



Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 30, 2021

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse - 9:00 a.m.
112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Arlan McClain

Member Roll Call: Chair Arlan McClain, Vice Chair Jim Schielein, Tom Kitson, Doug Farster, and Rick Humphrey attended in person.

Members absent: Lirim Mimini

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present: County Board Vice Chair John Nicholson (9:00-10:23), Marilyn Shippert, Chris Norberg, Mike Koppien (9:13-10:23) (Board Members), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy Treasurer), Jonathan Henrikson (IT), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person. Katie White (Board Member), Cathy Ferguson-Allen (Health Department), Kevin Lalley (EMA), Greg Saunders (Maintenance), and Sam Schmitt (Treasurer's Office) attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Old Business

Paula Meyer explained that after the last budget meeting the budget excess sits at roughly \$100,000. This total included \$100,000 that was transferred from the Health Department levy to the general fund and the minimum wage increase. Since the last budget meeting the County received a state reimbursement for the Probation Department that was \$50,000 higher than expected and the adjusted requests from the Sheriff's Office for five (5) employees (with adjustments for benefits and overtime) was added. Paula also explained that \$400,000 of one-time zoning fees were transferred out of the general fund to the capital fund to show a more accurate depiction of what the County would typically receive in any given year that large alternative energy projects were not being petitioned. After these changes were included in the budget, the roughly \$100,000 excess became a roughly \$515,000 deficit.

The committee discussed the minimum wage increase and the consensus was to leave the full amount for any increases in contingencies at this time.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the County health insurance, the committee agreed to shave \$5,000 from the \$300,000 differential cost between the high deductible that the County insurance plan offers and the low deductible that the County offers their employees.

The committee discussed an increase to the grant writer stipend.

Motion by Jim Schielein: To increase the Grant Stipend line item under the County Board budget from \$7,500 to \$20,000.

Second by Tom Kitson. Roll call vote: Arlan McClain – No, Jim Schielein – Yes, Doug Farster – No, Tom Kitson – Yes, Rick Humphrey – No. Motion failed.

The committee took a break from 10:23 – 10:32

The committee discussed the staffing requests from the Sheriff's Office in length. The consensus of the committee following the discussion was the hiring of three (3) road deputies that would be cross trained as corrections deputies with a reduction in the overtime line item of \$100,000.

The committee also talked with Cathy Ferguson-Allen about the transfer of funds from the Health Department levy. She will be providing additional information to the committee to show that the transfer would cut her reserves short.

The committee asked Paula Meyer to reach out to the Sheriff for an additional meeting regarding his budget on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 8:00.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Schielein:

Second by Tom Kitson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary