

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #1
August 8, 2016 @ 5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn, Chairman
Greg Mattingley
Kevin Greenfield
Tim Dudley
Linda Little

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Jackson
Patty Cox, Vice Chair

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Matt Snyder, ROE
Josh Tanner, S of A / BOR
Kathie Powless, Veterans Administration
Nathan Pierce, Historical Museum
Carol Reed, Auditor
Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Lisa Wallace, Deputy Auditor
Debra Kraft, County Board member
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Jay Dunn at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting on 8/1/2016 was made by Ms. Little seconded by Mr. Dudley and motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS Chair Dunn announced that he would be moving this agenda item up.
Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Transportation Impact Analysis between the County of Macon and Twin Forks Wind Farm LLC

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, and the motion carried 5-0.

Budget Proposals

Veterans Administration:

Kathy Powless explained that there is an increase in salaries due to the 3% raises. Maintenance of equipment went down to \$150 because they are sitting pretty good there now. The telephone line is being brought down to \$1,000. This is being accomplished by giving up the two cell phones that are used during the winter. The travel line will remain the same even though it looks like nothing has been used during this year. Both staff members have to go to Peoria for a whole week in October. EDP was raised \$1,000 because of a need to store the databases on the cloud which will cost \$1,200 to start. There could be additional costs depending on the quantity of storage needed. Bus Transport has been increased by \$1,000. Between veterans going to school, the heat, and a lot of disabled veterans not being able to get out and around, one bus pass per month is handed out. Emergency Assistance will remain the same. That is going well. They have paid 6 veteran's rent, 3 power bills and have another one pending. Supplies are up \$400. Equipment will stay the same. CIC checked out the server and it is good for another couple of years.

Ms. Powless said the request was that they stay within or reduce the levy and they had stayed within it. Chair Dunn inquired about the fund balance. Ms. Powless said that as of 11/30/15, it was \$75,000 and by the end of this year, they will be adding in around \$5,500 so it will be \$130,000.

There was discussion about the budget lines calculations. Ms. Reed confirmed that the spreadsheet was correct and Ms. Powless is to the positive with more revenue than expense. She is contributing to her own fund balance.

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

Historical Museum:

Mr. Pierce explained that their budget is pretty simple. They are not asking for any changes. It is the typical approximately \$30,000 they get from the property tax money. There is nothing any different from years past. He offered to answer questions.

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

Board of Review:

Mr. Tanner explained that he had included the requested salary cut for the Board of Review members. He said that he had received the opinion from the State's Attorney indicating that the salaries can be modified at the beginning of the fiscal year. The budget reflects that requested change. Chair Dunn said he wasn't sure where he had come up with the \$20,000 cut, but that is pretty drastic. If they are making \$16,000 a year now, that would take them down to \$9,333 each. That's a huge cut to the budget where the most that has been asked for from any department was 7%. He said he thought that if that budget is to be cut, it needs to be closer to the 7% level. That will make a huge change in that. He said that members of the Finance Committee have concerns of losing someone on the Board of Review. He asked Mr. Tanner how many people are currently qualified. Mr. Tanner said there are only a couple of people on the list that are not actually on the board now. The problem is that it expires so until the people that could be eligible think there might be a vacancy, they don't retake the test. Chair Dunn said he thought from \$16,000 down to \$9,000 was too much of a cut. He said he thought he may have been thinking that perhaps some of the cut should come from the appraisal research line rather than salaries. To be more consistent with other budgets, it needs to be closer to the 7% range. Mr. Dudley said that would be \$1,120 cut each. Chairman Greenfield asked if Mr. Tanner knew what other counties were paying. Mr. Tanner said it is all over the place. All of Kankakee County has taken some pretty drastic pay cuts across the board there. Some counties pay more and some pay less. It depends on how the BOR operates. If it is a board that does a lot of the preliminary work themselves, they tend to get paid more. Our BOR generally relies on the S of A office to do most of the field work and they just review the files. Some Boards have their own budget for the office, their own computers & software where ours does not operate that way. This office provides most of the field work, pictures, maps, comparable properties and then they review it and make a decision. \$16,000 is not the least and not the most even in comparable counties. Ms. Little said that at this early stage of the budget process, she could not be comfortable making that kind of a salary cut. She said she was not comfortable with cutting salaries at all, but she knows that will probably be done before the end of it all, but she can't pretend to support that huge of a cut in salaries this early in the game. She said she thought they would lose people and then be up a creek because there is not an extensive list of people waiting

to get on, especially for half the price. Mr. Tanner said that two, Mr. Brinkoetter & Mr. McGlaughlin, would have to be reappointed next year or someone new will need to be appointed. He agreed that there are not a lot of people knocking down the door to be appointed. Most appraisers who are qualified for the job don't necessarily want it because of the conflict of interest with their normal employment.

Chair Dunn said he would like to send this one back for review and have it brought back after they have a little more time to look at the salary cuts and come up with something a little more less devastating. Chairman Greenfield said he would not be opposed to cutting \$1,000 because he felt that \$16,000 is a pretty good chunk for them anyway.

Regional Office of Education:

Mr. Snyder reminded everyone that the budget is a combined budget between Macon & Piatt Counties. The EAV of each county is taken and a formula is used. For last year and this year, the EAVs remain relatively the same with 79.1% for Macon and 20.9% for Piatt. He said they had been asked to keep things exactly the same and they had been able to do that. A little bit of money had been moved around. Millions of dollars are run through the office through grants and other activity and this portion is used toward salaries for the ladies that work there.

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

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS (continued) - None

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING - Monday, August 22, 2016 @ 5:15 p.m. (2nd Budget Hearing)
Monday, August 29, 2016 @ 5:15 p.m. (next regular Finance Committee meeting)

Chair Dunn commented that the budgets he has seen so far of the general fund budgets that they had asked be cut, a lot of them, by 7% seem to be going well in the oversight committees. So far, they've either made it or exceeded it except for the Courts which we knew when it was set that it was based on Judge Webber's last six years of what he turns in. That cut would have bled him down to where he'd be counting stamps several times before he used one. Some real cuts have been made there though rather than just cutting on telephones, etc... 5% of real cuts were made.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Dudley, seconded by Ms. Little, motion carried 5-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office