

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Soeldner, Members Chuck Erickson, Carlo Robustelli, Catherine Metsker, Laurie Wollrab, Jacob Beard, Josh Barnett

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Chairman John McIntyre and Members Susan Schafer, Shayna Watchinski, George Gordon, Logan Smith, Sharon Chung, George Wendt, Elizabeth Johnston

Staff Present: Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator; Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Jessica Woods First Assistant Civil State's Attorney; Ms. Julie A. Morlock, Recording Secretary;

Department Heads/Elected

Officials Present: Ms. Kathy Michael, County Clerk; Ms. Michelle Anderson, County Auditor; Ms. Marshall Thompson, McLean County Animal Control

Others Present:

Chairman Soeldner called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and asked Ms. Rodriguez to do a roll call. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed all members were present.

Chairman Soeldner confirmed there were no members of the public to speak.

(1:20) Chairman Soeldner asked Mr. McIntyre to come forward as he had a couple of comments to make. Mr. McIntyre thanked everyone for coming. He updated them on actions since their last Finance meeting that a letter was sent to the Auditor, however Administration is still receiving calls from Department Heads and they are incurring late fees, so he felt a sense of urgency instead of waiting on the legal opinion from the State's Attorney's office. He stated that Friday, October 10th Chairman Soeldner and he met with Auditor, Michelle Anderson, Connie Johnson from the Auditor office, Treasurer Becky McNeil, County Administrator Camille Rodriguez, Assistant County Administrator Cassy Taylor and Assistant State's Attorney Jessica Woods with the goal to try to find a solution to this situation. He stated that during the meeting they were unable to get the issue resolved but they were unable to completely resolve the issue, but he felt that all present agreed that a policy needed to be developed and he hoped the Committee would consider this as a possible solution instead of hiring a consultant. (4:39) He indicated that the Auditor contacted the media, WGLT with a personal accusation of the Treasurer and he felt as Chairman of the Board it was his responsibility to address this

publicly. He stated he wanted them to know that he had full confidence in the Administrator and her staff and the members of the Finance Committee to find a solution to this matter. He said he asked all to come together to see if this matter could be resolved.

(6:38) Mr. Soeldner asked Ms. Rodriguez to give her presentation.

Ms. Rodriguez said she did not assume that anyone was an accounting expert and wanted to provide the Auditor and Treasurer time to address the committee, Committee time to ask questions and then time to discuss some recommendations. She said the first concept of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is accountability and agreed we owe citizens an efficient and effective use of resources that they give to us to run programs. She provided a history of changes since the September 2019 Health Committee where accrual was discussed in a conversation about the Nursing Home but was not discussed as the entire County's financial processes. She mentioned changes that the department head had noticed and called Administration with concerns. She said that she does not have a policy manual for how this is supposed be handled. She said technically speaking budget is a policy document and acknowledge that and departments heads use that as basis for what they bring to Committee for spending and approval such as grants. Ms. Rodriguez then discussed the way invoices were processed by manually coding by the Departments, sending to the Auditor for review, then Auditor recommends them for payment to the Treasurer and the Treasurer cuts the check. She said debate is whether we should be using modified accrual, full accrual or cash on a daily basis and that the Auditor has stated that she noticed the Treasurer had been doing it wrong, so she changed it. Ms. Rodriguez stated that if there was something wrong with our finances, she felt it should have been brought to County Administration and then to the Finance Committee. Ms. Rodriguez stated that there has not been anything found by the Auditor in our annual audits and the Auditor has signed off on the CAFR each year stating that things are in order.

(19:41) Ms. Rodriguez also provided information on regular processes for approving payroll and the need for Administration to approve payroll when the Auditor was out of the office and had not communicated with the Treasurer about approval while she was out. She said she had not brought all examples to them and she does not have policies on how to proceed nor does she had agreement between two elected officials on how to proceed and since it is obvious to her that something has changed and it is affecting processes she was coming to the Committee to ask for their assistance and direction.

Mr. Soeldner said this is a new situation so wondered if Committee wanted to ask some questions of the Administrator now or would rather have Ms. Anderson speak. Ms. Wollrab asked who is the normal back up payroll approver. Ms. Rodriguez said she did

not know. Mr. Soeldner indicated that those might be questions to ask Auditor. Mr. Barnett thanked her for taking initiative to sign off on payroll as employees needed to get paid.

(23:53) Mr. Soeldner asked Auditor Anderson to come forward. Ms. Anderson read a statement into the record indicating she was not consulted about the original request to hire a CPA, that she did attempt to reach a resolution or an agreement with McNeil on Friday, but she did not respond to an email. She indicated the County had always been on modified accrual with the exception of the nursing home which is on full accrual. She stated that she had records showing this while the Treasurer indicates she has records showing the opposite and that the employees who had been moved from her office to the Treasurer's office had been instructed how to pick the right GL date. Ms. Anderson stated there has been a debate over who, the Board or the Auditor, have the authority to establish policy for the county and that while the statutes quoted seem to provide to both she had an Attorney General opinion that stated the Auditor had the authority. She said for that reason after the discussion on Friday, she did not disagree with Ms. Rodriguez that a policy is needed, so she drafted one. She distributed to the Committee. (29:09) Ms. Anderson went over policy she had drafted.

(30:58) Mr. Soeldner asked if there is a time that checks need to be reimbursed by, such as a week, a day, a month. Ms. Anderson indicated the policy states they would take invoices over at least twice a week under workflow. She provided example where vendor is not in system and that would delay process as we would need a W-9.

(32:13) Mr. Beard said have been presented with clear evidence there was an alteration in how bills were being booked and paid that has created difficulty. Ms. Anderson stated the first she learned there were any issues was Friday. She said when they had check cutting, they back dated, so when Ms. McNeil was not willing to back date, she did journal entries to put them in the correct fiscal period. Mr. Beard asked her to confirm she changed her process on September 6th or shortly thereafter. Ms. Anderson confirmed. Mr. Beard said it was consensus at Finance last month to revert and work through this in a more orderly way. Ms. Anderson said there have been no journal entries since that memo. Mr. Beard asked her to confirm it is working today how it was working on August 31st. Ms. Anderson stated that was correct. Mr. Beard asked Ms. Rodriguez to confirm. Ms. Rodriguez indicated each department heads receives reports and she was still receiving concerns as of today.

(36:28) Mr. Erickson asked them to confirm that no bills have been paid or some bills have been paid. Ms. Rodriguez said she does not know, but department heads have called and indicated that their bills are receiving late fees, so one can only assume they are not being paid.

(37:17) Ms. Wollrab stated that her main goal today is to make sure the County runs smoothly and for the sake of the tax payers, employees and people that we owe money to, we should not have a delay in how payments are made. She stated she would like to see things reverted to status quo on the assumption there is nothing wrong with that. Ms. Wollrab asked if there were invoices that need to be entered or bills waiting to be paid right now. Ms. Anderson said she had not done any more journal entries but had taken bills over. Ms. Wollrab asked her to confirm no journal entries waiting to be made. Ms. Anderson stated no those would go through regular AP. Ms. Wollrab asked if she had spoken with the Treasurer about any of these. Ms. Anderson stated she tried to communicate with the Treasurer on Friday. Ms. Wollrab asked that she try to get together with Ms. McNeil to work through this issue.

(39:13) Ms. Anderson stated she was willing to compromise by back dating two months instead of indefinitely. She provided examples of timing for when they receive invoices and stated that to a GL date on the date, we get them is not realistic because by the time the bill goes through process it would be included in one month when it should be associated with the previous month. Ms. Wollrab asked if that is a change. Ms. Anderson stated that was how she did it when she was processing bills, but it was not the way Ms. McNeil had been doing it for the past 20 months. Ms. Wollrab asked if this stems from change in departments of the Treasurer and Auditor. Ms. Anderson said yes probably. Ms. Wollrab said she could not support getting outside help and provided examples of getting things settled or decided without hiring outside help.

(42:59) Mr. Robustelli agreed he wanted the County to function smoothly and hoped a resolution would come out of this. He asked if processed changed when moved offices 20 months ago why she was just discovering that now and asked how the third party auditor did not uncover that practice and flag it as a material issue. Ms. Anderson stated the CAFR she signed in May for June presentation which is before this was discovered and she did not double check correct invoice date was put on invoices when they come back from the Treasurer. She stated they make sure all invoices are put in the correct year, so we get a clean audit because in December, January and even into early February we are flagging those, and they are being back dated into the prior year. She said they process about 50,000 invoices a year and only 20 to 25 invoices are audited a year.

(47:43) Mr. Robustelli asked her to confirm a clean-up process to make sure that things noted in year the incurred expense. Ms. Anderson confirmed. Mr. Robustelli asked her to explain what the email on September 6th was asking the Treasurer to do and quoted the email. Ms. Anderson explained that it seemed AP staff was having trouble determining correct general ledger dates. Mr. Robustelli asked her to confirm she just told Mr. Beard that she just became aware on Friday that this was causing issues. Ms.

Anderson said she did not know they were having issues with the vendors. Mr. Robustelli said she knew on September 6th this would cause issues with the County. Ms. Anderson said no they only have to put the correct general ledger dates. Mr. Robustelli asked her to confirm she said it would be complicated to deal with payroll. Ms. Anderson said she was referring to vendor issues. Mr. Robustelli stated he felt it was safe to say there had been some miscommunication and that there needs to be more conversation to understand what is going on.

(50:37) Mr. Erickson stated that at the last finance committee meeting they agreed one that instruction was to be sent to Auditor to return back to the old ways prior to September two they were going to hire an accountant to look at this and three they were going to get a legal opinion. He stated that leaving the meeting he thought had resolved this, but things had happened where he was not sure we can resolve things the same way now. Mr. Erickson stated that Ms. Anderson continues to cite the statute 55 ILCS 5/3-1006. He read statute into the record (52:32). He asked her why her statute supersedes the Administrator's. Ms. Anderson stated general attorney opinion that discusses statute references.

Mr. Erickson said it is her opinion that fits these facts. Mr. Erickson provided example where accountant says Ms. McNeil is doing it correctly but if you say statutory authority with you it causes dilemma for Board. He asked her what she would do if that happens. Ms. Anderson said that she did not feel a hired auditor would say she is incorrect. He asked how much disruption going back would cause her office. Ms. Anderson stated that quarterly statements would be incorrect. She discussed optimal time to make changes. Mr. Erickson asked her what he is supposed to say to people who question employees not being paid, invoices not being paid, getting late fees not being paid. Ms. Anderson said she would give Ms. McNeil copy of policy and back dating to two months should resolve the problem and if she says she will not do it that way then it would come back to the Board. Mr. Erickson asked her if we say this is the policy and then she tells they she has the statutory authority then what. Ms. Anderson said she had an account degree, not a law degree. Mr. Robustelli said there are binding and non-binding opinions from the Attorney General and this is a 28 years old opinion, so changes, etc. and asked if she had requested her own interpretation from the State's Attorney office. Ms. Anderson said no.

Ms. Metsker said we have been following unwritten procedures for over a decade that seem to have worked well and asked how they differ from those she gave the Committee. Ms. Anderson said only difference is the general ledger section. Ms. Metsker asked why process just now being questioned when it had been going on for 20 months.

(1:03:46) Mr. Barnett stated she made change in September that is impacted county but did not reach out to County Administrator or Departments in a memo to give proper notice that a change was happening and the impact that it might have and asked why that did not happen. Ms. Anderson said change was not a delay from her office so not sure why there are late fees. Mr. Barnett indicated there has been a delay because late fees are happening bills right now and Departments Heads are confused as to where things are being charged and how they are being coded causing confusion within the day to day operations of county. Mr. Barnett asked again why she did not communicate. Ms. Anderson indicated she did not have an answer for that.

(1:05:51) Mr. Beard asked is there an accounting period specified by the State such as accrual by month, by year or by quarter under statute. Ms. Anderson stated not to her knowledge. He asked if they create policies that are determined good accounting practices if she would be comfortable implementing those policies. Ms. Anderson indicated she thought her policy would take care of action items as the authority rests in her office.

(1:07:52) Ms. Wollrab asked if there is a back-up payroll approver. Ms. Anderson said no there are two people in her office and Ms. Rodriguez was notified in advance that both would be out on same day. Ms. Wollrab stated it did not sound like the County Administrator was aware she was going to have to approve payroll and asked if she had made her aware of that. Ms. Anderson said that Ms. Rodriguez was aware she was out of the office as she had sent her an email. Ms. Wollrab asked her if she completed the loop by telling Ms. Rodriguez that someone would need to approve payroll. Ms. Anderson said it is not an every week thing.

(1:09:07) Mr. Barnett said he was concerned about comments just made about not being around to sign off on payroll. He stated she should have followed through to make sure everyone was aware it would be taken care of or that someone else was asked to complete in her absence.

(1:10:55) Ms. McNeil was asked to come forward. Mr. Soeldner asked her if she had a statement and then they would ask questions. Ms. McNeil provided history indicating she was not able to attend September 4th Finance meeting because of property taxes and then Auditor delivered bills on September 6th in the afternoon and made a verbal and written statement as to the wishes of the Committee. She indicated she listened to the audio and did not hear direction from Committee to make change. She stated she sent Auditor an email indicating method should be discussed with the County Board and read her email into the record. Ms. McNeil indicated that in January of 2018 AP moved to her office and staff have not changed the way they enter transactions. She provided copies of reports showing that. She indicated that in Friday meeting mentioned by the

Chairman she asked if the employees were trained to accrue why were they not accruing before transferred to treasurer office. She stated that Ms. Anderson indicated must have been a training issue, but it was not verified that the staff understood and continued to carry that out. She said precedents was set by how they did it in the Auditor's office.

She indicated she met with County Administrator on September 12th who also confirmed that decision to fully accrue was not fully discussed nor had it been voted upon. Ms. McNeil said she knew this would make an impact on departments in the county and that communication had not occurred throughout the organization, so she decided to continue to process the bills as they had been processing since January of 2018. She indicated she sent memo to committee September 23rd outlining feelings about journal entries and provided a demonstration at the October 2nd Finance Committee meeting. She went on to discuss why that is important and provided example of FOIA request. She indicated she made decision to run all accounts payable transactions through the general ledger system to maintain accountability and transparency.

(1:24:21) Mr. Robustelli indicated auditor provided document entitled McLean County Accounts Payable Policies and Procedures and asked if it was provided to the Treasurer before the meeting. Ms. McNeil indicated it was not provided to her. He said going back to original email from Auditor to Treasurer and asked if typical to get communication of this kind with a change of this kind by email in this form. Ms. McNeil stated when read email she had great concerns because type of communication was not proper as she felt she should have been contacted by County Administrator to sit down with the County Auditor to discuss. Mr. Robustelli asked her to confirm staff she is referring to are the staff members that were in the County Auditors' office before they moved to her office. Ms. McNeil confirmed.

(1:28:08) Ms. Wollrab asked if she would be able to work with the Auditor come up with process and procedures for the County, so we are not in this situation. Ms. McNeil said yes. Ms. Wollrab asked if she could work with Ms. Anderson to make sure everyone knows the steps. Ms. McNeil indicated she will work with Auditor to create document but believed this document must also be a product of the County Board because they are the policy making body. Ms. Wollrab indicated she felt they did not need to get involved in the details of this but would rely on internal experts on this and need to know ramifications at a higher level. She said she does not feel need to hire external consultants.

(1:32:37) Mr. Beard asked her to confirm when AP came to her office, they were doing same role they were doing in the Auditor's office and if there were policies and procedures that came with them. Ms. McNeil indicated she asked and was told there

were no policies. Ms. McNeil stated that precedence was set by how they were trained, how they were supervised and work they performed. Mr. Beard asked her to confirm we accrue on an annual basis. Ms. McNeil confirmed that during first three months of year departments must confirm which year expenses was accrued in. Ms. McNeil indicated that payroll is accrued by the pay end date for the County and the nursing home operates with pay end date one week prior. She said she had significant questions, so she reached out to Administrator right away to make sure they understood what was expected of them.

(1:39:00) Mr. Erickson again said he thought they had come up with a solution at Finance Committee. Mr. Erickson questioned receiving 37 pages of emails and statutory law and opinions 30 minutes prior to the meeting. 1:40:18 Mr. Erickson ask if they hired an accountant and the accountant comes back and says Michelle is right would she follow it. Ms. McNeil said to her it has not been a question of right or wrong, but that a significant change that was not properly communicated to departments or County Board. She said have had a practice and have not been questioned in the last year and nine months about how things were being done so just as shocked as committee that now suddenly this is an issue. Ms. McNeil said she would follow policy that the County Board the Auditor and Treasurer develop. Mr. Erickson asked again if the Accountant came back and said Michelle was right you would follow that. Ms. McNeil said that has never been a question as she told Committee she is willing to cooperate with Committee. Mr. Erickson said he is an attorney not an accountant so depends on them to provide answers on how this should be done. He said that he appreciated both him and Michelle and Becky working together.

(1:47:20) Ms. McNeil asked if she could comment on payroll. She said it does not matter if holiday, or bad weather the payroll must be entered and processed. She went over timeline to process payroll and indicated tight timeline was why they reached out to County Administrator when the County Auditor's office was closed. She appreciated administration taking time to come into her office to approve. She said they moved forward and then received email from County Auditor on Friday afternoon about approving payroll. Ms. Wollrab indicated she supervised payroll in her prior job and agreed that payroll people come in on their death beds to work payroll because they know that everyone depends on them to have that money. Ms. Wollrab asked her to confirm process when Administrator approved payroll. Ms. McNeil went over process. Ms. Wollrab asked her to confirm it is not just a check off a box. Ms. McNeil confirmed.

(1:55:11) Mr. Beard stated the auditor has indicated she has reverted to the previous journaling process and asked her to if she was able to confirm that. Ms. McNeil indicated the Auditor has not written dates on invoices for us to accrue to. She discussed invoices that had been sent to the office for Processing.

(1:57:10) Mr. Barnett said he felt decision of board to move AP to her office had been going well until about 4-6 weeks ago. He asked if she would be willing to work with auditor and representative from the County Board or Administration to work on policies. Ms. McNeil yes, but that she believed the input from a CPA would be valuable. Mr. Barnett asked her if she would prefer a CPA with a background in government accounting. Ms. McNeil confirmed.

(1:59:04) Ms. Metsker asked if she is not 100% sure that we have reverted was she concerned that she would receive a lot of new invoices later this month. Ms. McNeil said Committee was very straight in asking that bills be delivered to the Treasurer's office for payment. Ms. Metsker asked her if she was confident that was being done. Ms. McNeil said they have been contacted by departments with concerns to this date.

(2:00:30) Ms. Wollrab stated her concern about hiring a CPA is varying opinions by different CPAs. Mr. Erickson agreed they could have different opinions but his reason for wanting a CPA is that we have 20 people here who are not CPAs. He said concerned about situation where they say Becky is right, but Michelle gets to set policy. Then County Board needs legal ground to set policy based on opinion of professional. He said he hoped CPA would resolve this without anyone hiring lawyers.

(2:03:40) Mr. Soeldner asked if there were any questions specifically for the Treasurer. Ms. McNeil stated that without a doubt that prior to AP moving into the office we were operating on a cash basis and counties and municipalities throughout Illinois operate this way. Ms. McNeil stated not opposed to change but want to make sure everyone aware of it and could plan properly for it.

(2:06:50) Mr. Beard asked the most recent date of expenses that have come through Auditor's office for you to pay out. Ms. McNeil indicated received small number of bills today. Mr. Beard asked if she was getting expenses from October since this is mid-October. Ms. McNeil said most of the time drops are one time a week but felt it should be more frequently than that.

(2:09:54) Mr. Soeldner asked Ms. Anderson if she was holding a number of bills to be approved, or do you have any idea right now where you are at on that. Ms. Anderson stated "we do have a few in our office, we received some Friday and Monday that my staff is still processing, but we do not have a significant number, no." Ms. Anderson said the way in which they get bills is not consistent, they get them from departments at different times. She stated that they can only process the work when it comes in.

Mr. Soeldner turned to Ms. Rodriguez to present the next items on the Agenda.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that she did believe we should have a county policy so the County Administrator can set expectations. She indicated she felt there needs to be county

wide training relative to financial management system. She stated that one of reasons they recommended CPA be hired was because she was not a CPA and do not have authority to direct elected officials to do anything.

(2:13:39) Ms. Rodriguez presented for action a request approval to develop and implement an accounts payable policy for McLean County Government. Mr. Soeldner said he felt all agree we need this, but how we go about it might be the question. Mr. Robustelli asked if a and b on the agenda, Request approval to develop and implement an accounts payable policy for McLean County Government and Request approval to develop and implement an invoice payment workflow process policy for McLean County Government fall under c on the agenda, Authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with an independent expert to provide recommendations regarding best practices in financial management for McLean County. He said if c helps provide expertise along with internal expertise to develop those two policies. Mr. Rodriguez said one of her hopes was that it was not just the auditor or the treasurer writing a policy that she then had to hold departments heads accountable to but was also written or guided by someone external with expertise and a certification. Ms. Wollrab indicated she had expressed that she was uncomfortable hiring an external person but wondered if we can get a retired professional to assist. Ms. Rodriguez said if we find the right person who is willing to enter into a contract and provide an unbiased opinion, that was based in the general accounting principles, then open to that. Mr. Erickson asked if we are going to do what Mr. Robustelli suggested then we would not come up with policy until got opinion of expert. Mr. Robustelli agreed, would be all together. He said might be best hire someone outside to help develop policy and direct accounts receivables. Mr. Erickson said that he was uncomfortable setting policy until get opinion from expert and a legal opinion. He said he wants to come up with something that follows generally accepted accounting principles and can be defended if we must go to court to defend. He said that he also wanted instruction that we continue to follow existing policy until sort matter out.

(2:19:36) Ms. Metsker agreed that if we have experts they would help with policies and procedures and might actually save us some time. She said she would like to go ahead with all four agenda items, a,b,c,d. Need to move ahead with doing something that we can defend.

Mr. Soeldner asked if motion maker be willing to combine all of the items on the agenda. Mr. Barnett indicated he would be happy to combine motion to include all four items: "Request approval to develop and implement an accounts payable policy for McLean County Government and Request approval to develop and implement an invoice payment workflow process policy for McLean County Government fall under c on the agenda, Authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with an

independent expert to provide recommendations regarding best practices in financial management for McLean County and d Authorize County Administrator to enter into an agreement with an independent firm to complete a special financial audit.”

Mr. Beard indicated he saw a and b as being detailed policies and procedures that are going to be developed for people who are handling the journaling of expenses. He asked if an outside expert is needed for that. He said reason this is coming up is a self-inflicted change that if it had not happened, we would not be saying we need an outside person. He said he would be willing to vote to include all of them, but in some ways want to join a and b together because processes happening now. He said for he would like to hear an explanation for what we are hoping to get out of d before joining together. Mr. Soeldner asked if could join a and b only and then discuss others separately. Mr. Barnett agreed and Mr. Beard agreed.

Ms. Wollrab asked if developers of the policy would be the auditor and the treasurer along with someone from administration overseeing or will we bring in outside person into that process. Ms. Metsker said she felt we could potentially double the work by creating something now and then redo it if an outside person says that is not right. She said she was willing to do what the Committee agreed to do but hope to save time, energy and money. Mr. Barnett said he echoed Mr. Erickson’s comments that there is value in having the professional guidance to give us a foundation should this go further.

Mr. Robustelli indicated his proposal was to vote on C1a,b,c as presented but with clarification that c would be used to help with a and b. He said that did not mean policies could not be developed with internal group. He said that with d he would like to hear more about why we need that because there is no evidence there is anything that has been done wrong other than a disagreement about dates that are being entered into a system. He said we have external third-party auditors who have reviewed our systems said they have found no problems.

Mr. Beard also questioned paying an CPA when it has been mentioned that 30 days ago there was no evidence that there was any issues with how the process existed and in the past, we have held off bringing in external experts for things like this. He asked if this could be reviewed with our annual audit. Ms. Rodriguez said the annual external audit comes up with an assessment of our entire financial health but wants review of the day to day operations of the County. She stated she was not certain the external auditor could provide such guidance.

(2:32:21) Ms. Wollrab stated she could support where headed if got assurance from County Administrator that she would reach out to either County Administrator professional group or IML or ICMA or all of them to see what kind of help is available

through an organization or look at local government officials who are retired here in the community who could assist.

(2:33:44) Ms. Metsker said she respected Ms. Wollrab's opinion, but indicated her concern is she felt we might have trouble finding someone like that if we feel there might be some potential legal action. Ms. Wollrab indicated we had multi-million-dollar nursing home and we did not pay for blue ribbon expertise and we did not pay an outside search firm when we were looking for an administrator, so want to start with not paying for this and if we can't get there then would look at it again.

(2:35:15) Mr. Erickson said he felt we should leave some discretion up to Ms. Rodriguez. He called the question.

Motion by Barnett/Beard to recommend approval to develop and implement an accounts payable policy for McLean County Government.

Motion by Barnett/Beard to amend motion to include approval of C1abc. Request approval to develop and implement an accounts payable policy for McLean County Government and develop and implement an invoice payment workflow process policy for McLean County Government and authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with an independent expert to provide recommendations regarding best practices in financial management for McLean County.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Rodriguez brought for action a request to Authorize County Administrator to enter into an agreement with an independent firm to complete a special financial audit. Ms. Rodriguez, she indicated she did not know how this discussion would go and noted previous assertions of concern regarding affixed signature of auditor on the CAFR and the assertions that all was well with the manner in which we completed our finances and then her assertions that all of a sudden she realized that our treasurer was doing it was wrong so she changed it, so was concerned and did not know whether or not she could stand before and say that even though Baker, Tilly provides a letter asserting no material weakness within the CAFR, but the entirety of the CAFR was what we wanted it to be as a document.

Motion by Barnett – no second motion failed.

Mr. Robustelli stated that he appreciated her perspective. He stated that reason he did not second it or support it is because they have heard from auditor and she did not say there was anything from an accounting standard wrong with what has happened. He said he did not want to give anyone any

misrepresentation that this issue has anything to do with the way we conduct ourselves or the way we have been doing it. He said there is a legal question that Mr. Erickson has made clear, but there is not an integrity issue here.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that after meeting with Treasurer, Auditor, Mr. Soeldner and Chairman McIntyre on Friday the 11th she was not convinced she had enough answers and to concur with Mr. Robustelli so that is why information was brought forth.

(2:40:04) Ms. Wollrab requested that in the days and weeks hence if there seems to be any more issues come up either through department heads or other things, payroll that she makes them aware as soon as possible so the Committee can stay on top of it. Mr. Soeldner asked if a directive could be sent to department heads with the right way to do things but need to know if they are concerned about payment of bills.

(2:41:34) Mr. Erickson said he emphasized needing the legal soon. Ms. Woods clarified that she treated their verbal request as a formal request. Mr. Erickson asked if they needed to put a timeframe on it. Ms. Woods said 30 days is what she and Mr. Knapp discussed hopefully but for sure in 60 days. She said that although they are busy, they are making it a priority. Mr. Erickson said the accountant could come back with recommendations then would need legal opinion as to yes you can implement this as County Board policy. Ms. Woods said she felt they would have a legal opinion before they could hire and get an opinion from an auditing expert. Mr. Erickson said based on that representation he is ok going forward as he felt it was a necessity to have the legal opinion under these set of facts.

Mr. Soeldner thanked both the Auditor and Treasurer for being here. Thanked the Committee and Administration and the audience and the media.

Chairman Soeldner asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee; hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Morlock

Julie A. Morlock
Recording Secretary