



## **Finance Committee Budget Hearing Meeting – Friday, July 30, 2021**

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse – 8:30 a.m.  
112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Vice Chair Jim Schielein

**Member Roll Call:** Chair Arlan McClain (9:15-12:33), Vice Chair Jim Schielein, Doug Farster, Rick Humphrey, Tom Kitson, and Lirim Mimini (8:43-12:33).

**Members absent:** None

**Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present:** County Board Vice Chairman John Nicholson, Marilyn Shippert, Keane Hudson, and Jack Skrogstad (Board Members), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator)(8:30-11:58), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Sam Schmidt and Debbie Robertson (Treasurer's Office)(both were in and out of the meeting during the morning), Becky Brenner (Board Secretary), Kevin Lalley (EMA)(8:30-8:40), John Simonton (Sheriff)(8:30-9:50), Dave Glessner (Chief Deputy Sheriff)(8:30-9:50), Judge Ackert and Judge Klahn (9:26-10:00), Bob Thompson (Public Defender)(9:39-10:07), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor)(10:19-10:35), Dee Duffy (Zoning Administrator)(10:37-10:58), Jim Gorman (Veteran's Assistance)(10:59-11:05), Chris Tennyson (ROE)(11:22-11:36), Cathy Ferguson-Allen (Health Department)(11:38-11:58).

### **EMA**

Kevin Lalley reminded the committee that 48% of his budget is reimbursed by Federal and State Governments. He reported that his telephone expenses were dramatically reduced due to the new phone system. He increased his lodging, supply, and maintenance agreement lines items because cost have increased. Kevin's capital request included SalamandraLive software renewal and Code Red Software (County wide alert system) which could be used by many of the County offices and may be reimbursable under the ARPA Grant.

### **Sheriff's Office**

John Simonton reported that the increase in full-time salaries reflected the newly negotiated contract. He is requesting an increase in the following line items: part-time, salary overtime, holiday pay, health insurance, new hire costs (the state is no longer reimbursing academy costs), inmate medical, auto repair, gasoline and oil, and training and conference. There was a reduction in the phone and fiber and food and meals line items. David Glessner reported that 911 would be seeing an increase in their full-time salary line item due to contractual raises and increases were requested in their budget for overtime. The Sheriff walked the committee through the staffing study he put together at the request of the committee and reported that his requests for the FY2022 budget included two (2) additional full-time corrections deputies, three (3) additional full-time patrol deputies, three (3) additional quad cars, and equipment for the additional deputies.

### **Judges**

Judge Ackert and Judge Klahn walked the committee through their budgets. Judge Ackert asked that Attorney Tom Murray's contract be moved from the Public Defender's budget to the Judge's budget.

### **Public Defender**

Bob Thompson explained that money was budgeted for maternity leave that was not used, so \$3,600 would be given back to the county in FY2021. He did increase his supplies and training line items for FY2022 by \$500 each.

### **Assessor's Office/GIS Office**

Wendy Ryerson and Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the **Assessor's budget**. The budget included an increase for minimum wage correction. Contractual services increased because the Assessment Office will be taking on the additional work of May and Sublette Township jurisdictions. There was a reallocation of funds from the IT Department to the County Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessment Offices for the tax administration software which was part of the increase in the software and license line item. The ChangeFinder software was also included in the software and licensing line item. They also walked the committee through the **GIS budget**. The estimated revenue showed a dramatic increase due to increased recording fees and the salary line item was increased because an employee was transferred from the Assessor's Office to the GIS Department.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Dee Duffy explained that the part-time line item in her budget was for the Zoning Assistant to complete minutes on her own time, not County time. She also asked for an increase in her supply budget by \$1,200.

### **Veterans Assistance**

Jim Gorman brought a flat budget to the committee with no increases.

The committee discussed revenue projections from 11:05-11:30.

### **Regional Office of Education**

Chris Tennyson reported that the only change to the budget was an increase in rent of \$1,200 that would be divided equally between the three Counties.

### **Health Department**

Cathy Ferguson-Allen reported that what was budgeted to come into the department was significantly less than what they had last year because some of the COVID related grants were done, but she did anticipate additional funding. The budget presented was in a deficit, but she explained that revenue comes in during the year to cover it. The committee did question the departments reasoning for increasing the food permit fees, especially considering the financial loss to restaurant owners caused by the pandemic.

The committee continued their discussion regarding the different budgets from 11:58-12:33.

**Motion to adjourn by Tom Kitson:**

**Second by Lirim Mimini.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary