

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center Building, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chair Val Laymon; Members Jim Soeldner, Geoff Tompkins, Corey Beirne

Members Absent: Members Lyndsay Bloomfield

Other Members

Present: None

Staff Present: Cassy Taylor, County Administrator; Anthony Grant, Assistant County Administrator; Cathy Dreyer, Assistant County Administrator; Taylor Williams, Assistant State's Attorney; Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary.

Department Heads/

Elected Officials Present: Joseph Gaither, Facilities Management; Mike Steffa, Director of Parks and Recreation

Others Present: Trevor Sierra, Assistant State's Attorney; Dan Leary, Information Technology

Chair Laymon called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Chair Laymon presented for approval the consent agenda including minutes from the July 6, 2023 regular meeting as well as the bills in the amount of \$275,730.83.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

PAGE 1 OF 7

AS OF 7/31/2023

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Property Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0001	GENERAL FUND		\$275,730.83	\$275,730.83
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$275,730.83	\$275,730.83


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Beirne/Tompkins to approve the Consent Agenda including minutes from the July 6, 2023, regular meeting as well as bills in the amount of \$275,730.83.

Motion Carried.

Chair Laymon confirmed with Ms. Taylor there were no requests for appearances by members of the public or County employees.

Chair Laymon introduced Mr. Mike Sewell, project manager for the City Streetscape project. He noted they had met with County Museum staff and County Administration but Cassy suggested meeting with the Property Committee to get further input before starting public outreach. Mr. Sewell presented information on the City of Bloomington's Downtown

Streetscape including an overview of the project, schedule update, concepts and upcoming public outreach campaign.

Mr. Beirne asked for more information about the data they had collected. Mr. Sewell noted they reviewed traffic numbers and information, utility information and consulted with some downtown businesses. He noted the streetscape would involve a collection of all the sidewalks, paths, landscaping, and decorative lighting to enhance the pedestrian experience along the streets. Mr. Sewell indicated they were in-between the strategy phase and design phase and wanted to adopt a design late this year or early next year. Ms. Laymon asked if they were getting input from the public on access to downtown. Mr. Sewell indicated they had set up a steering committee to discuss needs and wants and the questions posed to the public would not be general but more specific.

Mr. Sewell showed concept pictures that illustrated a people centric instead of vehicle centric downtown. Mr. Beirne asked about traffic flow. Mr. Sewell confirmed they were looking at reducing vehicle traffic to one lane with a possible bicycle lane. Ms. Laymon noted the change to make the square street level and asked about ADA compliance. Mr. Sewell confirmed all plans were ADA compliant. Mr. Tompkins noted more pedestrian friendly but Illinois had about 7 months of winter and asked how that played into the planning. Mr. Sewell agreed that people are less likely to walk around in bad weather. Ms. Taylor noted that in previous discussions they had discussed snowman competitions, sleigh rides and other events that would involve cold weather activities that might encourage people to come to the square. Mr. Soeldner asked if security and car access during possible public protests had been considered. Mr. Beirne asked if they had considered closing some of the street's vehicle traffic. Discussion of options for security, deliveries and closures.

Mr. Tompkins asked about the balance between business utilization of the area and citizens' use of the property. Mr. Sewell noted that the City issues permits for outside dining but that they were taking into consideration creating enough space for businesses and people. Ms. Laymon asked how the court house would be affected by extreme rain events with the different landscape grading. Mr. Sewell indicated there would be some challenges but those could be addressed. Ms. Laymon asked if there would be any structural changes to the Courthouse. Mr. Sewell confirmed there would not.

Mr. Sierra asked for the physical parameters of the project. Mr. Sewell showed the boundaries for the project on a map. Mr. Soeldner asked if they had considered restroom facilities for the increased number of people visiting the downtown area. Mr. Sewell agreed there are nicer portables available, but they would need to look at options for permanent facilities. Mr. Tompkins asked how the County could help with the project. Mr. Sewell indicated they appreciated the support and would appreciate members getting information out to the public once they start up the public input portion of the project. Mr. Sewell confirmed the members were ok with them sharing the draft concept drawings with the public. Members concurred. Ms. Laymon thanked him for coming and providing information.

Chair Laymon presented on behalf of Facilities Management a request to approve an Amendment to Agreement for Boiler Replacements. Mr. Gaither went over the project. Ms. Laymon asked him to confirm efficiency would be increased. Mr. Gaither confirmed.

Motion by Tompkins/Beirne to recommend approval of an Amendment to Agreement for Boiler Replacement.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Gaither presented the monthly report for the Facilities Department. Mr. Beirne asked about the sewer smell. Mr. Gaither provided an update on steps being taken to eliminate the smell. Mr. Beirne if Mr. Gaither could find out what it would take for the clocks on the museum tower to be operational. Mr. Gaither indicated he would research how the clocks worked and possible repairs. Chair Laymon asked if there were any additional questions or comments; hearing none, she thanked him.

Mike Steffa, Direct of the Parks Department provided his monthly report to the Committee. He provided an update on the bait shop project. Mr. Steffa discussed a long-term project they were starting with the goal of improving the water quality of the lake. Ms. Laymon asked how they would eliminate the invasive plant life. Mr. Steffa went over the process. Mr. Soeldner asked him to confirm mostly mechanical removal and chemicals only on specific spots. Mr. Steffa confirmed and noted the safety of chemicals used. Ms. Laymon asked for an update on the beavers at the park. Mr. Steffa noted he had been in contact with several individuals including the Illinois Beaver Alliance. He noted there are grant opportunities to help with the situation and went over work that could be done to deter the beavers. Ms. Laymon asked about getting volunteers. Mr. Steffa confirmed they would ask for volunteers. Mr. Beirne noted another beaver situation in town. Mr. Steffa indicated he would reach out to get more information on how they were handling that situation. Chair Laymon asked if there were any further questions; hearing nothing, she thanked Mr. Steffa.

Cassy Taylor, County Administrator provided an update on the energy audit. Ms. Laymon asked for more information on high-performance water fixtures. Ms. Taylor noted that would include updated sink and shower fixtures at the nursing home and jail. She provided an example of sinks with automatic turn off features. Ms. Taylor thanked Mr. Grant and Mr. Gaither for their work on the project.

Ms. Taylor noted the Committee would be in this room next month due to delays in the Dias project. Chair Laymon asked if there were questions for Ms. Taylor; hearing none, she thanked her.

Under Other Business Mr. Tompkins thanked Mr. Gaither and Mr. Steffa for their work to maintain both the physical buildings and natural settings for the County. Chair Laymon noted the next meeting would be September 7, 2023. She noted there was no other business to come before the Committee and adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie A. Morlock

Julie Morlock
Recording Secretary