



**Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 9, 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 Jim Schielein

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

**Members absent:** Lirim Mimini

**Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present:** John Nicholson (Vice Board Chairman)(was in and out during the meeting), Marilyn Shippert, Mike Koppien (9:17-10:52) Keane Hudson (9:15-10:52) Jack Skrogstad (Board Members), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Paula Meyer (Treasurer)(9:00-9:30,9:43-10:52), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy, Treasurer's Office)(9:43-10:52), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor), Staci Stewart (Probation), Dee Duffy (Zoning Administrator)(9:00 -9:11,10:35-10:45) Alice Henkel (Renewable Energy Coordinator)(9:00-9:11), John Simonton (Sheriff)(9:19-10:52), David Glessner (Chief Deputy Sheriff)(9:19-10:52), Jonathan Henrikson (IT), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person. Tom Wilson (Board Member), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), and Cathy Ferguson-Allen (Health Department) attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

The August 30, 2021, Special Finance Committee Budget Meeting minutes and the August 2021 Finance Committee minutes were approved without modification.

**Visitors:** Courtney Kennedy, Amber Miller and Keith Bolin representing National Grid Renewables and Junction Solar, formerly Geronimo Energy (9:04-9:13).

Courtney Kennedy explained that on May 21, 2019, the County Board approved petition# 19-P-1545, a 100-megawatt solar farm project proposed to be constructed on 750 acres in Alto and Reynolds Townships, by Junction Solar. Junction Solar was requesting an extension on their special use permit due to COVID-19 delays in the project and felt that they fit the provisions in the approved petition as "substantially underway". The company was requesting a two (2) year extension through May 21, 2024.

Paula Meyer provided the committee with the latest County financial statements and was present to answer any questions the committee had.

**Insurance Report:** Jim Schielein reported he was stepping down as the Chair of the Health Insurance Committee and Rick Humphrey would be the new Chair.

**GREDCO (Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation) Report:** No report

**Joseph Meyer Resolutions**

**Motion by Tom Kitson:** To approve the seventeen (17) Joseph Meyer Resolutions and forward to the Executive committee.

**Second by Doug Farster.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Board Member or Department Head Reports:**

Staci Stewart reported that shortly after the August Finance Committee meeting, she received the reimbursement allocation from the state for the Probation Department which was roughly \$50,000 higher than anticipated.

**Old Business:**

Nancy Petersen reported that the bid opening for new election equipment was held on August 20, 2021, at noon. The bid from the County's current provider, Governmental Business Systems came in at \$217,095 and the company did not offer a discount for payment out right. Liberty Systems' bid was \$202,900 and offered a 3% discount for payment outright, making the balance \$197,750. Nancy also explained that the cost for the election equipment was submitted for consideration under the American Rescue Plan Act Grant and was approved.

**New Business**

During the budget review item on the agenda, the committee talked briefly with the Sheriff regarding the need for a squad car for every deputy. John Simonton explained that the deputies live throughout the entire County and need the vehicle with them, with all their necessary equipment, to respond immediately to a call in their area.

The Treasurer went over the current budget totals with the committee including the amended request from the Sheriff's Office of one (1) additional telecommunicator, two (2) additional corrections officers, and one (1) law enforcement officer. The committee continued discussing the budget requests in the Capital Fund and the options for minimum wage corrections.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the minimum wage correction. The committee put \$200,000 in contingencies for budget purposes with the upcoming negotiations in mind.

An additional budget meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. to discuss additional budget items.

During the August 12, 2021, ARPA Committee meeting, the committee passed a motion to the Finance Committee to approve the expanded parking at the LEC (\$17,200 and the purchase of new election equipment (\$202,000 with discounts available).

**Motion by Arlan McClain:** To approve the funding request for the expanded parking at the LEC and the purchase of new election equipment.

**Second by Doug Farster.** Motion carried 4 In Favor – 1 Opposed.

John Nicholson explained that the original bid for the tuck-pointing project was \$215,000. There was a late fee of \$10,000 charged to the County because the contract was not signed by the deadline and labor negotiation costs needed to be included. The deadline was missed because the meeting to approve the contract had to be cancelled because of a staffing shortage due to COVID. There was a credit given to the County for patching and sealing of the building that was dropped from the contract. Because there are dutchman replacements that must be done, Berglund has submitted a change order to the County for \$50,867.14. The additional cost to the County over and above the agreement is \$21,854.14.

**Motion by Tom Kitson:** To approve the \$21,854.14 change order amendment from Berglund for the tuck-pointing project to replace 49 dutchman.

**Second by Rick Humphrey.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Arlan McClain:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary

*The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting will be 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2021*