

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members McIntyre, Gordon, Owens, Caisley, Soeldner, Erickson

Members Absent: Members Sorensen and O'Connor

Other Board Members Present: Members Harris, Robustelli and Metsker

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator; Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney

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 January 13, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion by Soeldner/Caisley to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations.

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

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board establishing an Ordinance to create the McLean County Code – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Caisley asked how Ordinances will be handled that are of passing importance such as appropriations and budget items. Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant Civil

State's Attorney, replied that those types of ordinances are excluded from the Code. He added that not every Ordinance and Resolution is included in the Code.

Mr. Caisley asked if the Code will be published in hard copy. Mr. Knapp replied that the Code will be on-line, and bound copies will be printed for the Administrator's Office and, by statute, the County Clerk's Office. Mr. Caisley asked if a copy will be furnished to the Judges of the Circuit Court who hear Ordinance violations. Mr. Knapp replied that if judges would like one, that could be arranged; however, there is no statutory requirement to do so.

Mr. Soeldner asked if permit fee increases for the Highway Department will be included in the Code. Mr. Knapp replied that fee increases will be included. He indicated that a couple bound copies of the Code will be available for the County Board on Tuesday, and will include the new fee ordinances from Mr. Schmitt.

Mr. Knapp explained that all fees from individual ordinances will be compiled into one single Fee Ordinance section. This will allow for better tracking of how long ago a fee was established and help determine when a fee should be increased or changed. Mr. Knapp advised that, when the Board passes a new ordinance, the County Clerk must record that ordinance in a ledger and that information will be passed along to General Code and they will take care of the data processing.

Mr. Wasson reminded the Committee that, last month, the Board approved modifications to the zoning and subdivision codes that restructured those ordinances to allow the fees to exist in a separate document. This will allow for a unified code with a unified fees chapter.

Motion by McIntyre/Owens to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board establishing an Ordinance to create the McLean County Code.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board adopting the 2015 Legislative Program for McLean County – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval a Resolution of the McLean County Board Adopting the 2015 Legislative Program for McLean County.

Chairman Sorensen noted that an updated version of the Program was distributed prior to the meeting with corrected scribner's errors.

Chairman Sorensen commented that the County's Legislative Program is very consistent with a lot of counties around the state. He stated that Mr. Wasson and he have attended several meetings of county administrators and county board chairmen

where many of these topics have come up. Chairman Sorensen advised that McLean County will take the lead on one issue in 2015, namely, giving counties throughout Illinois the same authority to enact local Motor Fuel Taxes. He noted that there are a handful of counties in the state that have that authority today, but most do not.

Mr. Robustelli indicated that this is the item that he wished to discuss. He questioned the process in which the Transportation Committee did not weigh in on this topic. Mr. Robustelli stated that the Transportation Committee spends a lot of time talking about the County Highway infrastructure needs, both short-term and long-term. He indicated that he feels the Committee is well positioned to provide advice in terms of what should be looked at. Mr. Robustelli advised that while he supports local controls or authority to initiate county motor fuel tax, he feels that other methods need to be looked at to collect sufficient funds.

Mr. Robustelli expressed concern that the Transportation Committee did not have an opportunity to discuss this issue. He noted that he does not believe that a capital investment program is sufficient to address the need. Mr. Robustelli would like the Transportation Committee to weigh in on this issue.

Chairman Sorensen advised that the Transportation Committee has the latitude to engage on this topic as much or as little as they would like. He indicated that there is a fundamental difference between oversight committees identifying needs and the County, as a whole (the County Administration, Finance Committee, Executive Committee, the Chairman), thinking about where to get adequate revenue. Chairman Sorensen stated that conversations are already being held with legislators who represent McLean County about getting this legislation introduced.

Mr. Caisley noted that very soon the Board will be called upon to approve an ordinance fixing the compensation that must be paid to people who work for contractors who do work for the county. He stated that this is an unfunded mandate and he believes that it has the tendency to increase the cost of construction. Mr. Caisley would like the State's Attorney's Office to look into whether we can chose to fix our own wages and not adopt the one from the State of Illinois Department of Labor, and to hire someone from the ISU Stevenson Center to make a study of local labor costs to see if we can get a lower labor cost.

Chairman Sorensen advised that Mr. Caisley is referring to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Public Act which does push numbers at county boards, and which most county boards pass as a local ordinance. He noted that he is not opposed to investigate whether or not we have any local control. Chairman Sorensen stated that, historically, we have operated with the assumption that we don't.

Mr. Erickson asked if state legislators have given any indication of what they think is doable in the General Assembly in regard to this Legislative Program. Chairman Sorensen replied that they have not talked to the legislators about all of the content

of this program yet. He reminded the Committee that much of this Legislative Program is a repeat year after year, such as “don’t take more money away from us; don’t limit our authority; don’t pass more unfunded mandates, etc.” Chairman Sorensen noted that the one topic that they have had specific conversations about, with general consensus among many Metro Counties, is the first item in the program regarding giving local governments some control over motor fuel taxes. He stated that there is a piece of legislation right now that grants authority to a handful of collar counties to have their own motor fuel tax, and our requested amendment is to strike the names of those specific counties and simply say “counties in Illinois.”

Mr. Erickson advised that there are parts of this Legislative Program that he agrees with and parts that he disagrees with. He asked if it is necessary to accept it as a whole program as was done last year. Mr. Wasson replied that it is typically accepted as a whole program, but the County Board could make modifications if they so choose. Mr. Erickson indicated that the Governor will be giving his budget address next week, and he is concerned that there may be some things in the budget address that might conflict with this Legislative Program, and he would not want his vote to be in conflict with what the Governor might say that he agrees with. He asked if the Legislative Program needs to be done this month. Chairman Sorensen replied that this Legislative Program is looking through the lens of county and local government and while we may, as individuals, absolutely agree with Governor Rauner on a personal level, as the leadership of the County we are fundamentally opposed or in favor of the things that are in this program. He recognized that there are times that many of us may be conflicted in that.

Mr. Erickson stated that he could go through the Program and approve of 80% of it, but there is 20% that he would not like to see happen. Chairman Sorensen reiterated that the County Board always has the authority to amend elements of this program.

Ms. Harris echoed Mr. Robustelli’s concerns that the Transportation Committee has not been provided ample opportunity to consider other options that could be researched to increase revenue to cover the costs of road and bridge repairs besides the motor fuel tax. Chairman Sorensen replied that Mr. Soeldner, the staff and he are open to all of those ideas. The challenge is that, historically, roads and infrastructure are dealt with through motor fuel tax. Ms. Harris indicated that community awareness, state and federal grants, and contributions are potential methods of raising money that should be explored by the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Caisley expressed concern with reducing jury pay. He acknowledged that if a juror is reimbursed by an employer, there is no problem, but for someone who is self-employed or who doesn’t receive compensation for missing days of work, it is a financial burden. He stated that he is opposed to the jury pay legislative issue. Chairman Sorensen explained that what the Legislative Program is opposed to is that the state universally quadrupled jury pay as an unfunded mandate. He indicated that this legislative topic does not suggest that local county boards don’t

still have control of what the jury pay is above the state minimum. Chairman Sorensen noted that this legislative topic also came from Metro Counties, where the group of counties were offended by the state mandating a state-wide increase of this nature. The Legislative Program reflects the desire to unwind that state mandate and leave the control for local jury pay in the hands of county boards.

Mr. Wasson reviewed additional items in the Legislative Program, as listed in the Committee packet. He noted that he does not believe there is one item in the Legislative Program that is a McLean County-only concern.

Mr. Robustelli stated that in each of these items we do a great job in localizing the impact, except on transportation. He believes it is important to have something that we can put in the paragraph about impact showing the amount that we are underfunding maintenance every year and the amount we have in unfunded projects. Every single year that number is going to go up and without action to increase revenue, it is going to continue to go up. Mr. Robustelli advised that it is going to be necessary to find other funding mechanisms. Chairman Sorensen responded that the Legislative Program is an executive summary that outlines the legislative topics that McLean County is concerned with. This is not representative of what would be presented as testimony should it get that far in the process in Springfield. This is the beginning of what is typically a very defensive set of activities that county and local governments historically go through in Illinois. He added that this motor fuel tax recommendation is actually a little bit of offense.

Ms. Harris advised that she would like to see the Transportation Committee do research to find lobbying for emergency legislation or grant funding due to what the consequences will be with the County's lack of funding for road and bridge infrastructure repairs.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any additional questions, comments or discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen 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. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, advised that the two requests that were listed on the agenda will be moved to a Stand-up meeting for consideration. The two items that will be considered are, as follows:

- A request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2014 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor;
- A request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2015 Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – County Auditor.

Mr. Wasson explained that errors were identified in the documents that will be corrected by the County Auditor and brought to a Stand-up Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

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

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 questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Jim Soeldner, Chairman, Transportation Committee advised that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Paul Segobiano, Chairman, Property Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen advised that the Property Committee had no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Robustelli asked for an update on the status of the Jail project.

Mr. Wasson advised that the Jail consultants have been working on a couple issues over the last 30 days, including staffing and operational assessments, which has taken longer than expected. He added that they have also been reviewing analysis of additional data that was provided by the Stevenson Center to the CJCC over the past 30 days. Because of that updated information, the Administrator's Office requested that they review the data and incorporate it into the document. Mr. Wasson stated that the staff is actively engaged with the consultants, and a meeting was held today to review a work product that was received over the weekend. He indicated that a meeting will be held with the consultants to review the work product next week.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any other questions or comments regarding the Property Committee. There were no questions.

Mr. Bill Caisley, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2015 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022 (Juvenile Justice Commission Grant) – Court Services. He explained that this is a State Fiscal Year grant that goes from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. This action would move the grant funds from the FY'2014 Budget to the FY'2015 Budget.

Motion by Caisley/Soeldner to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2015 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022 (Juvenile Justice Commission Grant) – Court Services.  
Motion carried.

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the January 31, 2015 bills and transfers as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$370,824.38 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by McIntyre/Owens to recommend Approval of the Executive Committee bills and transfers for January 31, 2015 as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary