

## Minutes of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, September 8, 2015 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chair Ben Owens; Vice Chair, Sondra "Sonny" O'Connor  
Members: Mr. George Gordon; Mr. Chuck Erickson; Mr. Carlo Robustelli; Ms. Susan Schafer, Mr. Erik Rankin

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Buchanan and McIntyre

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney; Ms. Julie A. Morlock, Recording Secretary;

Department Heads/Elected  
Officials Present: Jon Sandage, Sheriff;

Others Present: Greg Allen, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

Motion by Schafer/O'Connor to request approval of a Resolution to Amend the Budget Policy for Fiscal Year 2016 – Law & Justice Center Expansion/Renovation.  
Motion Carried.

Mr. Wasson stated they had provided several charts to the Finance Committee to give them a general understanding of the implications of some of the actions that have taken place or anticipated to take place over the next few weeks that will affect the budget. He stated that the Property Committee's consensus, which they will vote on at a Standup meeting before the Board meeting next week, was to recommend Scenario B with a funding cap of \$45 million. Mr. Wasson stated that Scenario B is the building of three new pods that will hold 55 detainees in each pod. He stated this consensus is based on a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee after review of the Needs Assessment and Pre-Architectural plan done by Dewberry and Goldman and the Peer Review done by the Farnsworth Group as well as the analysis of both reports by Administration. Mr. Wasson indicated that the Farnsworth Peer Review recommends relying on the high-end numbers provided by Dewberry which for Scenario B is 46.8 million. Mr. Wasson stated that Administration and members of the County Board have been actively working to identify alternative revenue streams that would assist the in addressing mental health needs of the community including the expansion and

renovation of the detainment facility. He indicated that one option they have been pursuing is the possibility of sharing a ¼ cent home rule sales tax by the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal that would be used for public safety and mental health purposes. Mr. Wasson then went through each of the handouts explaining the funding options including bonding, sales tax revenue and property tax changes that might occur with each option. He explained that there were options that included receiving revenue from the sales tax and either 40 million bond or 45 million bond, and also an option that showed no sales tax revenue and a 45 million bond. Mr. Wasson then read the proposed changes to several sections of the Budget Policy that would provide for a fund for the sales tax revenue and its future distributions.

Ms. Schafer asked him to clarify the effect on property taxes if the County received the sales tax revenue. Mr. Wasson stated that based on preliminary calculations if we receive the sales tax revenue the property taxes on a \$165,000 would increase by about \$5.00. Mr. Wasson stated that page 1 of the handout is with \$1,000,000 sales tax revenue and the numbers on page 2 are without that revenue. Mr. Robustelli asked him to clarify that in the worst case scenario a typical property owner would pay an additional \$20.48/year in property taxes. Mr. Wasson stated that based on the very preliminary numbers they had provided that is correct. Mr. Wasson stated these numbers will likely change before next Tuesday and also within the next few months as they finalize budgets for the departments. Mr. Wasson stated that these numbers were provided to the Committee to give the Committee a better idea of the debt service impacts upon the property tax levy vs. all the remaining budgets.

Mr. Wasson then went on to explain that there will be a 6 month lag based on the wishes of the City and the Town in sales tax revenue and he broke down the quarter of a cent we would receive. He stated that a quarter of the quarter would go to debt service, a quarter would go to operational needs, and one-half would go to community outreach programs and updating our case management programs. Mr. Robustelli asked the total amount that we would use from our unencumbered fund balance for the jail project to get through the first year. Mr. Wasson indicated it would be about \$425,000 additional cost to level the first year's bond payment so we do not have to levy up for one year.

Mr. Robustelli asked Mr. Wasson to clarify the operation costs for the new officers. Mr. Wasson stated that we have included the operation costs of only one additional post or 5.2 officers because closing some of the linear sections of the old jail allows us to move posts from the old sections to the new sections. Mr. Robustelli asked when we would see the first year of operational costs. Mr. Wasson indicated it would be about 3 years.

Ms. Schafer asked for clarification that it would be in fiscal year 2019 that we would include the FTE's and if we are receiving a quarter of the quarter for operations between now and then where are we applying the funds that we receive. Mr. Wasson stated it would remain in our special revenue fund for expenditures on the directed and

associated expenses. Then he explained that we will be looking at operational costs of other programs, including additional medical staff, counseling, mental health and drug courts and not just operations of the jail mental health units. Ms. Schafer also asked him to clarify the abatement. Mr. Wasson stated that we would have to levy for the amount that we are obligated to pay and will do so for every year that we are obligated to pay the PBC for the debt service. Then because of the revenue generated from the sales tax each year we will go through the process to abate that levy so that the amount to the tax payers will only be what we are reflecting here in the hand-outs.

Chairman Owens asked the committee members use this information to answer any questions that they might get from their constituents and other board members. He also stated that if we were not retiring the bonds on the Law and Justice center in 2016, we would have those as well as what we were discussing for this project and would see a greater impact on McLean County residents. Mr. Wasson stated that the intention of this process was to identify a schedule that would minimize the impact on the property taxes.

Mr. Robustelli stated that the job of the Finance Committee is to look at numbers but wanted to give credit where due to the others who have spent a lot of time and energy to address a critical need in our community and take a balanced approach. He stated that we should all be proud as this is a huge step forward for our community in terms of the way we are going to address mental health care and the way in which we are going to manage the jail.

Mr. Erickson stated that he is conflicted because it was his understanding that the Finance Committee had to have this special meeting because they had to wait until the Property Committee met last week to make its recommendation on what they wanted. He stated that he got the documents about a minute before coming in to the meeting and had not had time to look through and analyze them. He stated that he felt this was rushed and that while he would probably vote yes to send to full Committee, that was no way indicative to the way he was going to vote next Tuesday. He stated that he understood how they went through the process to decide on the scenarios presented, but is having a hard time moving forward and hopes his constituents will contact him to let him know how they feel.

Chairman Owens asked about possibly having a stand-up prior to the Board meeting next week to vote on the information before the Committee today. Mr. Wasson said that the Committee can have a stand-up prior to the Board meeting next week and that Executive Committee will also vote on this at Stand-up next week. Chairman Owens asked how the Committee wanted to proceed. Mr. Robustelli stated that he appreciated Member Erickson's position, but if we vote to move forward it is not the end of the conversation and does not mean that we will not hear from our constituents and have time to think about it before the full board. He stated that he was comfortable moving forward.

Mr. Caisley stated that he had hoped we would at last own the Law and Justice Center although he realized that as part of that we would have to start paying for maintenance on the Law and Justice Center out of our general fund, so he was also conflicted.

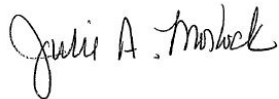
Mr. Sorensen asked for clarification that the Finance Committee was being asked to vote on the budget policy amendment to create a special fund to accept sales tax revenue and state what those sales tax revenues could be used for in the future so that Administration could use that information to prepare their recommended budget for the Board next month and that they were not being asked to set a property tax number or any other budget numbers. Mr. Wasson confirmed that the Property Committee will provide the resolution on recommended scenario and associated costs.

Mr. Erickson stated that he understood the Committee was only voting on the resolution, but the resolution was only put in front of him 5 minutes ago and while we have been talking about it for months the actual changes that they were expected to vote on were not presented with enough time for him to consider. He stated that this may only be the budget policy but the numbers do eventually come up. He stated that he would vote yes, but hoped to hear from his constituents as to how they felt he should vote at the County Board meeting.

Chairman Owens asked if there was any other business or communication to come before the Committee. Chairman Owens reminded the Committee that they would be meeting at 3:30 instead of 4:30 on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Morlock  
Recording Secretary