

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 8, 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, Gordon, Segobiano, Berglund, Pokorney

Members Absent: Member Bass

Other County Board Members Present: Members Renner, Owens

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; Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor; Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender

Others Present: Mr. Bob Trefzger, Manager of Research, State Farm Insurance Companies

Chairman Sweeney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Sweeney presented the minutes of the April 10, 2001 and April 17, 2001 meetings for approval.

Motion by Salch/Pokorney to approve and place on file the minutes of the April 10, 2001 and April 17, 2001 meetings. Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 10, 2001 and April 17, 2001 meetings were approved and placed on file as presented.

Chairman Sweeney, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the Chairman's recommendations pertaining to appointments and reappointments.

Motion by Salch/Sommer to approve the Chairman's recommendations for Appointments and Reappointments as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney presented the Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Thursday, May 24, 2001 as YWCA Women of Distinction day in McLean County. He deferred to Mr. Zeunik, who explained that in the past, the County Board has presented individual

Resolutions of Congratulations for the winners in each category. However, both the City of Bloomington (City) and the Town of Normal (Town) approve one proclamation recognizing Women of Distinction Day. Therefore, in an attempt to bring the County into line with the City and Town, the County will present one resolution honoring this year's Women of Distinction, on the evening of May 24, 2001.

Motion by Gordon/Berglund to approve the Resolution of the McLean County Board Proclaiming Thursday, May 24, 2001 as YWCA Women of Distinction Day in McLean County. Motion carried.

Mr. Renner commented that there are two McLean County Board members on the Women of Distinction Selection Committee. Therefore, the Board is well-represented this year.

Mr. Owens presented the Resolution of Congratulations for the Calvary Baptist Senior High School Bell Choir. He noted that he is an alumnus of Calvary Baptist Academy and is a member of Calvary Baptist's congregation. He further noted that during his time at the Academy, he participated in the music program and is well aware of the time and dedicated efforts contributed by all participants in order to achieve a level of performance excellence worthy of such recognition. He would like to recognize the Calvary Baptist Senior High Hand Bell choir for their achievement in winning the State level competition, and thus advancing to the national level of competition.

Motion by Salch/Berglund to approve the Resolution of Congratulations for the Calvary Baptist Senior High School Hand Bell Choir. Motion carried.

Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Services, presented a request for approval to purchase 80 personal computers under the Western States Contract Alliance. He noted that he has an amendment to the  that he initially posted. For \$63.00 less per boxed unit, the County may obtain units with faster processors and increased capacity. The net savings overall to the County is projected to be \$5,040.00. He stated that the request he is now presenting is for the purchase of 80 computer units, each having one gig megahertz clock speed and 20 gigabytes and 256 MB RAM for a cost per unit of \$1,049.50.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to approve the request to purchase 80 personal computers under the Western States Contract Alliance at a cost of \$1,049.50 per unit.

Mr. Sorensen asked, for clarification purposes, whether the units considered for purchase are 20 gigahertz machines.

Mr. Sommer asked whether the units considered for purchase either meet or exceed specifications in all other respects. Mr. Nelson responded that they do meet or exceed all specifications.

Mr. Gordon asked whether the changes from the initial request in the packet consist of changing the initial request of 10 GB of storage to 20 GB, and the initial quoted purchase price of \$1168.50 per unit to \$1,049.50. Mr. Nelson stated that this is correct and, in addition, the initially stated unit type of Pentium III/866MHZ would be now be 1 (a.k.a. 1,000) Gig MHZ.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sweeney introduced Mr. Bob Trefzger, Research Manager, State Farm Insurance Companies, who presented information pursuant to the reapportionment of the McLean County Board.

Mr. Trefzger stated that the U.S. government takes a census of its population every ten (10) years, for a variety of purposes, one of which is to determine the location and density of its population for designation of representative districts. As a result of the census figures, representative districts are often reapportioned to address shifts in population.

Following the 1990 census, McLean County Administration asked State Farm Insurance Companies to assist them in the reapportionment process. Mr. Trefzger remarked that State Farm's assistance was sought at that time as a result of State Farm's prior work for the City of Bloomington when Bloomington's population exceeded 50,000. An extensive search of possible computer-identified solutions was utilized by State Farm on the City's behalf. State Farm continues today with its ability to assist local governments in such matters.

Mr. Trefzger noted that it is exceedingly difficult to identify possible solutions to addressing population shifts and their resultant changes in political districting, due to the sheer number of potential solutions. Using computer technology to search and identify all possible solutions is at once more accurate and more efficient. Once solutions are identified, a number of reasonable alternatives can be developed.

Mr. Trefzger noted that, pursuant to Illinois Law, July 1, 2001 is the deadline for accomplishing a redistricting plan in the County. This year the process has been delayed somewhat as a result of the late release of the census figures. Mr. Trefzger stated that State Farm's Research Department is working in conjunction with Mr. Roy Treadway at Illinois State University to assemble the necessary census data. He noted that there are a few anomalies with the data, which must be addressed.

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Mr. Trefzger explained that the process he would recommend that the Board consider using is to first identify a number of districts, for example ten (10). The County's population would then be divided by ten, and the resulting population of each district would then be calculated within a +/- 5% of the average District population. He further explained that Illinois law stipulates that cities should be kept together within a proposed district whenever possible, within the population guidelines. Another objective for the Board to address is keeping geographically contiguous districts compact.

The process of addressing these objectives may well entail dividing the task into three (3) separate subtasks. Once the number of proposed districts is decided upon, the County will need to be subdivided to determine the number of proposed districts within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, and the outlying County. A computer search of possibilities will be utilized for this purpose. The field of possibilities will then be narrowed for final consideration by the Board.

Ten years prior, materials were made available to the Board, showing different alternatives for the number of proposed representative districts. The Board then decided upon solutions for how to apportion the City of Bloomington into four districts, the Town of Normal into three districts, and the outlying County area into three districts, for a total of ten districts within the whole of the County.

Mr. Trefzger remarked that the past decade of growth experienced in the Bloomington area may make maintaining a ten district configuration more difficult than it has been in the past. Additionally, sometimes half districts may appear in computer searches for new district configurations. Since there is no way to accommodate that situation, some technicalities in the computer program may need to be addressed.

Mr. Trefzger explained that, in the event that the Board chose to select a ten district configuration, the average population of each district is estimated to be 15,043, with a plus/minus ratio of 5%, which would be 752 people. This is based upon current 2000 census figures. Such a scenario would also leave 2.73 districts in the outlying portion of the County, which would not be feasible. Mr. Trefzger noted, however, that to preserve a good degree of representation in the outlying County, three areas of representation would need to be maintained.

Likewise, there would be slightly in excess of 4 districts in the City of Bloomington and slightly in excess of 3 districts in Normal. He noted that such an arrangement would not be feasible.

Mr. Trefzger explained that he charted two (2) possible scenarios for the Boards' consideration, one with a 10 district configuration and one with a 15 district configuration. He stated that it will

be incumbent upon the Board to keep in mind the requirements of State law with regard to keeping cities together within district boundaries, which may present a particular challenge.
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However, in order to address population distribution adequately within each district, some fringe areas may have to be attached to the cities themselves.

Mr. Gordon stated that he was uncertain what Mr. Trefzger was referring to with regard to a reversal or shift of population. Mr. Trefzger responded that upon closer inspection, there was no problem with reversal of figures on one of the possible solutions that had been prepared for the Board's inspection. He stated that, in examining the portion of his report marked Assumptions, the configuration of districts is proposed to be 4 Districts in Bloomington, 3 Districts in Normal, and 3 Districts in the outlying County. The Bloomington and Normal districts show a minus population, and the outlying County portion shows a surplus of 4,081. Since this is not feasible, other solutions will need to be explored.

Mr. Gordon remarked that, in the ten district model, 15,043 is the average size of a proposed district. Multiply that number by 4, the result will be 60,173, which is 3,417 below what the population of the City is.

Mr. Sorensen asked whether the 3,000 figure represents how many extra people reside in Bloomington who would not be assigned to a district. Mr. Gordon responded that such was correct.

Chairman Sweeney stated that what is needed is for the Committee to decide how many Board districts are desired and whether the Districts will be single member or multi-member districts.

Mr. Salch asked how long will the information gathering process take. Mr. Trefzger responded that it is a complicated process which is done in a series of multiple computer program runs. Each stage must be examined before going to the next stage. Once the data is run, it takes a few days of elapsed time to sift through, examine and display the results.

Mr. Trefzger remarked that the last time the Bloomington Election Commission changed the voting districts in the City of Bloomington, the information was delayed in being reported to the Census Bureau. Therefore, there are no available population counts for the new Bloomington voting precincts. This situation will be rectified, but the process of designing possible Board configurations cannot begin in earnest until all the data is correct.

Mr. Segobiano commented that he is in favor of changing to 15 single member districts. However, it may be difficult to determine which Board members may lose their seat as a result of that proposed change. He asked what would 20 single member districts look like. Mr. Trefzger responded that it would require some population shifting. There is a "grain sized problem" in that one needs a certain amount of granularity in what is being divided. It is not to

say that 20 single member districts can't be accomplished, but the possibilities for success would be significantly reduced. The outlying County may have difficulty keeping precincts together.

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Mr. Pokorney remarked, in the interest of clarification, that if there are ten districts that make up the Board, those ten districts must also be overlaid over precincts as well. When the number of districts is increased, it becomes more difficult to overlay those districts over the precincts.

Chairman Sweeney asked for the Committee to consider what configuration it desired.

Motion by Segobiano/_____ to send the issue to the full Board without recommendation. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Pokorney/Sommer to recommend the ten district configuration with two (2) representatives per district. Motion carried.

Mr. Segobiano votes present.

Mr. Sorensen stated that he had an item under the Agenda category of Other to present on behalf of Member Rodman. He explained that Mr. Rodman suggested a method by which the success of the upcoming trial period of evening Board meetings could be measured. Mr. Rodman's suggestion was to distribute a survey to the gallery at each meeting, with three (3) questions: 1) Why are you attending today's Board meeting; 2) If today's meeting had been held at a (fill in time options), would you have been able to attend the Board meeting; and 3) What time of day would you prefer that the County Board meeting be held (State preference)? The response to the survey would help determine whether evening Board meetings should be considered further.

Mr. Sorensen stated that he would bring the issue to the Executive Committee on Mr. Rodman's behalf, but he himself is concerned that such a survey is not a definitive method of measurement.

Chairman Sweeney asked how the information would be compiled into a usable form, once it is collected. Mr. Sorensen replied that it would be up to the Executive Committee to determine how the results would be compiled, but that the Administrator's Office could assist with the compilation of the information.

Mr. Segobiano stated that the issues before the Board would most likely dictate the level of attendance by the general public. Any results from a survey taken at Board meetings would produce skewed results and would not be helpful in the long run.

Mr. Pokorney remarked that he did not have a suggestion for determining the degree of success on the night Board meeting issue. However, he stated that the survey suggested by Member Rodman did not seem to be substantive enough for the Board's needs.

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Ms. P.A. "Sue" Berglund, Legislative Liaison, presented the Legislative Briefing. She stated that the complete report appears in print form in the packet. There were no questions.

Chairman Sweeney reported that the LZT Space Study report would be available on May 15, 2001 at the regular County Board meeting. Mr. Gordon asked whether the Board had decided on any projected timeline as to how quickly it wishes to take action on the results of the LZT report.

Chairman Sweeney responded that there is no projected timeline at present. Discussions will take place at the Justice Committee and the Property Committee meetings. When the issue of financing needs to be addressed, discussions will expand to the Finance Committee as well. All of the Committee reports will subsequently come before the Executive Committee for further discussion. He noted that, at all times, the representatives from LZT would be available to the Committee meetings in order to be accessible to Committee members, should questions arise.

Mr. Gordon asked whether any other recommendations that have been made public would also be considered along with the LZT report. Specifically, Mr. Gordon referred to the League of Women Voters' Study on Alternatives to Jail. Chairman Sweeney responded that this study would most likely be addressed in the Justice and Executive Committee meetings.

Mr. Sorensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented a Request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the County Clerk's Office. This request is to use a part of the Clerk's Document Storage Fund, which is collected as a service fee, to fund some seasonal employees to help with data entry.

Motion by Sorensen/Gordon to Approve a Request for an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, County Clerk's Document Storage Fund 0164, County Clerk's Office 0005.
Motion carried.

Mr. Sorensen presented a Request for Approval of the Resolution Establishing the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Policy. He stated that this is the beginning of the preparation for the next budget cycle.

Motion by Sorensen/Salch to Approve the Resolution Establishing the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Policy. Motion carried.

Mr. Salch, Chairman of the Property Committee, presented a Request for Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Purchase of the 115 East Washington Street Building.

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Motion by Salch/Pokorney to Approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending Fiscal Year 2001 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Purchase of 115 East Washington Street Building. Motion carried.

Mr. Salch also presented a Request for Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Monies from the Working Cash Fund 0002 to the General Corporate Fund 0001.

Motion by Salch/Sorensen to Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Monies from the Working Cash Fund 0002 to the General Corporate Fund 0001. Motion carried.

Mr. Salch noted that there would be numerous items presented to the full Board from the Property Committee for the month of May.

Mr. Joseph Sommer, Chairman of the Justice Committee, stated that all of the Justice Committee's action items would be presented to the full Board.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee, stated that the Committee's action item would be presented to the full Board.

Mr. Owens, Member of the Transportation Committee, stated that the Committee's action items would be presented to the full Board. Member Owens reported in the absence of both Chairman Bass and Vice Chairman Hoselton.

Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, stated that the Administrator's Office had no items to report at this time.

Under the Agenda category of Other Business and Communications, Mr. Sorensen asked Mr. Gordon where the Land Use and Development Committee stands on the issue of the change in the building permit fee for Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District's Southwest Waste Water Treatment Facility. Mr. Gordon explained that the Committee received from Mr. Callahan, Executive Director, Water Reclamation District, a detailed breakout of a recommendation made by a project engineer from The Farnsworth Group. There were only two (2) recognized options: 1) to comply with the existing ordinance, charging a fee in excess of \$90,000.00; or, 2) pursuant to State statute, develop a systematic and objective basis upon which to approve a recommendation for a lower amount. The new proposed amount will be \$6,570.00.

Information regarding this issue will be forthcoming in the Board's May 2001 packet. He stated that there is a systematic and objective basis for arriving at that amount, and that the key is to be in compliance with State law. He remarked that the Committee felt justified and obligated to come in with that recommendation, based upon the data available.

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Mr. Sommer stated that there seems now to be a choice between a verified cost analysis or a fee. Mr. Gordon responded that there is only one set of data upon which to base the decision. The only two (2) figures that were formally recommended were \$2,500.00, and a figure nearly three (3) times that. Both are still much lower than the original \$90,000.00.

Mr. Gordon stated that the County has no provision in the policy statement for scaling up or down the building permit fee. It would be possible to look at a sliding scale that would lower the fee per square foot above a certain total amount. He noted that the County may encounter another situation such as this in years to come, so an examination of this situation will provide an important precedent.

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

Motion by Salch/Berglund to approve the bills and transfers as recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross
Recording Secretary