted as a result of tax increment financing districts and exemptions that have been granted.

Farmland values are not determined in the same manner as are values of residential and commercial investment property. With farmland, income is factored in as part of the criteria to be used. For County fiscal year 2002, there is a projected decrease in farmland values of \$30 million. There will also be a decrease in Fiscal Year 2003.

There is expected to be an increase in the projected equalized assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2001 of 5.83% countywide over Fiscal Year 2000. The adjusted equalized assessed value, once all adjustments are accounted for, is \$2,291,748,217.00, or an increase of 5.84%. When the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget was prepared, an increase of 4.7% was initially projected, so the actual increase exceeded the projection.

Mr. Zeunik stated that, for purposes of preparing the Fiscal Year 2002 budget, based upon the decrease in the farmland values, a projected 3.94% increase in the total EAV is expected. The adjusted EAV is projected to increase at 3.95%. He commented that if the increase in the projected EAV and the adjusted EAV were equal to 5%, that would have generated an additional \$219,723,000.00 in equalized assessed value.

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Mr. Zeunik explained when the projected adjusted EAV amount is applied against the County tax rate of 91.5 cents per \$100.00 of EAV the result yields a smaller tax revenue amount. Also, in Fiscal Year 2002, with the addition of the levy for the Cooperative Extension Service and the projected increase in the debt service for the new 115 East Washington Street Building (Government Center Building), the County's overall property tax levy will increase.

Mr. Sorensen asked what percent of the total budget is driven by salary increases for County employees. Mr. Zeunik responded that a typical across the board increase for non-union County employees and non-elected official is 2.5%. That amount is expected again this year. Merit increases have historically been about 1.8%. There are some collective bargaining agreements wherein the Step increase increment is higher than the 1.8%.

Mr. Sorensen asked what percentage of the overall budget is comprised of employee compensation. Mr. Zeunik responded that approximately 72% of the overall budget is employee compensation. Mr. Sorensen commented that merely awarding regularly scheduled employee increases would strain the already limited budget. Mr. Zeunik responded that the Fiscal Year 2002 budget is expected to be a very lean year. Even though there is a general perception that the local economy is thriving, year to date sales tax revenues are tracking at a lower rate than in Fiscal Year 2000. Mr. Zeunik remarked that this year could be the first year that total sales tax revenue is less than what was collected in the previous year.

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

Motion by Gordon/Sommer to recommend approval of the bills and transfers as recommended by the Auditor's Office.
Motion carried.

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There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross
Recording Secretary