

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

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 11, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: None

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

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

Others Present: Mr. Ryan Leuty, Assistant Director, Information Technologies

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the September 13, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting approval.

Motion by Owens/Segobiano to approve the Minutes of the September 13, 2011 Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations; there was one Reappointment.

Motion by Segobiano/Gordon to Recommend Approval of the Reappointment as recommended by the Chairman.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Amendment to the Liquor Control Ordinance – Liquor Control Commission. He advised that an updated version of the Ordinance was distributed to the Committee, as the Ordinance in the packet was edited on an older version of the Ordinance and needed to be corrected.

Chairman Sorensen summarized that the Liquor Control Commission met and is requesting that the County Liquor Ordinance be amended to be more in line with Bloomington and Normal, wherein there is no differentiation between Sundays and other regular business days. He noted that Ms. Hannah Eisner, First Civil Assistant State's Attorney, was available to review other changes in the Ordinance. Ms. Eisner indicated that the only other change was bringing the Dram Shop liability limits up to the current level as it had not been changed in a while. Chairman Sorensen added that this Ordinance was also more timeless now in that the County has aligned with the State of Illinois on Dram Shop requirements.

Mr. Segobiano asked there was an increase in the "A License." Ms. Eisner explained that the D Class of license was eliminated so that the A License essentially became the D, which is why there is a difference in the fee. She noted that the D License was \$1,200 and the A License was \$1,000. Ms. Eisner indicated that the D License was established to provide extended hours on Sunday evenings, which is no longer necessary.

Chairman stated that since there is no difference between an A and a D License, D was eliminated and the fee for an A License was increased to what the previous fee was for a D License.

Motion by Segobiano/Bostic to Recommend Approval  
of an Amendment to the Liquor Control Ordinance –  
Liquor Control Commission.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Bette Rackauskas, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Ordinance and Budget Ordinance, Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department 0022 – Court Services Department.

Motion by Rackauskas/Segobiano to Recommend  
Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance  
Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011  
Combined Annual Ordinance and Budget Ordinance,  
Fund 0001 General Fund, Court Services Department  
0022 – Court Services Department.  
Motion carried.

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

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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. Stan Hoselton, 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. Hoselton.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, advised that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, asked that Item a) be reviewed last at which time he would like to comment on the item.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Correctional Health Services.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance – Correctional Health Services.  
Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Owens advised that the request for approval of a Resolution Agreeing to pay reimbursable costs to the McLean/DeWitt/Livingston Regional Office of Education and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to the same as requested by the Regional Office of Education was tabled at the Finance Committee meeting and will be considered at a Stand-up Committee meeting at 8:15 a.m., October 18<sup>th</sup>. He invited members of the Executive Committee to attend the Finance Committee Stand-up meeting, because if the item is approved at the Finance Committee Stand-up, there will also need to be an Executive Committee Stand-up meeting to consider the item.

Mr. Owens noted that the Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding were passed out at the Finance Committee meeting for review, as the material was being reviewed by the legal staff and was not available to be included in the packet. He stated that Members of the Finance Committee asked that the item be tabled to a Stand-up meeting so that they would have adequate time to read the material.

Mr. Owens indicated that he is bringing forward today as a discussion item only at this time. He introduced Mr. Mark Jontry, Executive Director, Regional Office of Education, who is available to answer questions.

Mr. Segobiano commented that he believes that Mr. Jontry and Ms. Stempinski deserve to be paid for extending the services that they do for education. He asked for an explanation of the funds being proposed to be used to pay the salaries, how and why the money was available and what was the original purpose of the money. Mr. Owens asked Mr. Jontry to answer Mr. Segobiano's questions.

Mr. Jontry explained that this is a request that the County Board consider a Resolution that would approve the Regional Office of Education (ROE) to utilize local Enterprise Funds that the Regional Office of Education has to compensate Ms. Stempinski and him for their positions. He stated that these Enterprise Funds are not funds allocated to that office by the three counties for operations on an annual basis. He explained that there are two primary Enterprise Funds, as follows:

- Professional Development and other types of funds that are generated through workshops for principals, superintendents and teachers that they are required to engage in as part of their professional development in order to renew their teaching certificates; and administrative certificates.
- General State Aid funds that are generated from the ROE Office through the operation of alternative learning programs that is operated for students in grades 7-12 who are not able to otherwise function in a regular school setting.

Mr. Jontry indicated that the Professional Development Fund was intentionally built up over the years primarily to pay a Professional Development Coordinator to coordinate all of the Professional Development offerings that are operated out of the office. He noted that Ms. Stempinski who is currently the Assistant Superintendent previously was the Professional Development Coordinator and continues to fulfill those duties as well. Mr. Jontry explained that for this reason there is an excess of money in that Fund. He stated that these funds will be redirected towards Ms. Stempinski's salary. Mr. Jontry added that workshops continue to be offered, so none of the services are being diminished.

Mr. Jontry advised that the General State Aid Funds are generated from running the alternative schools in the three counties. He noted that there is a campus in Clinton, Bloomington and Pontiac. This money is generated based on the number of children that are served. Mr. Jontry stated that more money is generated in that fund than is expended. Currently, this Fund is operating at about the capacity that the districts needs in terms of the number of students who are not succeeding in their traditional schools, grades 7-12. Mr. Jontry added that this has allowed an excess of funds to be built up over the years. He indicated that this build up of funds was done intentionally for two reasons; 1) because they don't know what the State is going to do, long-term, regarding that program going forward and 2) because the ROE has to rent all of the facilities from which those programs are operated. The Regional Office, by statute, cannot own property because they cannot levy taxes. Mr. Jontry noted that this Fund was built up in the event that they need to relocate from current locations. He indicated that a recent expansion was done here in town due to demand.

Mr. Jontry stated that as the Oversight Administrator for the alternative schools, that would be the primary area from which his salary would be paid. Mr. Jontry assured the Committee that it will not diminish any of the services that are presently offered.

Mr. Jontry advised that he is asking for this request to be considered for this year only and not long-term. He stated that there will continue to be adequate funds at the completion of this request.

Mr. Jontry indicated that the General State Aid Funds (GSA) must directly relate to the operation of the alternative schools. They cannot be used to pay rent to the County or other types of expenses. The funds are somewhat restricted in what it can be used for.

Ms. Rackauskas asked if the original intention of these funds was for these salaries. Mr. Jontry replied that the General State Aid Funds must go towards the operation of the alternative schools. He added that since he is the overall

Administrator, he can also be compensated through that fund, based upon the legal opinion from the State Board of Education. Mr. Jontry advised that General State Aid, just like in the regular school districts, there are not a lot of restrictions within the educational program. He stated that the only restriction he has is that he can spend it on the rent, salary for teachers, salary for building administrators, etc. related to the alternative schools. Mr. Jontry added that he cannot spend it to pay the rent or provide services that originate directly out of the administrative office of the Regional Office of Education at the Fairview building, and it cannot be used for adult education programs for GED. He pointed out that there is flexibility in the Fund as long as it relates to the alternative schools and their operation.

Mr. Jontry advised that the Professional Development Fund's primary purpose is to provide professional development for teachers and administrators. The money is used to fund contracts with consultants to provide presentations and workshops to teachers and administrators, and the costs associated with putting those presentations on.

Mr. Jontry stated that there is also an Institute Fund, which is a very restricted Fund. This Fund can only be used for teacher development. The money in this Fund is generated based on the number of teacher certificates that are renewed annually. The ROE receives a couple dollars from each certificate that is renewed annually. Mr. Jontry indicated that the legal interpretation he received says that since this is money generated locally, it can be used to compensate the individuals that might be overseeing that program. He stated that Ms. Stempinski oversees all of the professional development. This is money that is generated locally.

Ms. Rackauskas asked Mr. Jontry if he believes these funds were set up with the intention of paying Superintendents' salaries. Mr. Jontry responded that these were assuredly not set up for that purpose and he would never say that they were.

Ms. Rackauskas expressed her frustration with the State shirking its responsibilities.

Mr. Jontry clarified that this arrangement would be to allow ROE to pay these salaries in the interim while they are not being paid by the State. The idea would be that the Funds would be repaid assuming that the State comes through in the Veto Session and restores the salaries. Mr. Jontry added that the only way the money would not be repaid to the Enterprise Funds is if the State fails to come through and fails to come through for this year. He stated that the legal opinion he has says that all of the regional ROE Superintendents that have chosen to potentially engage in this process have made the conscious decision to go

through their county board(s) to get some tacit acknowledgement that this is being done. The reason for going through the Board is for a level of transparency.

Mr. Owens noted that the Trustees of our ROE consists of three Trustees from McLean County (John Butler, Sonny O'Connor and Ben Owens), one Trustee from DeWitt County and one member from Livingston County. He appreciated Mr. Jontry for coming before the Finance Committee and the Board in his effort to be transparent.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what happens if the effort to restore the salaries is vetoed. Mr. Jontry replied that this proposal just covers the rest of this year. Chairman Sorensen added that he does not know what will happen long-term should this be vetoed.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he looks forward to a discussion on the floor of the Board once the Board is provided with all of the information as it is very complicated issue.

Mr. Segobiano advised that he will recuse himself from voting on this item as he works with Mr. Jontry on various educational programs.

Chairman Sorensen agreed with Mr. Segobiano that the document is very confusing and doesn't provide adequate information to the County Board members who will be asked to vote on a Resolution affecting dollars over which the Board has no control. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Jontry's perspective that this is a transparency move on his part to make it clear to all three counties that he is choosing to use dollars, which he has been given permission to use by the State Board of Education, but using them to pay for salaries, which is not the original intent of the funds.

Chairman Sorensen asked Mr. Segobiano if he knows of any specific ways to make this issue clearer to the County Board Members. Mr. Segobiano responded that he would ask Mr. Wasson to provide information on this issue in the County Board packet. He reiterated that these people need to be paid, but it is also important that the Board be aware of where the funds are coming from and what the legal process is.

Mr. Segobiano asked what happens when that Enterprise Fund dissipates and who is responsible then for paying those salaries. Chairman Sorensen replied, that for the limited time frame that Mr. Jontry is asking for authority to draw on that fund, that fund will not dissipate.

Chairman Sorensen advised that there is a plan to restore dollars for these positions. He noted that a Bill has been introduced during the Veto Session. He stated that the Bill provides a predictable flow of dollars to pay for regional superintendents and their assistants. On the other hand, that predicable flow of monies is coming out of Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT). This means that this will be a draw on that supply of dollars that will take a little bit of money away from all of the county governments, municipal governments and all the school districts. Chairman Sorensen added that a possible alternative to that solution was to push the cost and expense of regional superintendents and assistant superintendents onto the part of the Regional Office of Education budget that is jointly funded and authorized by the county boards in the counties that share those services. For our Regional Office of Education that includes McLean, DeWitt and Livingston counties.

Chairman Sorensen advised that, today, we have a budget line item every year where we contribute dollars to Mr. Jontry's office for operation that is based on an Intergovernmental Agreement between the three counties. If no funding mechanism is identified, the next thing asked would have been to ask the County Board to share those additional expenses in that piece of the Regional Office of Education budget. A part of that 74% of those dollars would have then come out of the McLean County General Fund and the other two counties would have split the rest. Chairman Sorensen added that it may still be the case if this PPRT Bill fails. He indicated that there appears to be strong support for this Bill.

There was additional discussion on this issue.

Chairman Sorensen reiterated that there will be a Finance Committee Stand-up Meeting at 8:15 a.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Following that meeting, there will be an Executive Committee Stand-up meeting.

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

Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, advised that, at the October meeting, departmental budgets under the oversight of the Executive Committee are reviewed, namely Information Technologies and the County Administrator. In November, when the other Committees bring their recommended budgets to the Executive Committee for approval, the County Board's budget will be reviewed. This includes the Property Tax Levy and the other large intergovernmental revenues.

Mr. Wasson introduced the review of the Fiscal Year 2012 Recommended Budget for the departments that are under the oversight of the Executive Committee. He noted that Mr. Craig Nelson, Director, Information Technologies, was available to answer any questions and make comments.

**Information Technologies Department 0001-0043** can be found on pages 155-159 of the FY'2012 Recommended Budget and pages 19-22 of the Summary in the Executive Committee Packet.

Highlights of the Recommended Budget:

### REVENUE

410.0086 Reimbursement/Computer Services: This revenue line item account has been budgeted at \$65,494 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget, an increase from \$14,100 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget. The revenue increase in this line item reflects maintenance contributions for E\*Justice Support from the Town of Normal and City of Bloomington, as well as continuing revenue received in this line item from services that are provided to the Health Department on a "fee for service" basis.

450.0011 Transfer from Other Funds: This revenue line item account has remains the same at \$97,710 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget. The revenue generated by Information Services is transferred from the Circuit Clerk's Court Automation Fund and from the County Collector's Automation Fund.

### EXPENDITURES

Mr. Wasson advised that, across-the-board, Fringe Benefits show a 16% increase that is attributable to a nation-wide trend of a 9%-12% increase in healthcare costs this year as well as some negative experience that our specific plan has experienced over the past two years. He indicated that negotiation is being conducted with the County's insurance providers on options to minimize that cost.

### Personnel:

The FY'2012 Recommended Budget includes no changes to Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. The line account Full-time Salary is down 2%, reflecting staff turnover within the Department.

Mr. Wasson noted that Information Services has been reduced by a number of positions over the last couple of years.

Materials and Supplies:

All of the Commodity line item accounts have been budgeted at the same level or less as in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget with the following exceptions:

620.0002 Computer Hardware: This line item account has increased from \$22,500 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$23,471 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget. This increase is based on a need to return to normal equipment replacement schedules, after a deferral of all but critical components in FY'2010.

620.0005 Computers Under \$1000: This line item account was created at the end of 2009 in recognition that the majority of computers purchased are below the \$1,000 commodities threshold. The \$123,300 budgeted in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget will replace computers purchased in years 2005-2007.

630.0001 Postage: This line item account has increased from \$300 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$500 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget. This line item account increase is based upon last year's actual expenses and year-to-date expenses in this account.

Contractual Services:

All of the Contractual line item accounts have been budgeted at the same level or less as in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget with the following exceptions:

706.0001 Contract Services: This line item account has increased from \$148,886 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$170,079 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget. This line item account includes contractual operating costs for E\*Justice, DevNet, ArcGIS, Parcel Builder, and Civic Plus.

750.0004 Software License Agreements: This line item account has decreased from \$210,000 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$184,718 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget based upon the last two year's actual expenses and projected expenses in 2012.

769.0001 Interest Expense: This line item account has decreased from \$1,683 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$1,152 in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget based upon the actual interest expense related to Information Technologies share of equipment lease/purchased for the wireless network connecting County locations beyond the downtown campus. The associated interest cost for the telephone system lease was initially paid from this item line in 2011 and will be transferred from budgeted telephone expenditure lines.

Mr. Wasson noted that the County has moved to a leased VOIP system from our previous provision through Frontier.

790.0006 Land & Tower Lease: This line item account decreases from \$9,000 in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget to \$5,040 in the Recommended FY'2012 Budget. This reflects savings from a change in wireless network repeater antenna location in Hudson.

Capital Outlay:

832.0001 Purchase of Office Equipment: This line item account includes \$1,960 for shelving in Information Technologies utility closets.

832.0002 Lease/Purchase Office Equipment: This line item account includes \$14,193 relating to Information Technologies share of equipment lease/purchased for the wireless network connecting County locations beyond the downtown campus. The associated interest cost for telephone system lease was initially paid from this item line in 2011 and will be transferred from budgeted telephone expenditure lines.

850.0001 Capital Assets: The FY' 2012 Recommended Budget for this line item account totals \$75,600. Included in this total is \$32,000 for a 12 terabyte SAN Storage Device, \$23,600 for Exchange upgrade, and \$20,000 for a new ESX Server.

Motion by Segobiano/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Information Services Department – (0001-0043) FY'2012 Recommended Budget as submitted.

Mr. Nelson referred to the increase noted in Line 706.0001 Contract Services. He

Mr. Nelson advised that, in light of the budget situation in the County, there is one project in line item 850.0001 Capital Assets that has a significant amount of dollars attached to it that could be deferred to another year, if necessary. He stated that there is \$23,600 in that line item that he would be willing to remove from the budget.

Mr. Segobiano and Ms. Rackauskas agreed to modify their Motion to include this amendment.

Motion by Segobiano/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the Information Services Department – (0001-0043) FY'2012 Recommended Budget as amended to decrease Line Item 850.0001 Capital Assets by \$23,600.  
Motion carried.

**County Administrator's Office 0001-0002** can be found on pages 8-11 of the FY'2012 Recommended Budget and pages 23-25 of the Summary.

#### Highlights of the Recommended Budget

##### Revenue:

**410.0005 Unclassified Revenue:** This line item account should be budgeted at \$1,570 in the FY' 2012 Recommended Budget to provide for reimbursement the Department has received for the past two years for an internship program the Department participates in. This revenue increase off-sets the increase in 0516.0001 Seasonal/Occasional Employee Salary. (This revenue line was inadvertently deleted from the Recommended Budget.)

Mr. Wasson requested that the \$1,570 be included in the Unclassified Revenue Line to acknowledge that revenue that off-sets the expenditures that we have also include this year in the Expenditure Line for Seasonal/Occasional Personnel. This is a budgetary matter with respect to the Auditor's Office and allows us to both recognize the revenue and recognize the expense separately instead of the previous procedure of where the expenditure line was credited back.

Mr. Segobiano asked if that is reflected in what will be voted on. Mr. Wasson replied that the \$1,570 revenue line is not included in the budget as recommended to you. He recommended that you amend the budget.

##### EXPENDITURES:

##### Personnel:

There is no increase in the FTE Staffing level in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget. The Grade 15 position of Director of Administrative Services which was budgeted but held vacant in 2011 has been downgraded to a Grade 10 Budget Analyst position in the 2012 Recommended Budget.

The Seasonal/Occasional line item has increased by \$1,570 to account for a portion of hours that the Department will receive reimbursement for in a continuing internship program.

Materials and Supplies:

All Materials and Supplies line item accounts (600's) in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget have been budgeted at 2% lower than FY' 2011 Adopted Budget to acknowledgement of the direction of the 2012 Budget policy.

Contractual Services:

All Contractual line item accounts (700's) in the FY'2012 Recommended Budget have been budgeted at 2% less than in the FY'2011 Adopted Budget.

Motion by Segobiano/Rackauskas to recommend tentative approval of the County Administrator's Office (0001-0002) FY'2012 Recommended Budget as amended to include \$1,570 in Line Item 410.0005 Unclassified Revenue to reflect the Internship Program Reimbursement.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Rackauskas asked if the Board Members will receive a new copy of the Recommended Budget reflect the changes and amendments. Mr. Wasson replied that the Board Members will be provided a printed copy of the modifications and revisions made to the Budget.

Chairman Sorensen advised that the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee and the full Board passed a budget resolution which was intended to provide direction to Mr. Wasson in the preparation of the Recommended Budget. He commended Mr. Wasson on his work on the budget. Chairman Sorensen stated that most of you will note that in that budget resolution and guidance, the Board asked that the Property Tax rate be held as flat and as consistent with the prior year as possible. The Recommended Budget included a Property Tax rate increase of about one-quarter of one cent per \$100 of evaluation, which equates to about 80 cents for an average house per year. Chairman Sorensen pointed out that, while that does not seem like a lot of money, it is not consistent with the Board's policy and guidelines. He stated that he has asked Mr. Wasson to schedule meetings with Oversight Committee Chairs and their Department Heads one at a time on Thursday and Friday of this week and possibly Monday. Chairman Sorensen believes that there is enough identified opportunities to reduce the budget to the flat tax rate and perhaps more.

Ms. Rackauskas asked what the exact dollar amount is that the budget needs to be reduced. Chairman Sorensen replied that it needs to be reduced about \$95,000.

Mr. Butler noted that we just reduced the budget by \$23,600 in Information Technologies and \$17,000 was reduced at the Finance Committee. He recommended that the Committee Agenda Packets and the County Board Packet be sent to the Members electronically instead of printed. Mr. Wasson responded that one of the challenges of sending some packets electronically and others in the mail is that it requires two parallel processes. He explained that it is less complicated to send the packets all one or all the other way. Mr. Wasson assured the Committee that we continue to look at the possibility of electronic notification.

Mr. Nelson stated that, in the past, we considered providing each Board member with a device such as a laptop computer. He indicated that new devices have been introduced more recently that are more affordable than in the past. Mr. Wasson stated that tablets are much more cost effective than laptops.

Mr. Wasson noted that one of the issues that he has heard from entities who have made the move to electronic agenda packets is that members don't like the fact that they can't make notes electronically on those documents. He stated that there are some solutions to that part of the issue, but they are costly at this point.

Mr. Butler advised that he wouldn't mind doing his own printing of the packets. He acknowledged that not everyone has to receive their packets electronically, but those who can and are willing to do so, should have that option. Mr. Wasson responded that a trial attempt will be made to see how effective this effort might be.

Mr. Segobiano requested that the County Board be provided with all of the information necessary to determine when and if the elimination of the Recorder's Office can be placed on the ballot, the statistics as to the feasibility of moving that office into the County Clerk's Office, and what the potential cost savings might be to the taxpayers of McLean County. Chairman Sorensen concurred that there are enough members of the Board who are interested in this issue to make the effort to provide formal information available. He noted that there has been no shortage of research on this topic. Chairman Sorensen stated that they have learned that there are ways to put this on the ballot, as follows:

- The County Board could vote to put it on the ballot;
- A petition drive could be administered by anyone in the public to put it on the ballot

Chairman Sorensen stated that either method would need to be certified by the December Board meeting. He noted that there is some discussion among the legal ranks, but there is no requirement that this Office go to the County Clerk's Office. Chairman Sorensen pointed out that counties under 60,000 don't have a Recorder. Chairman Sorensen indicated that all of the counties who have eliminated the Recorder's Office as an elected position have chosen to put it into the County Clerk's Office, but he believes it can also be an appointed position where the Board takes on the responsibility of appointing and delegating the responsibility to some other office-holder or to some other office.

Mr. Segobiano stated that the reason he asked for this information is because there is a lot of discussion on the street and he believes the Board needs printed information that tells the Board what they can do, can't do, how to proceed and when to proceed.

Chairman Sorensen admonished the Board to be clear as we discuss this topic. If the question of whether or not we should have an elected Recorder in McLean County is the questions, it should be the question regardless of who the incumbent is or what we think of the incumbent personally. Chairman Sorensen asked to go on record that he believes that Mr. Newcom is a very good Recorder in McLean County and he does his job very well. He added that it is clear that Mr. Newcom has a passion for the role and a passion for the job. Chairman Sorensen cautioned that how Mr. Newcom books his travel arrangements does not tell us whether he does a good job of recording documents. The Recorder's Office runs efficiently.

Chairman Sorensen indicated that if the debate is whether or not there are additional opportunities to save taxpayer dollars and to streamline County government by changing how that responsibility is executed in McLean County, it is a valid conversation that needs to take place. He stated that if that is the strategy that this Board is headed towards, there are a whole list of additional conversations that should take place as the Recorder's Office is not the only Office that can be considered for change.

Mr. Segobiano pointed out that this issue was considered several years ago with three elected positions within the County, but it failed because the three elected officials ganged up. He concurred with Chairman Sorensen that it is not the individual serving in the Office, it was the Office and how it should proceed into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Ms. Rackauskas agreed that even before Mr. Newcom was elected this was a point of discussion, so it should be noted that it the Office and not the person.

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Mr. Gordon noted that the Recorder's Office was one of the three offices that Mr. Segobiano referred to earlier. Chairman Sorensen noted that there are three obvious offices where this step could be taken, namely County Recorder, County Auditor and County Coroner.

Chairman Sorensen presented the September 30, 2011 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$722,567.01 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Butler/Bostic to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for September 30, 2011 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 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary