



**Special Finance Committee Budget Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse - 8:00 a.m.

112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chair Jim Schielein

**Member Roll Call:** Chair Jim Schielein, Vice Chair Arlan McClain (9:10-11:25), Doug Farster (8:00-11:21), Rick Humphrey, and Tom Kitson (8:00-10:35) all attended in person. Lirim Mimini attended via Zoom video conferencing.

**Members absent:** None

**Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present:** Bob Olson (County Board Chairman)(in and out during meeting), John Nicholson (County Board Vice Chairman)(in and out during meeting), Dave Bally (Board Member), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy, Treasurer's Office), Greg Saunders (10:30-10:47) Jonathan Henrikson (IT), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person. Marilyn Shippert (Board Member), Cathy Ferguson-Allen, and Sam Schmitt (Treasurer's Office) attended via Zoom video conferencing.

The committee took a short break from 10:00-10:10.

**Visitors:** Andrea Murray (8:05-8:15) attended in person.

Andrea Murray, wife of a Lee County Sheriff's deputy, spoke to the committee regarding the need for additional deputies in the Sheriff's Office for not only safety reasons but for the overall wellbeing of the deputies. She asked that the committee seriously consider budgeting additional deputies.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**

Jim Schielein reminded the committee that the minimum wage contingency was reduced from \$256,880 down to \$200,000.

Changes to the budget made by the committee during this meeting were as follows:

- Sheriff's Office: two (2) additional corrections deputies, one (1) additional patrol deputy, one (1) additional 911 dispatcher, \$10,000 reduction in the gas and oil line item, one squad car was removed, \$100,000 reduction in the overtime line item, \$46,000 reduction in the parttime line item, the requests for 2 Rifles for \$10,400 was removed. The committee agreed to remove the \$133,000 for the squad rotation to the capital fund.
- Health Department: the levy of \$556,000 was reduced to \$55,000 and \$501,000 was moved to the county general fund. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the potential use of ARPA funds to pay benefits and salaries of qualifying employees at the Health Department to mitigate COVID. Because the levy will need to be finalized before a determination on ARPA funding is made by the Board, the Committee agreed to reallocate the Health Dept. levy into the County General Fund. If ARPA funding is not approved for eligible Health Dept. employees, the Committee agreed to reallocate the funding from County General back to the Health Dept. This change was for the FY2022 budget only. Future years will be analyzed based on ARPA funding allocations to the Health Dept.
- Social Services was funded at the same amount as FY2021, \$101,400. At the July 27, 2021, Social Services meeting, the committee encouraged each entity to apply for additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

- Maintenance Department: request for the maintenance shed was again reduced from \$100,000 to \$10,000 to allow for engineering work on the old jail; skid loader and trailer were removed, New Courts Building boilers were deferred from capital in FY2022
- EMA: Salamander and CODE Red software for was recommended for ARPA funds or purchased through contingency if the committee decides the software should be purchased at a later time.
- Treasurer: the \$20,000 ACCY Software Modules request was reduced to \$15,000.
- County Board: the \$50,000 technology upgrades for the boardroom was reduced to \$20,000.
- The \$100,000 Capital Plan contingency balance was reduced to \$50,000.

Paula Meyer explained that she moved \$45,000 from capital to the general fund for the Motorola Flex dispatch software. She also explained that the \$750,000 in capital transfers from the general fund consisted of \$400,000 in Zoning Fees and \$350,000 from the social security (all but \$275,000 for use in FY2022), insurance, IMRF, social services and cooperative extension funds that she permanently collapsed into the general fund for a place holder. In FY2022, FICA and IMRF will be charged to their old funds in the amount of roughly \$357,000, from the general fund.

Wendy Ryerson was asked by the committee to contact Department Heads to verify that what they were budgeting under the telephone line item was not for office phones. All expenses for phones and fiber were moved to the IT budget. She followed up on the request and found that the only items being budgeted under this line item by the Department Heads was cell phones, tablets, and office alarms systems.

The committee discussed putting \$10,000 in a FF&E line item to cover unexpected furniture and equipment expenses. Paula reduced the contingency line item from \$100,000 to \$90,000 to accommodate this new line item.

\$365,000 was moved out of the capital fund to the general fund to balance the budget.

The committee also discussed appointing the Finance Committee, as a whole, as the General Liability and Torte Insurance Committee. The Health Insurance Committee would remain as is.

**Motion to adjourn by Arlan McClain:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary