

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 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, Segobiano, Butler and O'Connor

Members Absent: Member Rackauskas

Other Board Members Present: Members McIntyre, Caisley, Soeldner, Erickson, Wendt, and Wollrab

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: Ms. Hannah Eisner, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney; 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 November 8, 2011 Executive Committee Meeting and the October 18, 2011 Stand-up Meeting for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Segobiano to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2011 Meeting and the October 18, 2011 Stand-up Meeting.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented the reappointments, appointments and resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Gordon to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as Recommended by the Chairman.

Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of Copier Maintenance Contracts with Watts Copy Systems. He noted that Mr. Ryan Leuty, Assistant Director, Information Technologies, was available to answer any questions.

Motion by Bostic/Owens to Recommend Approval of Copier Maintenance Contracts with Watts Copy Systems – Information Technologies.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution establishing a holiday schedule for County Employees for the Fiscal Year 2012 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Hoselton/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Holiday Schedule for County Employees for the Fiscal Year 2012 – County Administrator's Office.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance establishing County Board meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2012 – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Establishing County Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2012 – County Administrator's Office.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board submitting the public question to eliminate the Office of Recorder – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Segobiano/Hoselton to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of the McLean County Board submitting the public question to eliminate the Office of Recorder – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Owens commented that he does not have an objection to putting this item on the ballot, but he is concerned that the timing is not right. He pointed out that the Recorder's Office will be up for election in March, with potential candidates trying to gain support for their candidacy. Mr. Owens recommended that the elimination of the Office of Recorder be considered at a future date. He stated that he will not support this Resolution as submitted.

Mr. Hoselton asked what prompted the idea to eliminate the Office of Recorder. Chairman Sorensen responded that a request was made by Mr. Segobiano to put this Resolution on the agenda.

Mr. Segobiano advised that several years ago an effort was made to eliminate this office as well as the Offices of Coroner and Auditor. He indicated that it was felt, at that time, that these offices could successfully operate at less cost without an elected official. Mr. Segobiano stated that he feels that the County could save a significant amount of taxpayer money by eliminating the Office of Recorder. He added that he feels this is an appropriate time to move forward with this effort. Mr. Segobiano indicated that he is not asking Board members to support or oppose this question; rather, he is asking the taxpayers to make that decision.

Mr. Segobiano stated that his main concern is the cost saving and stream-lining of the operation of County Government. He pointed out that the budget was recently adopted after which a Board member asked that an effort be made to hold the levy at the same amount as last year. Mr. Segobiano noted that every department cut their proposed budget in an effort to comply with that request. He stated that he looks upon the effort to eliminate the Office of Recorder as one more step towards saving the taxpayers money.

Mr. Butler advised that we should be interested in streamlining government. However, he cautioned that the Office of the Recorder is a big operation with a lot of historical and fragile records that need to be considered. Mr. Butler recommended that a year or two be spent planning before this effort proceeds. He also questioned how much money will actually be saved by putting the responsibilities into another office. Mr. Butler noted that the work will still need to be supervised and be completed, so there would be changes in pay levels in the County Clerk's Office that should be evaluated. He reiterated that this is a big move and not one that should be taken quickly.

Mr. Segobiano stated that this motion is to eliminate the office in 2012, which would allow for a year to plan for the transition. He indicated that he believes the cost savings could be as much as \$100,000.

Mr. Gordon advised that, if there had not been so much negative publicity against the current County Recorder, he would feel differently about this effort. He stated that it is not good government policy to make a decision based in any way upon the publicity involved around one particular individual. Mr. Gordon indicated even though it is not intended, it may be perceived that the negative publicity is the motive for the movement to eliminate the Recorder's Office. He stated that he is opposed to the Resolution because he is uncomfortable with making a fundamental decision based upon the occupant in one particular office.

Mr. Segobiano stated that, prior to proposing this Resolution, he went to the County Board Chairman and assured him that this effort has nothing to do with the personality of the gentleman in the Recorder's position, and everything to do with streamlining County Government and saving taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Gordon responded that he believes that Mr. Segobiano's intentions are just what he says they are, but he is concerned that the public perception will not match that. He believes that the public perception will be that the effort to eliminate the Office of Recorder is the result of the recent negative publicity of that office.

Mr. Owens added that he is also opposed to the Resolution at this time because he would like additional consideration be made to the appropriate office to absorb these duties. He suggested that the Assessor's Office be considered because of the close association and compatibility that the two offices have with property.

Chairman Sorensen advised that, for the sake of procedure, he understands that there is a request that this issue will go to the full Board next week regardless of the results of vote on this issue at the Executive Committee.

Mr. Hoselton recommended that, since this Resolution will go forward to the County Board anyway, the discussion and decisions should be made at that time.

Mr. Segobiano confirmed that he has every intention of taking this Resolution to the County Board regardless of the Executive Committee's vote on the motion.

Mr. Wendt stated that he believes the logical place for the responsibilities of the Recorder's Office is in the County Clerk's Office. He added that this is where all of the Recorders' offices have been placed when the offices were eliminated. Mr. Wendt indicated that he has been in favor of consolidating these two offices for many years. Mr. Wendt expressed his belief that the voters should be given the opportunity make this decision.

Mr. Owens asked Mr. Segobiano why he wants this Resolution to be considered in March instead of November. Mr. Segobiano replied that making that decision in March provides the incumbent ample time to find other employment within or outside of County Government should the taxpayers make the decision to eliminate the position.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the motion.

Motion failed.

Chairman Sorensen reminded the Committee that this will be on the County Board Agenda under "Other Business."

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, advised that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee. He noted that all of the items going to the Board were approved by the Transportation 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. She indicated that the Property Committee did not meet in December, but will meet at a Stand-up meeting prior to the County Board meeting.

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

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2011 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board amending the 2011 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0112 (Animal Control) – Health Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented two requests from the County Clerk's Office that can be acted upon together. The first is a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, County Clerk's Office 0005 – County Clerk's Office. The second is a request for approval of a Resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2011 Funded Full-time Equivalent Positions Resolution for the McLean County Clerk's Office.

Motion by Owens/Butler to Recommend Approval an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2011 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, General Fund 0001, County Clerk's Office 0005 – County Clerk's Office; and to Recommend Approval of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 Funded Full-Time Equivalent Positions Resolution for the McLean County Clerk's Office.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Setting Fees to be charged by the McLean County Clerk. He advised that these fees were included in budget.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Setting Fees to be charged by the McLean County Clerk.

Mr. Gordon asked what the rationale is for the significant increase. Mr. Wasson replied that the fee increase was based on the cost study performed by MAXIMUS in 2011. Chairman Sorensen added that, after conducting a survey, the County fees are still lower than surrounding counties.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. John McIntyre, Vice-Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bloomington, IL; the Town of Normal and the County of McLean, IL for the 2011 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Sheriff's Department.

Motion by McIntyre/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bloomington, IL; the Town of Normal and the County of McLean, IL for the 2011 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Sheriff's Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. McIntyre presented a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board setting fees to be charged by the McLean County Sheriff – Sheriff's Department. He noted that these fee increases have already been included in the budget.

Mr. Gordon asked if the increases, including the Eviction Fee, are also a result of the MAXIMUS study. Mr. McIntyre replied that the fees are based on the MAXIMUS Study. Mr. Wasson stated that the fee increases will just meet the cost of the service. Mr. McIntyre added that the fee is paid by the person who owns the property.

Motion by McIntyre/Segobiano to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Setting Fees to be Charged by the McLean County Sheriff – Sheriff's Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. McIntyre advised that there are several items that will go to the Board for approval.

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

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, as the Committee did not meet in December.

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

Chairman Sorensen presented the November 30, 2011 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment. The Fund Total is \$156,142.84 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

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Motion by Bostic/Owens to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for November 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 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary