



# Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Hearings (Day 2) Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Aug 4, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m., by Chair Jim Schielein.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jim Schielein, Vice Chair Arlan McClain, Tom Kitson, Lirim Mimini, Doug Farster, Rick Humphrey, and Tim Bivins

Arlan McClain was absent. All other members attended in person.

III. Meeting Attendees and Visitors

John Nicholson (County Board Vice Chair), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Becky Brenner (Board Secretary), and Jesse Partington (Coroner)(10:10-10:29) attended in person. Sam Schmitt (Treasurer's Rep) and Brad Johnson (Health Insurance Consultant)(9:00-9:58) attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Budget Meeting (August 2, 2022)

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Hearings (Day 1). **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Old Business

A. FY2023 Ongoing Budget Discussion and Decisions

No additional topics were discussed apart from what was on the agenda.

VI. New Business

A. Brad Johnson - Health Insurance Consultant

Earlier in the year, the County hired a consultant to walk the committee through the process of going out to bid for the County's employee health insurance.

Consultant Brad Johnson walked the committee through a very comprehensive and high level overview of the bid process and subsequent findings along with a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint presentation will be included with the minutes in the August County Board agenda packet. Some of the insights and outcomes are listed below:

- The County plan offered to employees is generous, but comparable to other public entities.
- The plan has a low deductible and offers a low limit of exposure to the members.
- The County currently has a high loss ratio of 134% for the 2022 plan year, indicating our insurance costs are 34% higher than our premium payments. The other members of the insurance pool are subsidizing our higher costs, a benefit of being part of a pool.
- There was a rate increase of 7.9% implemented in July of 2022. The increase will be applied to employee's share of the insurance cost beginning with the first payroll in January 2023.
- Premium costs do not include the cost of Envision, the County's third party vendor that administers the payment of the gap between the \$500/\$1000 employee benefit and the \$6,000/12,700 deductible of the BCBS insurance. The cost of Envision is not currently passed on to the employees.
- An HSA component could be offered to employees if the Envision coverage was waived and they elected to go with a \$6,000/\$12,700 deductible. The Committee asked Wendy Ryerson to research the viability of an HSA program.

Wendy Ryerson explained that prior to September 1st Lee County had to notify the IPBC insurance pool of our intentions to stay or leave. The Health Insurance Committee recommendation was to stay in the pool and potentially explore the idea of the HSA program. The insurance pool does not need to be notified and there was no action required from the Finance Committee at this time.

*The committee took a break from 9:59 - 10:06 a.m., following the presentation from the Health Insurance Consultant.*

#### B. Committee and Coroner's Office Budget Hearing

Jesse Partington walked the committee through the Coroner's Office budget requests below:

- An increase in the part-time line item from \$18,000 to \$33,500 for additional weekend coverage
- An increase in contractual services was requested because coroner's cases are taken to the Ogle County morgue for autopsies and housing instead of KSB Hospital.

Following discussions, the Committee reduced the part-time line item to a total of \$26,000.

C. Committee and Treasurer's Office Budget Hearing

The Treasurer's Office covered their budget requests during the August 2, 2022, budget meeting.

D. Committee and Board Chair Budget Hearing

Wendy Ryerson walked the committee through the County Board budget.

Following are the changes and additional requests presented:

- \$13,200 was requested for County Board stipends. In May of 2022 the County Board approved \$8,400 a year for the County Board Chairman, \$1,200 a year for the County Board Vice Chair, and \$600 per year for the standing committee chairs.
- In the May 2022 Board Meeting the members also approved an increased in per diems from \$60 to \$80 per meeting, verses per day. Because of the increase and additional \$10,000 was requested in the per diem line item.
- An estimate of \$25,000 was originally requested in the consultants line item. An increase of \$8,000 to \$10,000 in additional funds will be requested if the Finance Committee is in agreement that the County should hire a consultant to go out to bid for the County property and liability insurance.
- \$13,000 was requested in the newly created software/licensing line item for the annual OnBoard software cost.
- An additional request of \$600 (\$55,600) was requested in the Economic Development line item to account for an increase in the Blackhawk Hills RC&D costs.
- The salary full time line item was increase by \$60,000 as a placeholder for the potential transitioning Administrator position, if this position is approved by the Board. The current Administrator plans to retire by the end of 2023.

VII. Executive Session

No request was made for an executive session.

VIII. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. **Moved** by Doug Farster. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.