

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 3, 2015

5:15 P.M.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn  
Kevin Greenfield  
Linda Little  
Greg Mattingley  
Keith Ashby

### Members Absent

Tim Dudley  
Patty Cox

### COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Pat Berter, Probation  
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender  
Ed Yoder, Treasurer  
Steve Bean, County Clerk  
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Department  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Mary Eaton, Recorder  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunn, at the Macon County Office Building.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting (June 29, 2015) was made by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and motion carried 5-0.

### CLAIMS

Motion to approve the report of the claims as presented made by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Ashby, and motion carried 5-0.

### REPORTS

#### *Audit Sub-Committee –*

Ms. Reed had no report

#### *Auditor*

Ms. Reed reminded the members that the first Finance Committee Budget Hearing is scheduled for next Monday, August 10 @ 5:15 p.m. and the scheduled presenters include Veterans Assistance, U of I Extension, Historical Museum, S of A, GIS, & Board of Review. She said that the budget book binders are being compiled and will be ready for distribution to the members of the committee by next Monday.

Chairman Dunn advised the members that there will be special meetings on any budgets that don't come in at 3% or more. He said that hopefully everybody will bring in budgets at 3% or more or we will see them later.

#### *Board of Review – Budget Presentation*

Mr. Tanner reported that with the new member on the Board of Review not being eligible for the health insurance benefits, this is where the more than 3% cut came in.

Ms. Little asked if there were any increases in the budget Mr. Tanner said no. The Board of Review salaries are set by the County Board and they stay until the Board decides to change it. It has been that way for 8 to 10 years, but in comparison with other counties, it is still very good. Mr. Dunn asked when the County Board sets the salaries. Mr. Tanner said it is done before the appointments are made which is in May. He advised that they could start working on setting that budget at anytime. There are not many line items in this budget, so the salary line is the only place you can get a cut. If another cut is needed for the next budget year, resetting the salaries prior to the May appointments would be the only option. He said it could either be a cut in salary or they could go to paying per diem which a number of counties are going to. The only bad thing about per diem is that the work load fluctuates. Budgeting is difficult. With a flat salary, it is the same each year. With a flat salary, if they work a lot, they make less per hour and if they work less, they make more per hour. Budgeting wise, generally speaking, per diem is cheaper for the county. Mr. Greenfield clarified that per diem is that if they show up, they get paid and if they don't show up they don't get paid. With a salary, they get paid regardless. Mr. Tanner confirmed and said he didn't really know why more counties were going with per diem, but he thought it was probably to save on money. It could be to encourage attendance. Ms. Little asked if we have an attendance problem. Mr. Tanner said not really. It is hard to find members who are retired and / or flexible in their work schedules. To get someone with experience that is able to show up all the time is really difficult. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Tanner to meet with Chairman Greenfield and share the information regarding how many hours are involved with the Board of Review, the attendance of each member, etc... that he had asked for previously. He said he knows that this will come up in the future and he needs to be aware of how much time each Board of Review member puts in and what the salary is so it can be reviewed at a later date. Mr. Tanner said that the Auditor had requested, several years ago, that he maintain a log of that for IMRF rules to make sure they didn't run over a certain number of hours, so attendance has been tracked for a while. He said that they have always tracked meeting times, so he could get the information.

Ms. Little made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, to approve the budget as presented and the motion carried 5-0.

#### ***Supervisor of Assessments – Budget Presentation***

Mr. Tanner reported that they were able to make the 3% cut.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Ms. Little, and the motion carried 5-0.

#### ***GIS – Budget Presentation***

Mr. Tanner said that the GIS is not a general fund. It has its own fund, but we were able to make the 3% cut here as well. It is still operating at a loss each year. There is about 2 ½ years that it can continue to be sustained. Mr. Tanner had a recommendation for the new year. He said that when the fees were increased in the Recorder's office, the GIS fee was not increased to the maximum amount that Bellweather recommended. He said he would bring a resolution and some numbers to the Board in the new year to see if they would be interested in increasing the fees. Cuts to the fund are being made, but it is not sustainable at that rate. Mr. Mattingley asked if the fee increase is done, if it would negate the loss or just get closer. Mr. Tanner said it

would just get closer, but the closer you get, the longer the fund balance will last. He said he is hoping that with the increase, it would be pushed out to 5 or 6 years and you can't really budget past that anyway.

Ms. Little made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, to approve the budget as presented and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Tanner said that the Board of Review will start reviewing cases for 2015 this month starting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There are only about 75 in the books now. He's not sure what they'll end up with in Decatur Township, but hopefully not too many. There is a vacancy in the S of A office and under the proposed budget, it will not be filled. Some shuffling around inside the office will be done to accommodate the workload. Next year is the quadrennial reassessment for about half of the Townships in the County. It is based on population. There will be a lot of work. There are some vacancies. He said he is hoping the townships can fill them, but it is not likely.

Mr. Greenfield suggested that since the Finance Committee is already hearing and passing Mr. Tanner's 3 budgets, there shouldn't be a need for him to come back to a budget hearing unless it would happen to change. It would be a duplication of work and time. Ms. Little agreed. Ms. Reed said he is scheduled to come back to next Monday's (August 10<sup>th</sup>) first budget hearing. Mr. Dunn said he was ok with it and told Mr. Tanner that they would not see him at Monday's budget hearing.

***Treasurer***

**Macon County Board Resolution to Execute Deeds to Convey Property on which Taxes were Delinquent**

Motion to approve forwarding to the Consent Calendar with recommendation for approval made by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Ashby and motion carried 5-0.

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**County Clerk**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Agreement between the macon County Clerk and Liberty Systems LLC***

Mr. Bean explained that to keep election costs down starting in 1993, they started entering into a contract, first with Fiddler and then with Liberty, over the years to spread the election costs across the board so we didn't have gigantic spikes. The election cost did not go up that much. There was an increase in voter registration cost. The voter registration is 100% reimbursed by the State. Last time the contract was \$30,000 and this time it is \$33,000. For total voter cost reimbursement from the State of Illinois, we could have gotten \$53,000, but Mr. Bean was able to get an additional almost \$15,000, so he got \$68,000. That counted mailing out new voter registration cards and everything.

Also, new is that this is going from a 24 month contract to a 48 month contract. We have had what is known as Access Liberty which is the vital records, assumed business name program, and the ethics forms we have to keep for about 3,000 people in the county. Those have never been shown on this and that is what has raised it a little.

Savings from Liberty for not having to have a city primary amounted to \$35,751. That is 2 plus months of payments so we do not have to pay the October, November and part of the September payments. That, coupled with not having the election, the other costs saved was \$86,000. Not having that primary saved the county about \$110,000. Going out 4 years on the contract to try to keep the costs down is a good thing.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Probation Department**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Probation's FY15 Budget***

Mr. Berter explained that they had received supplemental funding from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts in the amount of \$18,960.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 5-0.

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Probation Grant Fund for Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Grant***

Mr. Berter explained that this is a grant timing issue to close out the Juvenile Redeploy grant year and so they are moving money around to close out that grant.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Ashby, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Sheriff's Department**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation for Macon County Sheriff's Office K-9 Training Facility***

Lt. Butts explained that they had received a grant for \$188,931.40. This will be considered a 2 year pilot program where the Buffett Foundation is donating the salary and benefits for a full time K-9 instructor. Steve Jostes recently retired from the Decatur Police Department and is considered one of the premier instructors within the state. He would be the full time employee. There will be 5 classes a year with 6 dogs and 6 handlers completing an 8 week certification course. All funds received would go into a revenue account to sustain the academy after the 2 year commitment is fulfilled by the Buffett Foundation.

Motion made to approve and forward to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Mr. Ashby and the motion carried 5-0.

**State's Attorney's Office**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in State's Attorney's FY2015 Budget for Trial Expenses***

Mr. Dunn explained that Mr. Baggett is on vacation and he would be presenting the resolution.

This is from the Cutler case where they had to hire outside professional witnesses amounting to \$23,919. 76. As a side note, the attorney for the defense hired one person and the cost was pretty close to the same amount.

Motion made to approve and forward to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 5-0.

**CLOSED SESSION** - None

**NEXT MEETING** – Monday, August 31, 2015

Chair Dunn repeated that the budget hearings start next Monday and if the department heads or elected officials don't have a 3% cut, there will be special meetings on those. He said he understands that there are some departments where the 3% cannot be met, but he felt it is important that the committee looks at them individually. We are going to have to make some tough decisions as a committee. He said he wasn't sure what would happen in Springfield, but we have some serious problems here and each department or elected official needs to be held accountable for what they do. If they've got their cut, he said he looked forward to passing them on to the budget approval in November, but otherwise, special meetings will be held for the departments that cannot meet that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mattingley seconded by Ms. Little motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office