

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 5, 2016

5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn
Kevin Greenfield
Patty Cox
Linda Little
John Jackson
Tim Dudley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Josh Tanner, S of A
Jay Scott, State's Attorney
Carol Reed, Auditor
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Lt. Butts, Sheriff's Department
Judge Webber
Deb Garrett, Environmental Mgmt
Laurie Rasmus, Environmental Mgmt
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

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve minutes of prior Finance Committee meeting, May 31, 2016 seconded by Ms. Little and motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the report of the Finance claims as presented made by Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Jackson and motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS –

Audit Sub Committee – no report

Chair Dunn reported that the committee had met with the Auditor recently. Patty Cox has been added to the committee. They went over the finances and budget stuff and came up with the packet that was handed out to members. He said they'd like to send it out to office holders and department heads if members had no objections. He said they had gone through the budgets for the last 6 years for each department looking at what was budgeted for expenses and revenue each year and what the actuals were. The potential fund balances for departments were reviewed. The cuts they came up with are not pretty. Some are pretty extensive and might involve cutting some salary people. \$1.5 million in expenses were cut out of a projected \$2.5 million shortfall for FY17. The hope is to make up the other million with some cost shifting if it works out. A press release was included in the packet which will be released tomorrow if everyone on the committee agrees. The levy was cut 3 years in a row. He said he had thought the economy would improve and he didn't realize what was going to happen in Springfield. The state's economy is pretty bad. The unemployment in Decatur is on the rise. The county is just not getting the revenue coming in like they thought it would. In order to get a balanced budget, this is what they came up with. There were no questions and Chair Dunn said he would direct the Board Office to send it out.

Auditor –

Ms. Reed had no report

Board of Review –

Mr. Tanner reported that the BOR would start looking at cases right after the August publication.

Supervisor of Assessments –

Mr. Tanner reported that after he spoke about this at the last Finance Committee meeting, Ms. Little had more questions, so he had prepared a handout with charts showing EAV, Exemptions, & Taxable EAV which he passed out to members. He explained that there was a small increase in EAV from 14 to 15, there was also an increase in exemptions so every time the exemptions increase we lose value. In 2013, there is a pretty good sized increase and that is when the senior homestead increased a thousand dollars. There is a bill introduced each year to increase the general homestead exemption by \$1,000 which is pretty significant. The increase in exemptions between 14 & 15 was the increase in exemptions for disabled veterans 70% or greater. That went from a \$5,000 exemption to completely exempt. The taxable EAV is the same curve as the EAV, but a little flatter. We have never had a change in State Statute that increased the exemption so much that it changed the trajectory, but it flattens it out for us. Mr. Greenfield asked if there were \$243 million in exemptions. Mr. Tanner confirmed. TIF and Enterprise Zone are not included in the chart, but they are not nearly the size of number. He said he just didn't go that deep for this report.

GIS –

Mr. Tanner reported that they are changing the website a little bit. It should be a little faster and takes advantage of the ETSB new aerial photography. It should roll out during the month of July. That website gets a ton of hits and is pretty popular.

Treasurer –

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

Motion to approve placing the resolution on the consent calendar of the agenda for the July 14, 2016 Macon County Board meeting made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Ms. Little, and the motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

Highway

Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of Right of Way from the Gulick Family Trust (12) for the CH 41 Wyckles Road white topping project

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0

Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of Right of Way from the Gulick Family Trust (13) for the CH 41 Wyckles Road white topping project

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0

Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of Temporary Traffic Signals from Bodine Electric for the CH 57 85th Street bridge replacement project

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Ms. Little. Mr. Greenfield asked if the signals were being purchased or rented? Mr. Bird explained they are being rented, that it is a temporary purchase and when they are finished using them, they go away. The language may be a bit confusing, but that is how they are referred to in the IDOT spec program. It may be several months to several years, depending on funding. The motion carried 6 -0.

Macon County Board Resolution to reappoint the County Engineer

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0

Mr. Bird went on to report that with the signing of a partial budget over in Springfield, it was kind of glossed over in all the media, but all the transportation items got fully funded for the full year. This is not a partial budget. We are good on everything through June. That includes Motor Fuel Tax, all the reimbursements with federal and state funds. Everything was taken care of.

Environmental Management

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Delegation Agreement between the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Macon County

Ms. Rasmus explained that they had two agreements, a Grant Agreement and the Delegation Agreement and now they will be rolled into one according to the IEPA's new format.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Dudley, and the motion carried 6-0.

Sheriff's Department

Macon County Board Resolution Entering into Intergovernmental Agreement with Decatur Park District for Purposes of Allowing Decatur Park District Police to Exercise Police Powers Outside of Park District Property within Macon County

Lt. Butts explained that it is governed by State Statute that they only have police authority within the city parks. This would allow them to do follow up investigation and other types of general

law enforcement practices that may have originated in the parks. This would not allow them to run routine traffic enforcement or minor traffic violations in between parks. Like any police officer in Illinois, it does allow public safety issues where they could enforce reckless driving complaints or suspected DUI. This resolution would allow the Park District to have jurisdiction outside the parks within Macon County to conduct follow up investigations that may have originated within the parks. Chair Dunn asked how long it would be for. Mr. Baggett said he wrote the agreement and it would be from year to year with automatic renewal, but has a 30 day termination provision that could be exercised by the Sheriff or the Director of the Park District for any or no cause. Mr. Dunn asked about liability. Mr. Baggett said there is a provision already in the Criminal Code that allows for police officers of other jurisdictions to exercise police authority outside of their jurisdiction. In the Criminal Code, it applies to counties and municipalities. The Park District is not a municipality, so this was necessary in order to extend the same kind of authority which is already granted under state law to municipalities and counties to the park districts. There is a provision in the intergovernmental agreement which indemnifies both sides for the actions of the other. He said the agreement has been drafted in such a way that if liability becomes an issue, established case law which interprets the Statute can be a guide for us and the courts with respect on how to apportion liability. Ultimately, the only person liable would be the department that actually committed some cause of action. Lt. Butts added that they would get permission from the officer on the Command desk in the Sheriff's office if they come across a minor traffic crash where they might possibly be helpful for that extended amount of time. That officer could be allowed to handle that accident with permission from that Command Officer working the desk at that time. Mr. Baggett added that, in general, this is for situations where an offense is committed within park district property but investigating it may lead to the officers needing to go off of park district property and exercise police powers. It can be utilized in such a way that if there is a shortage of manpower and there is traffic crash or something that is close to park district property, the MSO and DPD are both tied up, then MSO could ask the Park District officers to come in and investigate that crash, but it would only be at the request of the MSO.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Cox, and the motion carried 6-0.

County Board

Macon County Board Resolution to Submit a Public Question Regarding the Specialty County Retailer's Occupation Tax for Public Safety

Chair Dunn explained that this is called the Law Enforcement Tax and made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Greenfield. Mr. Baggett explained that the first two WHEREAS clauses in the resolution are placeholders. There is still work that needs to be done on the language in order to clean it up, but he said he wanted to consult with the Chairmen of both the Board and the Finance Committee before it goes to the full board. Ms. Little asked if this was an increase to the LEST and not a separate tax. Chair Dunn confirmed. Ms. Little asked what this would take it to. Mr. Baggett said .5% Chair Dunn added that it would be from .25% to .5% and said that the reason for bringing it up is that we are basically spending \$2.5 million a year from the general fund on the Sheriff's office. Right now the LEST is bringing in \$2.5 million. This is a huge part of the

General Fund problem every year. He said he thought that the State's Attorney, Courts & Sheriff have done a fabulous job of working together to contain costs, but over the years with salaries and stuff, it goes up. Our crime rate, as the City is touting, is lower than Sangamon's, McLean's, and Champaign's. He said Mr. Scott and Sheriff Schneider could probably speak to that, but he thought the crime rate really has dropped from what it has been and he'd like to keep it there. He said he felt that the citizens need to decide what they want. Those costs are not going to go down. He said he'd like to put it on the ballot and let the people decide what they want. Otherwise next year, this committee is going to be back looking at the 2018 budget and pretty hefty cuts in the Sheriff's office. It's a good time to see what the citizens want. Who knows whether it will pass, but it's something we should offer to the voters to see their feelings on it. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Scott addressed the committee saying that the receptionist at the front desk in the State's Attorney's office has resigned effective June 30 and he was there as directed to inform the Finance Committee. He had been seeking a career in radio and has now been offered a full time job with Neuhoff Media. He said they are very happy for him, but it leaves the office down a receptionist. He said they have been trying to find ways to change the setup, but the receptionist sits by the elevators and someone has to be there for when people come up to the desk. They have been pulling people off their jobs to cover. The office is down 6 support staff since Mr. Scott started. He said they are looking to hire a receptionist. It is the lowest paid position in the office. He said he understands the budget situation and they may have to let someone go, but right now they need someone out there and it will give time to figure out a different way to set up the reception. Ms. Little asked if the position is a union position. Mr. Scott said no, there are no union positions in the office.

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING – Monday, August 1, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Little seconded by Ms. Cox, the motion carried 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office