

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Owens, Bostic, Gordon, Hoselton, Rackauskas, Segobiano, Butler and O'Connor

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: None

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the November 9, 2010 Executive Committee and the October 19, 2010 Stand-up meetings for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Segobiano to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting and the October 19, 2010 Stand-up Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations. He noted that there were no new appointments or resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Butler to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments as recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution establishing a holiday schedule for County Employees for the Fiscal Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the Fiscal Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance establishing County Board meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2011 – County Administrator's Office.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to the Heyworth High School Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Segobiano/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to the Heyworth High School Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team – County Administrator's Office.
Motion carried.

Ms. Bette Rackauskas, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of three items that can be acted upon together, namely a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the Town of Normal for Centralized Booking; a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the City of Bloomington for Centralized Booking; and a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and Illinois State University for Centralized Booking – Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean and the Town of Normal for Centralized Booking; between the County of McLean and the City of Bloomington for Centralized Booking; and between the County of McLean and the Illinois State University for Centralized Booking.

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Mr. Hoselton asked if there were any changes in the Agreements. Mr. Lindberg replied that there is a 3% increase.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Ms. Rackauskas presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance. She stated that this Emergency Appropriation is to accept a JAG Grant (Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant) through the Department of Justice.

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Rackauskas.

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

Mr. Gordon pointed out a typographical error on Mr. Jay Reese's address listed on the agenda.

Chairman Sorensen advised that Mr. Reese's father, Jerry Reese, passed away unexpectedly Monday evening.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gordon.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, presented three requests associated with the PBC Leases. The first is a request for approval of Attachment Number 20 to the Amendment to the Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Law and Justice Center.

Motion by Bostic/Segobiano to recommend approval of Attachment Number 20 to the Amendment to the Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Law and Justice Center
Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic presented a request for approval of Lease and Contract Extension Agreement No. 8 extending the lease of the Courthouse Building and the Contract for Operation and Maintenance all dated December 3, 2002.

Motion by Bostic/Owens to recommend approval of Lease and Contract Extension Agreement No. 8 Extending the Lease of the Courthouse Building and the Contract for Operation and Maintenance all Dated December 3, 2002.

Mr. Segobiano asked how long this lease is in place. Ms. Bostic responded that it will stay in effect as long as the Museum of History is housed in the Old Courthouse. Mr. Segobiano expressed concern with the cost of maintaining the Old Courthouse. Ms. Bostic responded that some money is received back from the Museum of History and the taxpayers appear to support the Museum. Mr. Segobiano noted that he does not believe the attendance is strong. Chairman Sorensen advised that this Lease and Contract Agreement reflects the operating and maintenance costs of the Old Courthouse Building.

Mr. Lindberg explained that this is the lease between the County and the Public Building Commission. The County turned over the building to the Public Building Commission and they engage the County, by contract, to maintain the building. He noted that there is another lease between the County and the Historical Society, where the Society pays the County \$10,000 per year to occupy the building. Mr. Lindberg stated that he believes the expiration date of that lease is 2032.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Ms. Bostic presented a request for approval of Attachment No. Nine to Amendment to Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the City/County Office Building.

Motion by Bostic/Gordon to recommend approval of Attachment No. Nine to Amendment to Lease and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the City/County Office Building.

Mr. Owens asked if there are still issues with parking between the County and the City of Bloomington. Mr. Lindberg responded that there are still issues with parking. He noted that there is not an issue with this O & M Lease, which is for the Government Center Building. Mr. Lindberg advised that the City Council passed the Lease last night, recognizing that the County had reduced the cost significantly from the prior year. He stated that discussions will continue between the County and the City regarding parking.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, advised that Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee. Mr. Hoselton pointed out that the Schuldt Bridge has been closed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. He indicated that work has begun on the bridge.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Hoselton.

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of Extended Leave for an employee in Exceptional Circumstances – Information Technologies.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the employee will continue to get benefits during the leave. Mr. Lindberg responded that the employee is out of paid leave days and out of FMLA guaranteed days. He expects this employee will return to duty. Mr. Lindberg added that the employee is covered by insurance, but must pay his own employee share of the insurance in lieu of payroll deduction.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of Extended Leave for an Employee in Exceptional Circumstances – Information Technologies.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented two items associated with Fund 0102 (Dental Services) that can be acted upon together. Both requests are for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0102 (Dental Services) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0102 (Dental Services), and to recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0102 (Dental Services) – Health Department.

Motion carried with Ms. Rackauskas abstaining.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 (WIC) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0103 (WIC) – Health Department.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0106 (Family Case Management Program) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0106 (Family Case Management Program) – Health Department.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of Critical Personnel Hiring requests through the County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to recommend Approval of Critical Hiring Requests – County Administrator's Office.

Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval to restructure the CDAP Loan for Watershed Foods – County Administrator’s Office. He explained that the Board approved a loan to Watershed Foods several years ago that had a balloon payment of about \$306,000 coming due in April 2012. Mr. Owens stated that the company wants to expand the business and they are asking for elimination of the balloon payment and an extension of the loan with a monthly payment of \$6,400 per month. He noted that their payment record is excellent. Ms. O’Connor added that Watershed Foods went from 31 to 50 employees.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if this extension will tie up all of the money in the program. Mr. Lindberg replied that it ties up \$283,000 of the total loan for a little over three more years. He indicated that the CDAP Loan program has a balance available for other potential requests.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the CDAP Loan Program originated with a grant from the State of Illinois of \$500,000 in the early 1980’s. He stated that there have been only three projects that failed.

Motion by Owens/O’Connor to Recommend Approval
of the CDAP Loan Restructuring for Watershed Foods
– County Administrator’s Office.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens advised that there are other items to be presented to the Board.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Owens.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for an explanation of the State Farm assessment issue. She asked when State Farm goes before the Board or Review regarding its assessment, and is that meeting open to the public. Mr. Lindberg replied that State Farm is scheduled to go before the Board of Review on Friday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. and it is open to the public.

Ms. Rackauskas asked for the history on this issue, and why is State Farm going before the school boards and the County, etc. Mr. Lindberg explained that there are two distinct processes underway. Any taxpayer who owns property has a right to appeal their assessed value through the Board of Review. Any taxpayer can do that, and the County Board has no role in that process. Mr. Lindberg stated that a taxpayer can also seek an abatement of the taxes they are paying. That is something that the legislative bodies, i.e. City Council, County Board, etc., do have the authority to act upon. Mr. Lindberg noted that this particular taxpayer owns a number of parcels with a value of approximately \$134 million and pays about \$13.4 million in property taxes annually.

Mr. Lindberg advised that State Farm has chosen to file an appeal with the Board of Review where they are seeking a 1 1/2% reduction in their assessed values. He stated that State Farm has indicated in that appeal that they are also pursuing another course, which is to seek a settlement agreement which consists of an abatement agreement with the ten taxing bodies with which they are involved. This is the one that includes several school districts, the City Council, Bloomington Township Trustees, and McLean County. Mr. Lindberg noted that, last night, the City Council and Bloomington Township Trustees approved the agreement. He explained that this says that as long as the values remain the same, the taxing bodies involved will abate taxes back to the taxpayer if they exceed the 1% of the current tax amounts included in the agreement.

Several Committee members asked for additional information regarding this entire issue. Mr. Lindberg responded that the agreement will go to the Finance Committee, Executive Committee and the County Board in January.

Chairman Sorensen encouraged the Committee members or Board members to meet with Mr. Lindberg in the County Administrator's Office to discuss this issue. He noted that it is a fairly complex issue and would best be discussed in the Administrator's Office and not in a Committee or Board meeting.

Mr. Owens asked what taxing bodies have passed the agreement. Mr. Lindberg replied that the five bodies that have passed the agreement are: Unit 5, District 87, Regional Airport, City of Bloomington, and Bloomington Township. (Seven taxing bodies have passed the agreement as of Thursday, December 16th.)

After additional discussion, Chairman Sorensen, again, encouraged the Board members to visit with the Administrator's Office to get their questions answered.

Chairman Sorensen presented the November 30, 2010 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$138,518.76 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by Owens/Gordon to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for November 30, 2010 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary