

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

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman John McIntyre (Present), Members Jim Soeldner, George Gordon, William Caisley, Chuck Erickson, Susan Schafer, Laurie Wollrab, Josh Barnett and Catherine Metsker (Members Via Remote Attendance)

Members Absent: Member Josh Barnett

Other Board Members Present: Member Jacob Beard

Staff Present: Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator; Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator; Cathy Dreyer Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Chris Spanos, State's Attorney, Ms. Samantha Vazquez, Assistant State's Attorney; Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary

Department Heads/

Elected Officials Present: Mr. Craig Nelson, Information Technologies Director;

Others Present:

Chairman McIntyre called to order a meeting of the Executive Committee at 4:30 p.m. and indicated he had marked all members present except for Member Barnett.

Chairman McIntyre presented the minutes from the July 21, 2020 special meeting and August 11, 2020 regular meeting of the Executive Committee for approval.

Motion by Metsker/Caisley to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2020 special meeting and August 11, 2020 regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote- all Members present voted yes including the Chairman

Chairman McIntyre confirmed there were no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman McIntyre presented for action a request to approve the Appointments and Reappointments.

Motion by Soeldner/Wollrab to recommend approval of the Appointments and Reappointments.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Mr. McIntyre presented on behalf of Craig Nelson and the Information Technology Department a request to approve a Resolution Amending the Funded Full-Time Equivalent Positions Resolution for 2020 Fund 0001 Department 0043 Information Technologies.

Motion by Schafer/Gordon to recommend the purchase of contact tracing laptops from Dell under joint purchasing contract.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote - all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. Susan Schafer, Chairman of the Health Committee indicated they had nothing for action today but might have items for the Board next week. Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he thanked her.

Mr. William Caisley Chairman of the Transportation committee indicated they had no items for action today but would have items for the Board next week. Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Chairman McIntyre recognized Mr. Soeldner who indicated he had a couple of questions for the Health Committee. Mr. Soeldner asked for an update on the number of contact tracers. He also stated that numbers have jumped in the last month and indicated that the biggest numbers are in the younger age groups. He asked what interaction we had with ISU before they decided to allow students to return to campus. Mr. McIntyre indicated that those questions should be asked of the Board of Health or the Director of the Health Department, but asked Ms. Rodriguez if she could assist. Ms. Rodriguez indicated that throughout the pandemic our community partners have reached out to her to request the presence of the Health Department Director, Jessica McKnight, at certain meetings including the Chamber of Commerce and Town and City meetings. She stated she was not sure ISU had reached out directly to have us participate in the discussion about whether or not students should come back. She stated that businesses, school districts through Regional Office of Education, municipalities, and others attend the Emergency Operation Center meeting each week and we all receive the same science. She stated that the science says we should socially distance, wash our hands and wear our face coverings. She stated all business have had to approach it differently, for example the Town and the City took steps to assist Restaurants with outside seating.

Ms. Rodriguez stated the role and the responsibility of the Health Department is prevention and to provide education, but they also work to keep the community free of food borne illness and do contact tracing, which has always existed. She stated our community has been open to calling the Health Department and Administration. She stated that everyone must do their part and take personal responsibility; which includes not going to large group functions that place yourself and others at risk. She said people look to the Health Department for guidance and answers and the Health Department has been giving the answers: wear your mask, don't gather in large groups and wash your hands. She said at times she was sure that has not been the answer people want to hear, but it is the advice we are giving because contact tracing alone will not solve the problem. Ms. Rodriguez stated that contact tracing is vital and has been done for other diseases but now we are headed into flu season so need to be aware of our individual responsibilities.

Ms. Schafer stated the Health Department can not tell ISU to not bring their students back, but also need to remember that even if ISU did not bring these students back to the dorms,

many of the students have leases and the landlords were not letting them out of the leases, so the students returned. She stated she felt ISU had a plan utilizing some of the information they were getting from the CDC and probably trying to utilize their nursing college, but their plan fell through. She said she did not feel there was anything we could have done to prevent that.

Mr. Caisley asked how many contact tracers we have who are working on this investigation and if there have been any results of the investigation as to how this disease is being communicated, such as locations. Mr. McIntyre indicated a couple of weeks ago they had a meeting with Ms. Rodriguez, the Director of our Health Department individuals from ISU where they discussed these issues and announced we had received grant funding to help with contact tracing. He reminded members that the tracers needed to be hired and trained, so could not be able to provide services overnight. He indicated we had enough tracers before and the increase in numbers happened so quickly we could not have increased our contact tracers that quickly. He indicated that it has been compounded because individuals did not know who they had contact with. He said the Health Department is hiring and continues to hire, but there are only so much they can do. He agreed with Ms. Schafer and President Dietz that the students already had leases in place and many of them wanted to come here even if they attended classes virtually. He said the Health Department and Administration has been in contact with ISU and other leaders of this community and made sure they had information. He stated organizations and businesses have to make their own decisions. He said he was getting tired of the criticism of our Health Department as they have been working very hard through this pandemic. He said to say they have failed is uncalled for and unprofessional for anyone to say. He stated that someone had said we were all in this together, but he had not seen that even with our own Board members. He stated individuals are looking around just to find fault with things and he felt they needed to reconsider their actions.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that through the grant we were supposed to add about 40 contact tracers which would bring us up to a total of 50, and she believed half of those had been hired but she would check on that number and send any updates.

Mr. Erickson stated he felt Chairman McIntyre, the County Administrator and the Health Department have done a great job. He stated our numbers were very good until the students returned. He said he is happy that the students are back and thanked them for their efforts before and now as they work to mitigate this pandemic. Mr. Erickson agreed with Mr. McIntyre about making statements. Mr. Erickson indicated he had a constituent ask him what he could do to shut down ISU and he told the constituent there was nothing he could do even if he wanted to, which he didn't. He thanked Chairman McIntyre, Director Jessica McKnight, County Administrator Rodriguez and all the businesses and people in McLean County who had done a great job to keep the numbers low through the month of August.

Ms. Wollrab agreed we did a great job until August. She stated the situation is different now and she felt we should be reassessing our approach and she felt we are doing that. She stated she was a little concerned about the message that strongly emphasized personal responsibility. She provided the example of the days when people smoked in bars and

restaurants and it was the Health professionals and possibly Health Department that spoke up and said to public leaders they had to do something to outlaw indoor smoking where it could damage other people. She stated she was looking for similar actions for this situation where we need a stronger message. Mr. McIntyre indicated the Health Department cannot come out and make demands for ordinances. Ms. Wollrab stated she was asking them to suggest what should be done. Mr. McIntyre indicated the Board of Health would be looking at that tomorrow night. She said she is asking the Board of Health and Health Department to suggest to Universities and Municipalities ways to encourage people to take more personal responsibility. She stated should look at the University of Illinois' message to their students to follow guidelines or be taken out of the universities as there needed to be similar messages. Ms. Wollrab stated she agreed we all need to come together and have one strong voice before this becomes rampant.

Ms. Schafer stated originally the State was going to hire all the contact tracers and then the State said they would just give funds. She indicated the State's plan was to ramp up the number of contact tracers and the ramp up would go into October with our estimated number of tracers to be 35-40. She stated even if we had that number now it would not be enough. She stated she felt a lot of people were giving suggestions and making statements when they do not realize how the process works as there is a lot of information out there and it is a complicated picture for everyone to understand. She also reminded everyone that the Board of Health would be discussing this matter at their meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Gordon asked Ms. Schafer to convey to the Board of Health the concern of several County Board members have about the urgency with which actions need to be taken. He agreed that the University of Illinois statement was very strong and felt the challenge has not been met by Illinois State University. He said there has been an executive order by Mayor Koos of no gatherings larger than 10 but felt that meant we would see a lot of gatherings of smaller numbers but was not sure how many people will be wearing masks. Ms. Schafer stated she mentioned last month what Universities and Municipalities are doing to assist. She stated if number increase then mitigation measures will be the same at Region 4.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman of the Justice Committee presented for action a request to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2020 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Circuit Clerk's Department

Motion by Gordon/Caisley to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2020 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Circuit Clerk's Department

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote - all present voted aye including Chairman McIntyre

Mr. Gordon presented for action a request to approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2020 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Coroner's Department

Motion by Gordon/Schafer to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2020 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for the Coroner's Department  
Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote - all present voted yes including Chairman McIntyre.

Mr. Gordon indicated the Justice Committee had no further items for action today but would have additional items for the Board next week. Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any questions, hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Jim Soeldner, Chairman of the Finance Committee presented for action a request to approve an Ordinance by the McLean County Board Amending the McLean County Code: Specifically, Chapter 108 Personnel Policies and Procedure, Section 34.

Motion by Soeldner/Caisley to recommend approval of an Ordinance by the McLean County Board Amending the McLean County Code: Specifically, Chapter 108 Personnel Policies and Procedure, Section 34.  
Motion Carried. Roll call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman

Mr. Soeldner presented for action a request to approve an Ordinance by the McLean County Board Amending the McLean County Code; Chapter 108 Personnel Policies and Procedure, Section 40.

Motion by Soeldner/Metsker to recommend approval of an Ordinance by the McLean County Board Amending the McLean County Code; Chapter 108 Personnel Policies and Procedure, Section 40.  
Motion Carried. Roll call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman

Mr. Soeldner indicated they had nothing further to present for action today but would have items for the Board next week. Mr. Soeldner thanked the Treasurer for keeping the Finance Committee up to date on the status of the County's finances. He also thanked Administration for all of their work on the budget. Mr. McIntyre agreed and thanked Staff for the work they have been doing on the budget during this time of crisis. Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Mr. Chuck Erickson, Vice Chairman of the Land Use and Development Committee indicated they had no items for action today nor for the Board next week. Chairman McIntyre asked if the Committee had any questions, hearing none, he thanked her.

Mr. Jacob Beard, Vice Chairman of the Property Committee indicated he had no action items for the Committee but would have items for the Board next week. Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any questions; hearing none, he thanked him.

Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator presented for action a request to approve critical hire requests.

Motion by Caisley/Gordon to approve the critical hire requests.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote - all members present voted yes including the Chairman

Ms. Rodriguez presented for action a request to approve a Resolution of the Mclean County Board Continuing the Declaration of a Disaster Pursuant to Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

Motion by Gordon/Soeldner to recommend approval of a Resolution of the Mclean County Board Continuing the Declaration of a Disaster Pursuant to Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman

Ms. Rodriguez presented for action a request to approve an Amended Resolution Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the year 2020.

Motion by Schafer/Wollrab to recommend approval of an Amended Resolution Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the year 2020.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. Rodriguez presented the recent employment activity report. Chairman asked if there were any questions, hearing none he thanked her.

Chairman McIntyre stated under other business that in the last 6 months we have gone through a crisis situation and a pandemic that no one has experienced before or planned for that has created a lot of anxiety and stress. He reminded everyone that we have agencies including the Triage Center for individuals to turn to. He said he always thought that during time of crisis people pulled together, but that he has not always seen that and hoped we would do that. He asked Committee members to pass along to other Board members that when something comes up that someone is unhappy with or alarmed about to please try to follow the proper channels. He indicated they should go to the proper committee's Chairman and try to follow protocol and keep some decorum, so situations can be worked through. He said some over-react because of the stress and anxiety and we need to take a step back and look at where are. He said he is very proud of our County and has always been proud of the fact we have been able to come together and work on issues even though we represented different political parties. He said that over the years many members have gotten to know each other and created friendships that go along with working together no matter the political party. Mr. McIntyre said he is alarmed by the amount of dissention we have had where some of it is for nothing more than political gain and he hated to see that. He said he knew many Members have genuine concerns and asked them to do go about resolution the proper way and try to work together.

Mr. McIntyre stated many decisions have been made in situations that change almost daily which makes it hard to plan things; and people are missing the point if they sit back and point

fingers at any organization, including the universities, corporations, hospitals, health department and County Board, trying to work through these situations. He said we are all in this together and felt we should be working together more than we have.

Chairman McIntyre presented for approval bills in the amount of \$236,502.32 for the General Fund, Shared Sales Tax and Veterans Assistance.

**MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

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AS OF 8/27/2020

**EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND**

**Executive Committee**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND TITLE</b>	<b>PENDING TOTAL</b>	<b>PREPAID TOTAL</b>	<b>FUND TOTAL</b>
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$224,281.62	\$224,281.62
0007	Shared Sales Tax/Municipalities		\$10,639.81	\$10,639.81
0136	VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMM.		\$1,580.89	\$1,580.89
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			\$236,502.32	\$236,502.32



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Soeldner/Metsker to approve payment of the General Fund, Shared Sales Tax and Veterans Assistance Invoices.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote: All members present voted yes including Chairman McIntyre

Chairman McIntyre indicated there was no further business to come before the Committee and adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie Morlock  
Recording Secretary