

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members McIntyre, Owens, Cavallini Segobiano, Hoselton, O'Connor, Caisley and Gordon

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: Members Soeldner, Harris, Pyne, Brandt, Buchanan, Erickson, Schafer, and Wollrab

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies

Others Present: Mr. Pablo Eves, Assistant's State's Attorney, Civil Division

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the May 14, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by McIntyre/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2013 Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as Recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen advised that four candidates applied for the District 8 vacancy. He noted that their letters and resumes are included in the Packet for your review. Chairman Sorensen introduced Mr. Carlo Robustelli.

Mr. Robustelli thanked the County Board Chairman and the Executive Committee for allowing him to speak this afternoon. He indicated that he is very pleased to have the opportunity to share a little about himself and his qualifications for the appointment to the District 8 County Board seat.

Mr. Robustelli stated that he and his wife have established strong roots in this community. He indicated that he is the Director of Grants and Foundation Relations at Illinois Wesleyan University and his wife is a Professor at IWU. Mr. Robustelli noted that they own a home in the historic Dimmitt's Grove neighborhood and plan to raise their family there.

Mr. Robustelli advised that he has a long professional record of public service. He indicated that prior to moving to McLean County he served as the Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In this leadership role, he was involved in all aspects of policy-making and constituent services. Mr. Robustelli stated that if appointed to this seat, he will have the time to commit to perform the duties required of him.

Mr. Robustelli reported that he has a degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and has taken graduate level courses at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Robustelli stated that he cares deeply about McLean County. He noted that he served on the Executive Board of the Ecology Action Center for two years, is currently the Vice-President of the Board, and has been nominated for President of the Board. He indicated that he chaired the Household Hazardous Waste Committee, which oversaw the Center's most significant fundraising effort. Mr. Robustelli noted that, in February, he was appointed by the Town of Normal to serve on the Children's Discovery Museum Foundation Board. He stated that he has also been active in supporting the economic and social vitality of Bloomington's downtown by assisting the Downtown Bloomington Association with grant writing.

Mr. Robustelli advised that he is active in volunteerism in the community, including organizing and leading volunteer teams at the Home Sweet Home Ministries, preparing and serving meals to homeless and low-income individuals in McLean County.

Mr. Robustelli concluded that he is passionate about this community and believes that his experience serving in these various roles has prepared him to serve on the County Board. He expressed his admiration for the County Board and the professional manner in which it conducts business. Mr. Robustelli assured the Committee that if given the opportunity to serve on the Board, he will be open to listening to all points of view, actively engage with residents, and will be open-minded about facing challenges head-on. He thanked the Committee for considering his application.

Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Robustelli when he moved to this County. Mr. Robustelli replied that he moved here two years ago.

Mr. Caisley asked if Mr. Robustelli had discussed this with Mr. Renner and if Mr. Renner encouraged him to seek this seat. Mr. Robustelli replied that he knows Mr. Renner professionally at IWU.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Robustelli.

Chairman Sorensen introduced Mr. Bernie Uszcienski.

Mr. Uszcienski thanked the Chairman and the Committee. He noted that he was one of the candidates who ran against Mr. Scott Black for the Bloomington City Council, and is now seeking his position. Mr. Uszcienski noted that this County Board seat is not a consolation prize. He indicated that he was interested in the City Council first, but is now seeking this position.

Mr. Uszcienski advised that he has lived in McLean County all of his life of 54 years and his family has a 100 year history in McLean County. He indicated that he is married to Kelly Uszcienski who is currently employed by the McLean County Sheriff's Department, and has been with the County for 34 years.

Mr. Uszcienski stated that he has been with Facilities at Heartland College for a year and a half. He noted that prior to that he was with the IBEW Union for over 20 years. In the Union, he was elected Vice President twice, was on the Executive Board twice, and was an Apprentice Teacher for 12 years.

Mr. Uszcienski stated that he has a great knowledge of District 8 where he has lived all of his life. He indicated that his family sacrificed many things for him to serve on many committees. Mr. Uszcienski noted that he was on St. Mary's Home and School Board, where, at that time, it increased enrollment and was allowed to put an addition onto the school, which is thriving very well.

Mr. Uszcienski advised that on the IBEW Union he traveled to Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D.C. to represent the Union. He stated that he wants to bring his skills of communication, honesty and integrity to represent the people who he feels he amplifies in District 8, hardworking blue-collar people.

Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Uszcienski if he is going to represent the people or his Union. Mr. Uszcienski replied that he will always represent the people.

Ms. O'Connor asked if he did any negotiating for the Union. Mr. Uszcienski replied that he helped twice on negotiating Union contracts.

Mr. Caisley asked if Mr. Uszcienski's wife is a union employee with the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Uszcienski replied that she is a clerical worker.

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

Chairman Sorensen advised that Ms. Stephanie Uzueta was not in attendance.

Mr. Julian C. Westerhout thanked the Board Chairman, the Executive Committee and other members of the Board for the opportunity to meet and talk with them today. He stated that it is good to see a competition for the County Board seat. He indicated that he and his wife moved here in 2007, where his wife took a job at Illinois State University. Mr. Westerhout noted that they purchased a home on the near east side of Bloomington and have been fixing it up ever since.

Mr. Westerhout noted that District 8 is a very diverse district that encompasses the old inner core of the east and west Bloomington, northwest Bloomington, fine historic neighborhoods like Dimmitt's Grove, the IWU campus and community, downtown Bloomington, the West Market business corridor around the Interstate, and a little bit of agriculture. He pointed out that the area comprises very different constituents, which is important for whoever ends up representing this district. Mr. Westerhout noted that it will take someone who understands and relates to all of those constituents.

Mr. Westerhout stated that he has a diverse background and believes he could do a very good job representing this district. He indicated that he has worked in small business, has had to meet payroll, and dealt with counties. Mr. Westerhout noted that he teaches Political Science at Illinois State University and is familiar with the issues that are important to campus communities, both students and the neighbors of students, and how it relates to the County as a whole and not just the city.

Mr. Westerhout advised that he is very involved in the community. He stated that he has worked with West Bloomington Revitalization Project's Walk-in, Bike-out program for several years; he and his wife have served as family partners for a Habitat for Humanity house that was built on West Olive Street in District 8; and he is the ISU Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter faculty advisor, which will be building its 20th house next year. Mr. Westerhout indicated that he has been a volunteer for the Old House Society, which is a not-for-profit that is dedicated to maintaining and helping people restore their older homes. He noted that last year he stepped down from the Board where he had been President of the Board.

Mr. Westerhout stated that cooperation is the key to making a pretty good community even better. He noted that the biggest thing for District 8 residents is figuring out ways to continue to grow the County.

Mr. Westerhout expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the Committee and would be glad to answer any questions.

Ms. O'Connor asked what makes him want to be on the County Board. Mr. Westerhout replied that community involvement and civic engagement are strong beliefs that he holds. He stated that he believes that "our society is basically as good as we are" and he believes that he can represent District 8 well and work with the diverse members of the County Board.

Ms. Pyne asked if Chairman Sorensen will talk about the process of making the appointment after the presentation. Chairman Sorensen replied that he will provide information to the Committee.

Mr. Erickson asked Mr. Westerhout in what capacity did he have the opportunity to "meet" payroll. Mr. Westerhout replied that he has worked in small business, manufacturing, public radio and education. He noted that he owned an outdoor and camping store in Maryland years ago, ran a two-chain bicycle store, and worked for a manufacturing company in Colorado.

Mr. Owens pointed out that Mr. Westerhout is a member of the East Side Highway Focus Working Group and asked if this would have any conflicts regarding the East Side Highway. Mr. Westerhout replied that the East Side Highway planning process has a plethora of stakeholder interest group outreach programs and this is part of it. He added that the Focus Group is an effort to make sure that most of the stakeholders have a voice in the process and have an idea of what is going on, which will make the process smoother and more effective. Mr. Westerhout noted that he does not believe it will be a conflict.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there are any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Westerhout.

Chairman Sorensen encouraged and requested feedback from members of the Board and members of the Executive Committee regarding the presentation of the three candidates. He stated that at next Tuesday's County Board meeting, he will place a name in nomination for an up or down vote.

Ms. Pyne asked if the fact that Ms. Uzueta did not attend the meeting will eliminate her from candidacy. Chairman Sorensen replied that there is nothing in the rules that would eliminate her application.

Mr. Caisley stated that he has grave concerns about the process of selecting the candidate for District 8. He added that his remarks are not intended to be critical of the Chairman or the candidates. Mr. Caisley expressed concern with the statute limiting the people who can apply to Democrats.

Mr. Caisley indicated that there might be some Republicans or Independents that would be viable candidates and the statute limiting this to Democrats only is unconstitutional, and it is a denial of equal protection of the law to people who live in District 8 who might not be members of the Democratic party who might like to be appointed to the County Board. Mr. Caisley recommended that the application process be re-opened and made available to anyone in District 8 to apply for appointment to this vacancy. He likened the process to such restrictions as only allowing applicants of the gender of the person, Mr. Scott Black, who resigned from the Board, or can only be limited to people who, like Mr. Black, are unmarried, or that belong to the same Church, etc. Mr. Caisley reiterated that he believes the process should be re-opened and that the Board should allow applications from anyone in District 8 who wishes to apply.

Chairman Sorensen advised that Mr. Caisley's comments are now on record. He stated that the statute is a component of the federal law and a component of the state law. Chairman Sorensen indicated that to do as Mr. Caisley suggests means that we would be intentionally acting contrary to existing state and federal law.

Mr. Caisley agreed that it would be acting contrary to state and federal law, and noted that if someone was aggrieved if we appointed someone who was not a Democrat, then they could file an action against the County and we would have the issue clearly presented for a court to determine.

Ms. Pyne pointed out that the candidate that vacated the seat ran on a Democratic ticket and not a single, white male ticket and the people of District 8 selected him as a Democrat and not as a young, single, white male.

Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Caisley if the County Board has legal authority to violate state law. Mr. Caisley responded that we would be violating state law and we would be doing it for good government reasons on a sound constitutional basis.

Mr. Owens stated that that he believes that the person who held the seat was a Democrat and a Democrat should be reappointed to that position. He suggested that if we are willing to violate this area, we may as well violate some other statutes that would be more fun to violate.

Mr. Hoselton indicated that he is proud to be on a County Board that puts party politics aside and works for the people. He stated that he doesn't like the idea of stirring the water politically over this issue.

Mr. Segobiano advised that we have the freedom of the ballot box and the gentleman who was elected as a Democrat in District 8 was voted by the people, probably by Democrats, Republics or Libertarians included. He stated that he feels it is ludicrous to bring this up at this time.

Mr. Erickson indicated that in the history of jurisprudence, there have been occasions that County Boards and governmental bodies have chosen to be a test case to challenge a statute that presently exists on the books. He added that he doesn't believe this is the proper occasion to challenge a statute.

Mr. Buchanan asked Mr. Caisley if the party were reversed and it was a Republican being replaced, would he have made the same presentation or if it is just designating a specific party was the issue. Mr. Caisley replied that it could be both ways.

Mr. Cavallini recalled having served on several boards that were non-partisan positions and when he was asked to serve on the County Board, he was told he had to declare a political party. He indicated that it does raise the question of whether the County Board would be open to a different process in terms of making it non-partisan, noting that the Board already works cooperatively together as if it were non-partisan.

Mr. Soeldner asked if there were any Republican candidates in November on that ballot. Chairman Sorensen replied that there were none. Mr. Soeldner pointed out that Republican candidates had the opportunity to run at that time.

Chairman Sorensen stated that he appreciates the comments and sentiment. He agreed with Mr. Erickson that there are times and places when it would be appropriate to create test case opportunities in both state and federal courts. Chairman Sorensen added that it is not the role of the McLean County Board at this time to create an opportunity to re-write the law.

Chairman Sorensen indicated that there is a June 2013 Information Technologies Report in the packet. There were no questions on the report.

Mr. William Caisley, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented two requests for approval. The first is to renew the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Juvenile Redeploy Grant for SFY'2014, and the second is a request for approval to renew the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Adult Redeploy Grant for SFY'2014. He advised that these grants are the same as we have had in the past and will likely be renewed in the future.

Motion by Caisley/Cavallini to Recommend Approval to renew the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Juvenile Redeploy Grant for SY'2014, and to Recommend Approval to renew the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Adult Redeploy Grant for SY'2014.

Motion carried.

Mr. Caisley presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Coroner's Office 0031. The Coroner's Office received a grant from the Death Certificate Surcharge Fund, which may be used to purchase equipment.

Motion by Caisley/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, Coroner's Office 0031.

Motion carried.

Mr. Caisley presented a request for approval of a Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Circuit Clerk's Office, Agreement #2014-55-007-KJ. He pointed out that this contract is different than in the past in that it now is compensated on a per case basis rather than a lump sum.

Motion by Caisley/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Circuit Clerk's Office, Agreement #2014-55-007-KJ.

Motion carried.

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

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.

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

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, McLean County Highway Fund 0120, McLean County Highway Department 0055 (Pavement Replacement and Repair).

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, McLean County Highway Fund 0120, McLean County Highway Department 0055 (Pavement Replacement and Repair).
Motion carried.

Mr. Hoselton advised that all other items going to the Board have been discussed and approved by the Transportation Committee.

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

Mr. Paul Segobiano, Chairman, Property Committee, advised that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee. He thanked Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management and Mr. Wasson for their prompt attention to a flood caused by a broken water pipe in the Government Center Building. Mr. Segobiano indicated that he was concerned about the potential of mold damage from the flood. He stated that the quick response by Facilities Management and the County Administrator eliminated any concern or possibility of mold damage. He advised that old plat books in the Recorder's Office that were damaged in the flood were frozen and transported to a restoration company in Chicago.

Mr. Cavallini asked where the leak was. Mr. Wasson explained that a hot water pipe burst in the Recorder's Office located on the Mezzanine Level of the Government Center on Thursday, May 23rd at approximately 1:00 a.m. The break was discovered at approximately 6:30 a.m. that morning. He indicated that just below the pipe were shelves of historic plat books. Mr. Wasson stated that the books were immediately frozen and then transported to a restoration company in Chicago where they will attempt to restore the books through a freeze-drying method.

Mr. Wasson reported that areas affected by the flood included the Recorder's Office, the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Room in the basement.

Mr. Wasson stated that a restoration company who works directly with the County insurer immediately responded and began the process of drying and dehumidifying the areas affected by the flood.

Mr. Segobiano advised that Mr. Moody was the supervisor of maintenance for this building when it was Champion Federal. He pointed out that other issues could occur, but Mr. Moody knows the building and will handle any emergencies professionally.

Mr. Caisley indicated that credit should also go to the Coroner's Office who housed the record books in their freezer until they could be removed to the document restoration company.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that the Committee read the minutes from the Property Committee meeting.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance. He indicated that the VA received a \$1,500 contribution from a fundraiser, which will be used to make repairs to the VAC van.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of an
Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean
County Fiscal Year 2013 Combined
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of Critical Personnel Hiring Requests – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of
Critical Personnel Hiring Requests – County Administrator's
Office.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented an Ordinance for Prevailing Rate of Public Works Wages for McLean County. He noted that each year McLean County is required to adopt the prevailing rate of public works wages that governs any construction capital projects with which the County may be involved.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an
Ordinance for Prevailing Rate of Public Works Wages for
McLean County.
Motion carried.

Ms. O'Connor commented that it is amazing what the Veteran's Assistance Commission is doing for the Veteran's in McLean County and we should be very proud of what they are doing.

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the May 31, 2013 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$190,542.87 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Cavallini/McIntyre to recommend Approval of the Executive Committee bills for May 31, 2013 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen reminded the Committee to provide their feedback regarding the appointment for the District 8 County Board seat.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary