

Minutes of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman Owens, Members O'Connor (4:10 p.m.), Wollrab, Rankin, and McIntyre

Members Absent: Member Butler

Other Members Present: County Board Member McKibbin

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Judith LaCasse, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Matt Riehle, Director, Nursing Home; Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building & Zoning; Ms. Michelle Anderson, County Auditor; Mr. Lee Newcom, County Recorder; Ms. Becky McNeil, County Treasurer; Mr. Walt Howe, Administrator, Health Department; Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk

Others Present: Ms. Jan Morris, Health Promotion Program Manager, Health Department; and Ms. Laura Dick, Executive Director, SHOW BUS

Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Owens presented the minutes of the December 8, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Mr. Matt Riehle, Administrator, McLean County Nursing Home, reviewed the Nursing Home Monthly Report. He indicated that there has been an influx of residents, with a census today of 129 or 130. Mr. Riehle added that part of this increase was due to the up and down nature of the Nursing Home, and part of it was due to residents returning from the holidays.

Mr. Riehle stated that he is still waiting for correspondence regarding the Intergovernmental Transfer. He noted that he received some information from Mr. Kelly Cunningham, Bureau Chief of HFS, but it is the same information that he has received for two years. Mr. Riehle stated that HFS assures him that they are going to rectify the situation, but they are working on materials and cost reports.

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

Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building & Zoning, presented a request for approval for a Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Rolling Stock Capital Assistance Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. He stated that the application requests two paratransit vehicles to be used by SHOW BUS to provide rural public transportation in McLean, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois and DeWitt Counties. Mr. Dick noted that Ms. Dick, Executive Director of SHOW BUS is available to answer any questions.

Ms. Wollrab asked if these will replace high mileage vehicles. Mr. Dick replied that they will replace older vehicles.

Chairman Owens asked if the old vehicles are sold at auction. Ms. Dick responded that, in theory, once they reach replacement mileage, they are put up for highest bid. She indicated that, in reality, they keep the vehicles running as long as possible because that it is the only way to expand services. Ms. Dick noted that, currently, they are expanding about 40% per year.

Chairman Owens asked what happens to the revenue from the sale of vehicles. Ms. Dick replied that use of the revenue is restricted by IDOT.

Motion by Wollrab/Rankin to recommend Approval for a Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Rolling Stock Capital Assistance Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation for SHOW BUS.

Motion carried.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Dick and Ms. Dick.

Chairman Owens presented the General Report as submitted by Mr. Robert Kahman, Supervisor of Assessments.

Ms. Michelle Anderson, County Auditor, reviewed the GASB 51 Memorandum. She indicated that GASB Statement No 51, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Intangible Assets*, issued July 2007, will be effective for the County beginning with its year ending December 31, 2010. Ms. Anderson noted that the new standard characterizes an intangible asset as an asset that lacks physical substance, is nonfinancial in nature and has an initial useful life extending beyond a single reporting period.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced the standard mileage rates for 2011. Beginning January 1, 2011, the standard mileage rate for the use of a personal vehicle will be 51 cents per mile. Ms. Anderson noted that Department Heads have been notified of this change.

Ms. Anderson advised that the County Board Resolution Establishing Mileage Reimbursement states that "the mileage reimbursement rate for the use of private vehicles for conducting County business for County officials and employees is hereby set at the rate approved and authorized by the Internal Revenue Service."

Ms. Anderson informed the Committee that, in accordance with the resolution, the County Auditor's Office will reimburse all business mileage for conducting County business at 51 cents per mile beginning January 1, 2011. She noted that the 2010 rate was 50 cents per mile.

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

Mr. Lee Newcom, County Recorder, presented his Monthly Reports. He noted that there was nothing significant to discuss in the report.

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

Ms. O'Connor arrived at 4:10 p.m.

Ms. Becky McNeil, County Treasurer, presented the Financial Reports for the period ending December 31, 2010, as distributed.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Summary of Tax Vouchers for Sales, Income, Local Use and Personal Property Replacement Tax, as follows:

		<u>% of change Over 2009</u>
December 2010 Vouchers:		
Sales Tax	\$385,639.54	
Revenue Sales Tax	51,516.94	
Local Use Tax	23,304.21	
Income Tax	121,846.92	
PPRT	<u>292,379.86</u>	
Total	<u>\$874,687.47</u>	
Monthly Comparison		
December 2009 Vouchers	606,958.73	
December 2010 Vouchers	<u>874,687.47</u>	
Difference	\$267,728.74	44.1%
YTD Comparison		
YTD 2009 Vouchers	8,454,741.46	
YTD 2010 Vouchers	<u>8,630,089.43</u>	
Difference	\$175,347.97	2.1%
Budget Comparison		
2010 Annual Budget:	\$9,125,150.00	
Budgeted Revenue per Month:	\$ 760,429.17	
Budgeted Revenue thru 12/31/10:	\$9,125,150.00	
YTD Actual Vouchers	\$8,630,089.43	94.6%
Amount Over (Under) Budget:	(\$495,060.57)	

Ms. McNeil stated that December was a very good month for McLean County. She noted that part of that was because of the State's Amnesty Program that generated a lot of income into the state which has flowed down to the County.

Ms. McNeil indicated that there are some accruals that will happen with the money that is received in January and February because some of that will have to be backed into 2010.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Summary of Retailers Occupation Tax, State Income Tax and Personal Property Replacement Tax Revenue Report for the month ending December 31, 2010. Statistics are as follows:

- Retailers Occupation Tax Revenue for December 31, 2010 is \$460,460.69.
- Retailers Occupation Tax Revenue Year to Date is \$5,467,601.05 which is 2.1% above last year and 95.1% of budget.
- State Income Tax Revenue is \$1,592,011.67 which is 3.2% below last year and 86.1% of budget.
- Personal Property Replacement Tax Revenue is \$1,570,476.71, which is 7.8% above last year and 103.0% of budget.

Ms. McNeil pointed out that the Personal Property Replacement Tax in December 2010 was \$292,379.86 as compared to \$64,105.42 in 2009. She indicated that she watches these numbers very closely as they are a major source of revenue into the General Fund and signifies what is going to happen throughout the year.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the State of Illinois Receivables as of December 31, 2010. She stated, at the end of 2010, there is a receivable balance across all funds of \$2,100,396.95, with \$1.5 million of that in the General Fund. Ms. McNeil added that we are not done accruing yet, as most of December is not included in this report.

Ms. McNeil noted that the receivable is set for the Income Tax for August through December. Last year a couple payments were received in December so the Income Tax receivable didn't look too bad at the end of the year, but this year those funds have not yet been received. Ms. McNeil stated that it will be very important to see what happens in the next two or three months. If the State of Illinois does not pay down these receivables, these amounts will be deferred revenue, which means the revenue will be taken out of 2010 and moved it to 2011. This could have a significant impact on where the Fund Balance ends as of December 31, 2010.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Budget by Fund Category Report for the General Fund only. The General Fund Revenue through December 31, 2010 is \$32,174,152.01, which is 101% of budget. General Fund Expenditures were \$30,465,300.79, which is 98% of budget. Ms. McNeil indicated that it is very early to be looking at these numbers due to the amount of accruals that will take place not only in the Revenue lines but the Expense lines as well. She advised that this report on the receivables could have a major impact on the General Fund.

Ms. McNeil reported that the Fund Balance is \$10.6 million. She pointed out that there is currently revenue over expenditures of \$1.7 million.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the CDAP Revolving Loan Fund Quarterly Report. She provided a brief history of the CDAP Revolving Loan Fund, as follows:

In 1987 the County of McLean received a Federal Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00. These funds were loaned to Edwards Warren Tire Company. The full amount of the loan was paid off in addition to accrued interest of \$146,024.00. The amount recovered allowed the County to establish the Revolving Loan Fund to provide financial assistance to new or expanding businesses in McLean County and to secure public benefit for the residents of McLean County by developing a stronger economic base and expanded job opportunities. The use of the fund is governed by a variety of rules and regulations mandated by the State and Federal agencies that provided the original grants to McLean County as well as policies adopted by McLean County.

The Economic Development Council of Bloomington-Normal-McLean County is the administrator of the CDAP Revolving Loan Fund. The McLean County Treasurer receives all payments, reconciles the fund, reports quarterly to the Finance Committee, and reports semi-annually to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Borrowers must comply with the following guidelines and McLean County's CDAP RLF Recapture Strategy:

- Project Location – McLean County;
- Meet the minimum and maximum loan amount; ratio of two private dollars for every one CDAP dollar RLF borrowed;
- Demonstrate financial need and provide a description of the project, project costs, and financial details showing that there is a financing gap;
- Minimum Interest Rate of 3%. Terms determined by type of project;
- Terms determined by type of project;
- Job Creation and Retention
 - One FTE must be created and retained for each \$15,000.00 of RLF fund borrowed;
 - At least 51% of the jobs created/retained must benefit low-to-moderate income persons.

Applicant Process:

- Applicant meets with the bank and determines if a gap in financing has occurred;
- Applicant gets referred to the EDC by the bank;
- Applicant and banking representative meet with the EDC and pre-application review of the project will be made;
- Review and recommendation by Credit Committee;
- Review and approval by the McLean County Board.

Ms. McNeil advised that several loans have been given over the years.

Ms. McNeil stated that as the money has been loaned and interest has been recaptured, and as the funds have been invested, it has been possible to grow this fund. There are currently five active CDAP Revolving Loans, including the following:

- Victory Enterprises, which is a dry cleaning business;
- Learning Center, which is a day care center;
- Coffee Hound;
- Watershed Foods;
- Midwest Moldings.

Ms. McNeil noted that the Victory Enterprises' loan was modified because, for many years, it ran in a delinquent status. Victory Enterprises asked for their loan to be modified, which was done a year ago. The loan is now running on time with payments.

Ms. McNeil reported the following:

- Total Grant (CDAP) Principal Recaptured is \$500,000.00;
- Total Grant (CDAP) Interest Recaptured is \$147,460.64;
- Total Recaptured Principal from the Revolving Loan Projects is \$797,731.03;
- Total Recapture Interest from the Revolving Loan Projects is \$220,095.33;
- Bank Interest Earned on Deposits is \$379,825.95;
- Total Amount in Revolving Loan is \$423,954.75.

Ms. McNeil advised that the Balance of \$423,954.75 is what is available for lending.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Employee Benefit Fund Quarterly Report. She noted that this fund is the fund where the County accounts for all revenues and contributions coming into the fund and all health employee benefit related expenses going out of the fund. As of December 31, 2010, the fund had an ending Fund Balance of \$781,725.20. Ms. McNeil noted that this is up from where it started at the beginning of the year of \$316,189.09.

Ms. McNeil indicated that the items with asterisks beside them on the report are the items where the revenue and expenses should offset each other, which they do.

Ms. McNeil reviewed the Treasurer's Investment Report. She pointed out that two banks in Stanford and Cropsey merged into one bank, namely Morton Community Bank. The County had two small CD's in those banks, which were coming due at the end of December and were combined into one CD of \$165,000.

Ms. McNeil advised that CD rates continue to be very low, particularly for a County like McLean County that wants to make sure the funds are collateralized. She stated that anything over \$250,000 is collateralized, which means that there is collateral pledged against it to protect the balance of the fund. This generally costs the County a point or quarter of a point of interest.

Ms. McNeil indicated that the County has some accounts in banks in the outlying areas of the County such as Dewey State Bank in Saybrook, and Morton Community Bank. She noted that these banks collect Property Taxes for the County. Ms. McNeil added that not only do we have these investment accounts, but, on the collector's side, we have several accounts where people can go in and pay their property taxes directly into those accounts. She advised that this is a great service to the County.

Motion by O'Connor/Rankin to accept and place on file the Month-end Financial Reports from the County Treasurer's Office for the month ending December 31, 2010, as submitted.

Motion carried.

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

Mr. Walt Howe, Administrator, Health Department, presented the 2010 County Wellness Program Report and a request for approval of the 2011 Wellness Program. He stated that there are a number of employee wellness initiatives that work closely with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Mr. Howe noted that the Health Department continues to do long term analysis. He advised that "prevention pays." Mr. Howe indicated that a conservative estimate shows that, at minimum, you get about a four or five times return on the investment in prevention programs. He stated that a number of employees were encountered this year that were in high risk categories after going through some preliminary screening. Mr. Howe added that he believes the County will save a large amount of dollars in terms of lost productivity in wages as we continue the Wellness Program.

Mr. Howe introduced Ms. Jan Morris, Health Promotion Manager, who will provide a brief presentation on the Wellness Program.

Ms. Morris thanked the County Board and the County Administrator's Office for their support. She noted that this was the 13th year for the County Wellness Program. Ms. Morris indicated that the Wellness Program started very small and continues to work to empower employees to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Ms. Morris stated that an on-going employee wellness program will increase health awareness, increase productivity, improve the overall health of the work force, and demonstrate the County's commitment to employee well-being, as well as decrease the number of health claims. Ms. Morris indicated that research shows that prevention is the key for wellness. She noted that she found a quote today from Tom Harkin who said that "America's healthcare system is in crisis precisely because we systematically neglect wellness and prevention." Ms. Morris stated that they are here today to promote wellness and prevention.

Ms. Morris advised that participation in the Wellness Program remains very strong. She reported that 442 employees participated in the County Employee Wellness Program in 2010 in addition to those that completed the online health risk assessment. Ms. Morris indicated that the average employee participated in three activities, and some participated in many more.

Ms. Morris indicated that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois became the County's insurance provider in 2010 for the very first time. She noted that it is difficult to compare data from the last provider due to the different screenings and different activities. Ms. Morris stated that this program gives the employers a broader network of providers and on-line wellness tools. She reported that 530 employees completed the Health Risk Assessment (HRA). Ms. Morris indicated that, last year, instead of having the on-site biometric screenings, it was recommended that employees see their medical provider for a wellness physical before they complete the HRA. She noted that some people rushed to fill out the HRA before their physical and didn't have all of the data they needed. Only 207 employees had the biometric data available, which is 38% of the 530 employees who completed the HRA. This year, employees are being encouraged to have the wellness physical first and then complete the Health Risk Assessment.

Ms. Morris stated that Blue Cross/Blue Shield had a health and well-being index for County employees and the County employees did better than similar populations of working America. She reported that the County was 48.3 out of 100, so there is still much work to be done. Ms. Morris added that this figure is compared to the benchmark population of 43.5 out of 100. She indicated that Blue Cross/Blue Shield made some suggestions in the County's wellness report; some of those suggestions have been addressed in the past and there is a vision for others in the New Year.

Ms. Morris noted that the recommended plan would include employee physical exams with their health care provider, online health risk assessment (HRA), wellness fair, and numerous wellness activities addressing risks determined by the HRA. McLean County will continue to participate in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Worksite Wellness

program. This program will provide online HRA and online health information for all employees insured by the provider.

Ms. Morris reported that 61% of employees had three or more risk factors, which could be body weight, not exercising, poor nutrition, smoking, lack of sleep, etc. She stated that most employees were ready to change and improve their behaviors. Ms. Morris noted that only 18% of employees said that they were not considering lifestyle changes; some are thinking about it, some are planning it, 24% were making changes, and 19% had already made changes.

Ms. Morris indicated that some of the opportunities provided to employees last year include:

- Weight management programs, including *Weight Watchers at Work* and *Biggest Loser Weight Loss Challenge*;
- Physical Fitness, including *Pilates, Muscle Madness, Fine Toning Class, Zumba*;
- Physical activity and Nutrition, including *Building Health Employees Challenge – August 2010*;
- General Wellness, including *Wellness Fairs*;
- Immunizations/vaccinations, including *Flu Vaccine, Tetanus, H1N1*;
- Chronic Disease Prevention including *Smoking Cessation/Tobacco Prevention, Breast Cancer Awareness – Paint the County Pink, Osteoporosis Screening*;
- Other activities, including *Wellness Employee of the Year, Wellness Celebration/Open House, Health and Wellness Resource Library*;
- Tips of the Week introduced in 2010;
- Periodic health news posted on *County Comments*;
- Promotion of health events and classes throughout the community.

Ms. Morris advised that the Health Department wants to develop some policies that address healthy foods to encourage people to have fruit at their meetings instead of donuts. She noted that they would like to find a space to develop an exercise room.

Ms. Morris advised that the goal for the 2011 wellness program will involve more than 500 employees in HRA and other wellness activities.

Ms. Morris reported that the McLean County Employee Wellness Program has provided benefits for County employees since its creation in 1998. The ultimate goal of the program has been to encourage employees to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors and improve their health and well-being while reducing illnesses and medical expenses.

Ms. Morris stated that the scheduled date for the annual employee wellness fair is Wednesday, May 11, 2011.

Ms. Morris requested that the Committee recommend approval of the 2011 Wellness Program with a proposed budget of \$23,400.

Mr. Rankin expressed his appreciation of the Wellness Program. He noted that he is a certified personal trainer, teaches fitness classes, and is an active tri-athlete. Mr. Rankin believes that by investing in wellness you will have healthier, happier, more productive employees. He strongly supports the Wellness Program.

Ms. Wollrab indicated that the City of Bloomington has a similar program. She asked how the County was able to get 530 people to take the HRA. Ms. Morris replied that the employees needed to complete the Health Risk Assessment and have a wellness physical to get a credit on their deductible. Mr. Wasson explained that the current plan provides for a \$500 deductible credit provided by the County's planned provider for each employee who completes a Health Risk Assessment and completes a wellness physical on an annual basis.

Ms. Wollrab stated that she would be interested in reviewing ways for the County to partner with the City of Bloomington. Ms. Morris responded that a few Bloomington employees attended Weight Watcher classes.

Mr. Lindberg advised that the reason the Wellness Program has been so successful is due to the efforts of Ms. Morris. Ms. Morris added that a lot of people are responsible for the success of this program.

Chairman Owens thanked the Health Department for providing this Wellness Program to County employees. He noted that County Board members can also take advantage of the Wellness Program.

Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend Approval of the
Proposed 2011 Employee Wellness Program and the
proposed Budget.
Motion carried.

Chairman Owens asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Howe and Ms. Morris.

Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk, presented a request for approval of a polling place change of precinct, Normal 7 from Normal Township Hall to Epiphany Church.

Mr. Rankin pointed out that the Letter from Mr. Richard E. Farr, Supervisor of Normal Township, requesting the polling place change was addressed to Ms. Peggy Ann Milton. Mr. Rankin asked if Ms. Michael is in agreement with the polling place change.

Ms. Michael responded that the County Clerk's Office relies on and respects the opinion of Mr. Farr, and is in agreement with the change.

Ms. Wollrab commented that she feels it would be better to have polling places in non-denominational type buildings. Ms. Michael agreed, but noted that it is difficult to find facilities that are large enough with easy access for voters.

Ms. Michael advised that the County Clerk's Office, with the assistance of student interns, will be doing an analysis on polling places. Pictures of polling places will be posted on the website so that people can see how accessible they are. Ms. Michael noted that there is also a new program to reach out to people with special needs.

Motion by McIntyre/Rankin to Recommend Approval of a
Polling Place Change of Precinct, Normal 7 from Normal
Township Hall to Epiphany Church.
Motion carried.

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

Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator, asked Mr. Wasson to present the next action item on the regular agenda.

Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator, presented the request for approval of the Critical Personnel Hiring Requests. He indicated that the following is a list of requests to fill critical personnel positions which have been vacated since the Mid-year FTE reduction and received by the County Administrator's Office through December 27th. All positions listed below are budgeted and funded in FY'2011.

Sheriff's Department

- 1) Fill 1.0 FTE Office Support Specialist I which has been vacated

The Sheriff's Office has previously had a 1.67 FTE office support position reduction in 2010 budget cycle and another 1.0 FTE office support position reduction in the 2011 budget cycle. The workload of the 2.67 FTE reductions has been redistributed among remaining office support staff. This position is necessary to provide sufficient personnel to maintain critical staffing levels.

Circuit Court

1) Fill 1.0 FTE Judicial Secretary position which has been vacated

This position was staffed until the resignation of the incumbent effective December 13, 2010. The position is funded for FY 2011. The Circuit Court has had the same staffing level since 2002, when the State of Illinois increased the number of judges assigned to the Circuit.

This position manages high volume calendars for the Circuit Court. This position has frequent contact with the State's Attorney, Public Defender and other justice system department in relation to the minor traffic docket. There has been a 19.7% increase in traffic cases since 2004 without any staff increase.

This position is the primary point of contact with the pro se (unrepresented litigants) and the private bar regarding all small claims and arbitration cases filed within the County. There has been a 16% increase in the number of filings (now in excess of 4100 cases) since 2004 without an increase in staff time.

State's Attorney Office

1) Fill 1.0 FTE Assistant State's Attorney which has been vacated

The State's Attorney's Office has previously had a 1.0 Assistant State's Attorney FTE position reduction in June 2010. This vacated position has taken on a portion of the redistributed workload of the criminal division FTE reduction. Criminal division caseloads increased YTD in 2010.

The following position is identified as falling under the "contracted services-grant funding exemption" section of the hiring freeze guidelines and is budgeted for FY 2011.

Children's Advocacy Center

1.) Fill 1.0 FTE Case Manager position which has been vacated

This Grant Funded CASA Case Manager position is responsible for the supervision of 30 CASA volunteers and their cases. Those 30 volunteers supervised by this position, on the average, provide 2,500 hours of advocacy per year for their assigned children in foster care (the equivalent of 1.25 FTEs). Additionally, this staff person assists in the solicitation of new CASA volunteers from the community, training, case supervision, court accompaniment, and related case review meetings with various child welfare agencies. If the program is unable to rehire for this position, the CASA Program will be adversely affected, as well as the McLean County children receiving their advocacy services. As of November 30, 2010, the CASA Program as a whole advocated for 134 children living in foster care, and the 67 active CASA volunteers provided 4,604 hours of medical, educational, legal and personal advocacy.

The following positions are identified as falling under the “critical patient care exemption” section of the hiring freeze guidelines and are funded for FY 2011.

Court Services

- 1) Fill 1.0 FTE Registered Nurse Position- Juvenile Detention

Court Services has posted the single Registered Nurse position which exists at the Juvenile Detention Center. This position has recently been vacated and needs to be refilled to provide sufficient personnel to meet critical minimum staffing levels required by accreditation and state guidelines.

Nursing Home

- 2) Fill 1.0 FTE Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Positions which have been vacated
- 3) Fill 1.0 FTE Domestic Service Attendant Position which has been vacated
- 4) Fill 1.0 FTE Maintenance Forman Position which is being vacated

The Nursing Home has filled one CNA position and one Domestic Service Attendant position that have been vacated and one Maintenance Forman position vacancy has been posted to provide sufficient personnel to meet critical minimum staffing levels required to meet state guidelines.

Mr. Wasson advised that the Sheriff’s Department and the State’s Attorney’s Office forestalled making these requests until the beginning of the year. They tried to get by with a reduced staff as long as possible without filling the positions that have been vacant for more than a month.

Mr. Lindberg explained that, in the case of the Sheriff and the State’s Attorney, we are not asking the Committee to go back and restore a position that was cut. Rather, these are positions that became vacant after the cuts in June and after the FTE’s were funded on the FY’2011 budget. Mr. Wasson added that these are budgeted positions. The positions are all funded in the 2011 budget and they are not positions that were reduced previously in 2010. The positions are vacancies that have occurred since then.

Motion by Wollrab/O’Connor to Recommend Approval of the
Critical Personnel Hiring Requests.
Motion carried.

Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator, presented a request for approval to authorize the Settlement Agreement with State Farm Insurance and ten taxing bodies, namely City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington District 87, Unit 5, Heartland Community College, B/N Water Reclamation District, B/N Airport Authority, City of Bloomington Township, City of Bloomington Library, and City of Bloomington Township Assessor.

Mr. Lindberg advised that all entities except the County have reviewed and approved this document. He indicated that it comes before the Finance Committee today as the last body to take action. Mr. Lindberg noted that there have been several discussions on the issue along the way, including individual meetings and discussions with a number of Board members.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the County Administrator's Office believes that this represents the best deal for the community. He noted that there has been a lot of thought given to Agreement by the taxpayer. There has been a lot of time and effort put into it by a number of taxing bodies, particularly those taxing bodies that have the most at stake, namely the two school districts and the City of Bloomington. Mr. Lindberg pointed out that the impact on the County would be relatively modest. He believes that to give State Farm some assurance about the near term future of their tax liability is preferable to having State Farm without any alternative other than to pursue the assessment review process. Mr. Lindberg stated that the risk of allowing the review process to happen and the potential consequences would be much more adverse to the taxing bodies than approving this agreement.

Ms. Wollrab asked about the different status for the Airport Authority. Mr. Lindberg replied that two years ago the Airport Authority made a mistake on their tax process and if we used the same base here, they would have been penalized. Therefore, a special provision was made for the Airport Authority.

Motion by McIntyre/O'Connor to Recommend Approval to Authorize the Settlement Agreement with State Farm Insurance, City of Bloomington, McLean County, Bloomington District 87, Unit 5, heartland Community College, B/N Water Reclamation District, B/N Airport Authority, City of Bloomington Township, and City of Bloomington Township Assessor.

Motion carried.

Chairman Owens called for a motion to go into *Executive Session*, with the Committee Members, the Administrator's Staff and Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk, to discuss personnel issues.

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Motion by Rankin/Wollrab to Recommend the Finance Committee go into *Executive Session* at 5:00 p.m. to discuss Personnel Issues with the Committee Members, Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk, and the Administrator's Office Staff.
Motion carried.

Motion by McIntyre/O'Connor to recommend the Finance Committee return to *Open Session* at 5:37 p.m.
Motion carried.

Chairman Owens presented the December 31, 2010 Finance Committee bills for review.
The Finance Committee bills, including the Nursing Home, total \$1,737,226.06

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Motion by Rankin/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Finance Committee bills as of December 31, 2010 as recommended by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Owens adjourned the Finance Committee at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary

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