

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 9, 2009**

**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Betz, Chris Doenitz, Brad Jones, Brendan McGinty (Chair), Steve Moser, Steve O'Connor, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Wysocki

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Linda Frank (Circuit Clerk), Roger Holland (Courts Administrator), Denny Inman County Administrator of Facilities & Procurement), Alan Nudo (County Board Member), Dan Welch (Treasurer), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Tom Berns, Nelson Cuevas, Karl Drake

**CALL TO ORDER**

McGinty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Bork called the roll. Betz, Doenitz, Jones, McGinty, Moser, O'Connor, Richards, and Rosales were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Betz to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Richards to approve the Finance Committee minutes of March 5, 2009; seconded by Jones.

Jones requested that the word "Echo" on line 200 be changed to "ECH." The change was accepted as a friendly amendment.

**Motion carried as amended with all ayes.**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tom Berns spoke about the situation regarding the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium and watershed concerns. The previous Governor authorized grant funding to pay for a study of the Mahomet Aquifer through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee over the course of three years. The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium received the first and second year's worth of funding, but the Governor did not authorize the funding for the third year. Berns estimated the consortium was short by \$140,000 to complete the last phase of the program. Much of the work has been done by the Illinois State Water Survey and the Illinois State Geological Survey. The last phase is the generation of the report, which is expected to be completed in June 2009. According to Berns, the public report process will be difficult because it will concern what can be done to educate and communicate with residents of the watershed. The consortium has sent letters asking for financial help to many of those impacted and interested in this issue. Berns listed some of the donation amounts, including \$2,500 from the City of Urbana, \$1,200 from Bloomington, and \$1,000 from Mason County. He indicated the consortium has received about \$10,000 to date. Berns complimented the Illinois State Water Survey and the State Geological Survey in squeezing all they could out of their staff. He continued to describe the watershed, the groups involved, and the location of the aquifer. Berns asked for the County to be supportive in any way it could in providing the report and telling the public about the impact of future demands on the water supply. He was apologetic about the prior Governor who created this awkward situation by not releasing the final year's funding. He thanked the committee for any support they could give.

McGinty suggested restructuring the agenda to address the outside auditor item, the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium item, and the Circuit Clerk item next before all others. There were no objections from the committee.

Nelson Cuevas, Executive Director of the Cultivadores Latino Center, spoke about the Translator position in the Circuit Clerk's Office. He explained the Cultivadores Latino Center provides many social services to the Latino community, including legal assistance. It has been brought to his attention that the Translator position in the Circuit Clerk's Office may become vacant and it worries him because having a Spanish translator in the Circuit Clerk's Office has helped many of his clients comply with judges' orders. Cuevas stated the Translator position has made Cultivadores's job easier because he used to send interpreters and advocates with their clients to the Circuit Clerk's Office. Cuevas hoped the position would not be vacant for very long.

## **OUTSIDE AUDITOR**

### **Recommendation for Amendment/Adjustment to Contract**

Busey explained the requested amendment was from Drake and was consistent with the 5-year contract for outside auditor services with the firm of Bray, Drake, Liles, & Richardson. The scope of the audit has increased because of changes in legal requirements and Drake is asking to be reimbursed for the additional scope. Drake stated his firm was requesting reimbursement for about 26 additional hours needed to comply with the interview and information gathering process that goes along with the risk assessment process, which is now mandated. Champaign County did not have to implement this last year because the County's fiscal year ends on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The other

8 hours is the time it takes to put all the information together and the end process is a set of audit programs based on risk assessment rather than simply relying on the auditor's judgment. Drake stated there were 8 or 11 new standards that have come into effect, depending on whom you ask. The new standards have added about 15% to the time for most audits done by Drake's firm. McGinty asked for the approximate rate the County pays for auditing services. Drake stated the County is charged a blended rate of \$105 per hour. McGinty stated the reason for his question was that the County is broke and cannot afford anything else. He noted the County and the firm of Bray, Drake, Liles, & Richardson have done business for a long time and have a good relationship, so he wondered if Drake would lower the blended rate.

Richards said it was hard for him to vote for a \$4,000 appropriation, though it is legitimate, when the County is thinking of furloughing employees and does not know how it will pay its bills this year. Betz noted the State of Illinois regularly mandates all sorts of changes without funding them. The County Board would face this type of situation again in this budget. Betz did not have a problem with taking a lower blended rate if Drake was agreeable, but added that Drake did not create the new standards and has no choice about the requirement to comply with them. Betz understood the County does not have any money; however, he was concerned this issue would come up in other state mandated areas and this sets the precedent. McGinty wanted Drake to understand that the County was happy with his firm's work. The County is simply asking for some help because of its current financial condition. Drake said he would be willing to take a blended rate of \$96 per hour for the first year and see how it goes. McGinty explained he was asking Drake to add those hours at no additional cost to the County, whatever the blended rate comes out to actually be. O'Connor asked if the original agreement included a set number or if it was intended to be flexible if the auditor ran into extra work. Busey stated the original contract, which was included in the agenda packet, sets out the set number for the cost of the specific services at the time the agreement was executed, which have since changed. The contract allows for the parties to agree on an adjusted fee if significant additional work is necessary, before the additional cost is incurred. Unfortunately, Drake submitted his request too late to have it considered at the April meeting. Drake stated his firm has already done some of the additional work and interviews. Busey drew the committee's attention to Page 8, which contained the summary of the amended rate. This is a discounted partner rate. Weibel inquired about the amount of the regular rate. Drake stated the rate goes from \$85 to \$150 per hour, depending on who does the work. Concerning the request to lower the hourly rate, Drake commented the only other auditor who presented a proposal for the last auditing contract proposed almost \$45,000 and apparently no one else was interested in doing the audit. Drake indicated the County was asking him to put in almost 40 hours for free and he was not particularly fond of that idea. McGinty understood and replied the County was not fond of making the request, but they have to in the current situation. McGinty suggested the Finance Committee should vote on Budget Amendment #09-00044 before moving on the FY2008 audit update.

#### Update on FY2008 Audit

Following the vote on the budget amendment, Drake stated he was not sure if his firm would be continuing the audit. He would look into it because he could not afford to have the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) telling his firm they must do more work and not get paid for it. He sent an email on Monday to Tony Fabri, McGinty, Weibel, and Busey stating he wanted a deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup> to get the footnotes from the Auditor's Office. He has not

received a response from Fabri, though he requested one. Drake stated the audit must be done on May 31<sup>st</sup> or his firm might resign. His firm has done some work on cash and investments and gathered some work from the Circuit Clerk. He was waiting to do a majority of the work until the amendment passed and its failure means he would have to consider whether he wanted to continue. McGinty thanked Drake for his time and encouraged him to look at this as a request from a long-time partner. Drake's firm would still be making money even working at a lower blended rate. Drake asked if the County would consider extending the contract if they were asking for a lower rate. Busey suggested the committee was in a position where the contract would call for some negotiation unless they were willing to accept the outside auditor walking away from the audit with 10-days notice at this late date as a potential consequence. The Finance Committee could authorize someone to talk with Drake to determine if there was anyway to resolve this situation under the terms of the contract and then report back to the County Board in April. Betz thought Busey's idea was a creative way to avoid impasse. He recommended McGinty, Weibel, and Busey should act to try to resolve this issue through negotiations. Drake remarked he was already taking an 18-20% write-down on this audit and he would not continue to let that go up. Weibel concurred with Busey's idea. Doenitz inquired when the current auditing contract was up. Drake answered it was theoretically done one year after the current year. Busey suggested the committee designate someone to negotiate with Drake rather than negotiate in this meeting.

**MOTION** by Moser to reconsider the failed motion to approve Budget Amendment #09-00044; seconded by Jones.

Moser expressed concern about the negative effects with bonding agencies and other institutions if the audit was not completed. He acknowledged that \$4,000 is a lot of money right now, but it is important that the audit is done and he would reconsider his vote. Doenitz asked when the new auditing rules went into effect. Drake stated the new standards were effective for fiscal years ending last year on December 31st, which is why the County was not affected last year. Drake considered implementing the new standards early, but he chose not to, in part to save the County the additional cost. He emphasized that he was doing what the contract said he should do and he could not help the fact that GASB has imposed these standards. Doenitz questioned why they waited until the audit had started to take this action. Drake replied that he notified Busey in March and learned he was past the deadline to place this item on the March agenda. Discussion over the audit continued.

The committee voted on the motion to reconsider with a show of hands. **Motion failed with a tie vote of 4 in favor and 4 against the motion.**

**MOTION** by Betz for Weibel, McGinty, Busey, & Jones to negotiate a resolution for the outside auditor's request under the current contract. The committee agreed with Betz's suggestion and McGinty declared the group would convene within the next week to negotiate the details with Drake.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS**

**Budget Amendment #09-00044**

**MOTION** by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #09-00044 from Fund 080 General Corporate – 075 General County for increased appropriations of \$4,050 for the Audit & Accounting Fees line with no increased revenue; seconded by Betz.

Betz reiterated his position that Drake was providing a service and someone else changed the rules in providing the services. He guaranteed there would be other unfunded mandates from the state and what Drake was suggesting was not unreasonable. It will hurt the County's budget, but it would also hurt the County's relationship in the long term if they do not pay the bill. Jones asked Busey to remind the committee what the County Board stipulated to hold itself to in the hiring freeze resolution they passed a couple of months ago. Busey stated the hiring freeze resolution was included in the addendum. Another resolution was passed amending the budget by cutting revenues and expenditures. She did not recall any resolution with language stating anything about how future budget amendments would deal with at the committee. There was discussion about it would be incredibly important to realize there were strong indicators for the General Corporate Fund this year unless a budget amendment was revenue neutral. The only budget amendments presented since the budget was amended in February have been revenue neutral. Drake claimed one of the budget amendments on the agenda was asking for \$74,000 with no additional revenue. Busey responded that budget amendment was for a different fund than the General Corporate Fund. McGinty ordered a roll call vote.

**Motion failed with a vote of 2 to 6.** Betz and O'Connor voted in favor of the motion. Doenitz, Jones, McGinty, Moser, Richards, and Rosales voted against the motion.

Budget Amendment #09-00035, Budget Amendment #09-00036, Budget Amendment #09-00037, Budget Amendment #09-00038, Budget Amendment #09-00039, Budget Amendment #09-00040, Budget Amendment #09-00041, Budget Amendment #09-00043, Budget Amendment #09-00034, and Budget Amendment #09-00042

**MOTION** by Betz for an omnibus motion to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #09-00035 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 706 Local Area Network-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$15,000 for the Contributions & Grants line with increased revenue of \$10,000 from the DCFS-Community Based Services line and \$5,000 from the Education-Special Education Grants to States line;  
Budget Amendment #09-00036 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 691 Home Energy Assistance-HHS-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$300,000 for the Energy Assistance line with increased revenue of \$300,000 from the HHS-Home Energy Assistance Program line;  
Budget Amendment #09-00037 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 828 Individual Service Support Advocacy-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$25,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line with increased revenue of \$25,000 from the Illinois Department of Mental Health Developmental Disability Grant line;  
Budget Amendment #09-00038 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 872 Senior Services-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$20,000 for the Regular Full-Time

Employees line with increased revenue of \$20,000 from the ECIAAA-State General Revenue Grant line;

Budget Amendment #09-00039 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 693 Weatherization-Department of Energy-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$70,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$6,500 for the Tools line, and \$112,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line with increased revenue of \$188,500 from the Department of Energy-Weatherization line;

Budget Amendment #09-00040 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 692 Weatherization-Health and Human Service-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$84,500 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$7,000 for the Tools line, and \$97,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line with increased revenue of \$188,500 from the Health & Human Service-Home Energy Assistance Program line;

Budget Amendment #09-00041 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 694 Weatherization Supplement-Odd Years for increased appropriations of \$45,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$5,000 for the Tools line, and \$50,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line with increased revenue of \$100,000 from the IDHFS-Weatherization Program line;

Budget Amendment #09-00043 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 724 Metro Planning Organization Administration for increased appropriations of \$23,800 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$200 for the Stationary and Printing line, \$200 for the Office Supplies line, \$200 for the Postage, UPS, Federal Express line, \$200 for the Gasoline and Oil line, \$200 for the Equipment Less Than \$1,000 line, \$200 for the Job Required Travel Expense line, and \$415,000 for the Contributions and Grants line with increased revenue of \$440,000 from the Department of Transportation-FHWA-Highway Planning line;

Budget Amendment #09-00034 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 757 CSBG Economic Recovery for increased appropriations of \$245,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$1,000 for the Stationary and Printing line, \$2,000 for the Office Supplies line, \$500 for the Copier Supplies line, \$1,000 for the Postage, UPS, Federal Express line, \$1,000 for the Gasoline and Oil line, \$15,000 for the Equipment Less Than \$1,000 line, \$5,000 for the Job Required Travel Expense line, \$3,000 for the Computer Services line, \$2,000 for the Telephone Service line, \$2,000 for the Photocopy Service line, \$5,000 for the Conference and Training, \$100,000 for the Contributions and Grants line, and \$25,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line with increased revenue of \$407,500 from the HHS – Community Service Block Grant line; and

Budget Amendment #09-00042 from Fund 475 RPC Economic Development Loans – Department 759 CSBG New Economic Development Awards for increased appropriations of \$24,000 for the To Regional Planning Commission Fund 075 line with increased revenue of \$90,000 from the Health and Human Service-Community Service Block Grant line. The motion was seconded by Moser.

Richards was pleased to see some of the President's stimulus money trickling down to Champaign County. McGinty raised a concern about created jobs when the second year's funding is unknown. Moser said this funding was discussed at the Regional Planning Commission meeting, but the Executive Director could not tell RPC how many people would be hired or the cost of their salaries. There was no sense to how this stimulus funding will be parceled out and it will be challenge for RPC to administer the funds. Weibel thought the Weatherization program would increase the amount of money that can be spent per house. This would enable the money to be spent without hiring more employees.

**Motion carried with all ayes.**

Budget Amendment #09-00032, Budget Amendment #09-00033, and Budget Amendment #09-00031

**MOTION** by Moser to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #09-00032 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 031 Circuit Court for increased appropriations of \$51,250 for the Temporary Salaries and Wages line, \$3,526 for the IMRF – Employer Cost line, \$3,921 for the Social Security – Employer Cost line, \$175 for the Workers’ Compensation Insurance line, and \$345 for the Unemployment Insurance line with increased revenue of \$59,217 from the From Probation Service Fund 618; Budget Amendment #09-00033 from Fund 613 Court’s Automation Fund – Department 030 Circuit Clerk for increased appropriations of \$39,000 for the To Public Safety Sales Tax Fund line with no increased revenue; and Budget Amendment #09-00031 from Fund 618 Probation Services Fund – Department 052 Court Services – Probation for increased appropriations of \$15,600 for the To Public Safety Sales Tax Fund line and \$59,217 for the To General Corporate Fund 080 line with no increased revenue. Motion seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with one vote against by O’Connor.**

Budget Amendment #09-00029, Budget Amendment #09-00045, and Budget Amendment #09-00046

**MOTION** by Richards to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #09-00029 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 040 Sheriff for increased appropriations of \$12,600 for the Police Equipment line with increased revenue of \$12,600 from the Gifts and Donations line; Budget Amendment #09-00045 from Fund 091 Animal Control – Department 047 Animal Control for increased appropriations of \$3,200 for the Medical Supplies line with increased revenue of \$3,200 from the Private Grants line; and Budget Amendment #09-00046 from Fund 476 Self-Funded Insurance – Department 118 Property/Liability Insurance for increased appropriations of \$28,568 for the Property Loss/Damage Claims line with increased revenue of \$28,568 from the Insurance Claims Reimbursement line. Motion seconded by Jones. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

General Corporate Fund FY2009 Revenue/Expenditure Projection Report

Busey distributed her reports to the committee. She projected revenue will come in at 99% and expenditures will come in at 98% of the current budget. The real estate transactions revenue have slowed down even more than was anticipated when the budget was amended, but the Recorder indicted the transactions are starting to pick up. The Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax revenue does not look as though it will meet the projected budget for FY2009. This is a slow down in receipts from the State of Illinois. Busey does not think the County will receive the amount the state told her would be received this year. The 1 Cent Sales Tax was down 6.7% this month and the Quarter Cent Sales Tax was down 10.5%. This reflects revenues from January and is the worst hit the County has seen. The income tax was down 15% and the Quarter Cent Public Safety Sales Tax

was down 6.5%. This indicates car sales are a significant reason for the downturn on the County-wide Quarter Cent Sales Tax. The General Government Fees and Fines revenue is doing better and offsets some of the losses in the state-shared revenues. Busey projected the total revenue will end at \$413,000 less than what is currently budgeted. On the expenditure side, the County looks to under-spend its Personnel, Postage, Purchase Document Stamps, and Gasoline & Oil budgets. The decrease in the gasoline prices have helped. Busey projected the General Corporate Fund will end the year with a balanced budget. The budget will need to be monitored closely over the next couple of months. Busey expected to know by either July or August if the budget situation was worsening and whether another round of cuts would need to be implemented this year.

#### General Corporate Fund Budget Change Report

This report was the same as last month's report.

**MOTION** by Jones to receive and place on file the County Administrator's reports on the General Corporate Fund; seconded by Doenitz. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

#### NURSING HOME

##### Financial Report on the Nursing Home

The Nursing Home report was distributed to the committee. Busey stated the report would be presented in detail at next Nursing Home Board of Directors meeting and any questions could be directed to Andrew Buffenbarger or Mike Scavatto. McGinty noted the report was a mix of good and bad news. The bottom line was not great and the Nursing Home is still struggling to reach its census goal. Betz asked if the Nursing Home reports were posted online and Busey confirmed they were.

**MOTION** by O'Connor to receive and place on file the Nursing Home report on the General Corporate Fund; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

#### TREASURER

##### Monthly Report

Welch distributed his report to the committee. He reported his office is in line for a May 1st mailing of the property tax bills, which is right on schedule. This will result in due dates of June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. The timeliness of the tax bills issuance is vital to the taxing districts who receive this revenue. The first distribution of tax revenue should be at the end of May and the General Corporate Fund certainly needs it. The General Corporate Fund (GCF) is operating with no reserves or any safety net. Welch stated he had enough money to cover payroll this week, but not enough to cover all the accounts payable. Two other loan opportunities were identified to cover the GCF expenses: \$50,000 from the Court Documents Storage Fund and \$60,000 from the Solid Waste Fund. All loan authority has been exhausted and the GCF has been loaned a total \$3,050,000 in this fiscal year. Even with those loans, the GCF balance is negative by \$25,000 as of today. The GCF has at least 3 more payrolls to meet before property tax revenue is dispersed at the end of May. Welch was very concerned about this situation because in a normal month the payroll expenses amount to \$1.5 million and accounts payable amounts to \$1.2 million. His office offers taxpayers

the opportunity to pay their taxes in advance in December and over \$2 million was collected. Welch has the ability to forward this money to the County in an early distribution, but he was concerned how the GCF would ever pay back this money. He has never seen this kind of a cash flow puzzle and he expressed great concern with the current situation. He will continue to work at piecing it together until the end of May. McGinty thanked Welch for his helpful reports.

**MOTION** by Doenitz to receive and place on file the Treasurer's March 2009 monthly report; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

### **AUDITOR**

#### **Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy**

Fabri had informed McGinty that he would not be attending the meeting. No list of purchases not following the Purchasing Policy was provided.

#### **Monthly Report for February 2009**

**MOTION** by Betz to receive and place on file the Auditor's February 2009 monthly report; seconded by Richards. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

McGinty has been unable to be present at the Regional Office of Education quarterly meetings in Rantoul and asked for a volunteer to attend these meetings. Rosales agreed to attend the meetings as the Vice-Chair.

### **CIRCUIT CLERK**

#### **Request for Waiver of Hiring Freeze**

**MOTION** by O'Connor to approve a waiver of the hiring freeze; seconded by Rosales.

Moser stated he did not understand why this position had to be a full-time job. Frank said it was a full-time job because she cannot tell people in community when they can or cannot use the Courthouse. The Translator position was initiated about 3 years ago. Moser asked about the position qualifications and whether it a degree. Frank answered that the current Translator was trained in the Circuit Clerk's Office for the legal language and is a very trustworthy person in the Hispanic community. The Translator needs to be able to fluently speak and write Spanish. Frank said she needed to know the Translator will ask other staff questions if that person does not have an answer.

Richards asked if Frank had any documentation about the request she was making. Frank did not and Busey summarized that Frank was asking to fill the Translator position without holding the position vacant for 3 months when the current employee leaves the office on May 1st. Frank said she not sure what the office will do without a Translator. She understood the County is in a fiscal crisis and has enacted a hiring freeze. If one of her 23 Legal Clerks was leaving, then she

would manage with 22 Legal Clerks for 3 months, but she does not know how to manage without a Spanish Translator and still respond to that portion of the community.

Doenitz asked if a newly hired employee would fill the roles of both Clerk and Translator. Frank confirmed the Translator does office work in addition to translating for the Spanish-speaking public. The current Translator makes \$17.11/hour because she has worked in the office for 3 years and a new employee would make \$14.53/hour.

In an effort to think creatively, McGinty wondered about using Spanish-speaking interns. Frank said the difficulty would be whether the interns would be long-term because they would have to be trained in all the court proceedings and the Circuit Clerk Office's procedures. McGinty thought the turnover issue could potentially be the same with interns as it would with any new employees.

Betz asked if there were any other Spanish-speaking employees in the office. Frank confirmed she did have another employee who was fluent in Spanish. However, this employee is a Legal Clerk and works from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Frank did not think the union would allow the employee to work as a Translator and not be paid for the position. Betz noted if the other Spanish-speaking employee assumed the work of the Translator, even at the higher salary, then Frank could leave the Legal Clerk position vacant and generate some savings. Frank confirmed the Spanish-speaking Legal Clerk did cover the Translator's job when the Translator was on pregnancy leave. Betz wondered what the problem would be for taking that same approach in this situation. Frank replied there would not be a problem with transitioning the Legal Clerk to the Translator position because the Spanish-speaking Law Clerk is well aware of the court and office procedures, but she thought there might be a problem because the employee does not work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the employee would have to be paid as a Translator. Betz understood the employee might have to be paid more in a different position, but leaving the Legal Clerk position open would still generate savings without losing the service. Busey stated that reassigning the bilingual Legal Clerk to the Translator position and leaving the Legal Clerk position vacant would be consistent with the collective bargaining contract. Frank said the Legal Clerk position is in the Court Documents Storage Fund. Busey suggested Frank transfer a Legal Clerk from her regular budget to the Court Documents Storage Fund position and hold a Legal Clerk position in the General Corporate Fund vacant for a minimum of 3 months. After that time, Frank could request to fill the position if necessary. Frank said she could take that action if that is the way she would ensure the Translator position is filled. Nudo noted that Frank had stated a few minutes ago that she was willing to a Legal Clerk position vacant and that is what the result would be. The committee concurred with that course of action and did not approve the waiver of the hiring freeze.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Request for Funding**

**MOTION** by O'Connor to approve the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium's request for funding; seconded Rosales.

Betz inquired how much Illinois American Water Company and other private entities have contributed towards this effort. Berns did not have the information with him, but thought they

donated about \$30,000. Betz asked whether donations had been received from the big industrial users of the aquifer. Berns did not know, though he thought some had done so. One of the biggest local aquifer users is Kraft Foods and Berns was surprised that this corporation has not responded to the consortium's request. He acknowledged that 800 letters had been mailed asking for donations and the consortium has received about \$10,000-\$15,000. Betz asked if the University of Illinois made a contribution. Berns was not able to answer.

McGinty asked if O'Connor or Rosales had a dollar amount in mind since they made and seconded the motion. O'Connor stated he wanted a donation from the County to be line with the contributions from the Cities of Champaign and Urbana. Berns stated Urbana contributed \$2,500 and Champaign is in the process of considering whether to make a donation. Rosales said the County should consider that amount. He asked if the Andersons processing plant made a contribution. Berns stated the decision to not install the ethanol plant means at the proposed location means there will not be a significant water demand on the site at this time. Rosales knew the City Champaign approved the ethanol plant's permit and was concerned about the effect on the local water use. Berns mentioned the consortium's concern about the equinox plant in Tuscola. Betz further inquired if ADM contributed to the consortium. Berns believed ADM had contributed. Moser said an ethanol plant will open in Gibson City in June and will be a big user of the Mahomet Aquifer. He asked if there was any chance of money coming from the Regional Planning Commission or the federal stimulus funding for the aquifer. Berns was not aware of any such funding; the consortium had been counting on receiving the funding for all three years to complete the study. Moser said he would find it hard to vote for granting the aquifer consortium any money after the committee just turned down a request from its outside auditor. Weibel has been following the federal stimulus funding and has not seen anything applicable to this project to date, although there might be money for watershed studies.

**MOTION** by Doenitz to defer the item until more information on available funding can be obtained; seconded by Jones.

McGinty noted it could months before information about the stimulus money is known. Doenitz agreed and said he was trying to leave the door open to locate other funding sources, such as RPC, because the committee just voted against additional funding to the outside auditor. Jones wanted to see what the City of Champaign and University of Illinois would donate before the County reaches a decision. He asked if any consideration had been given to delaying the report for a year to see if the State of Illinois would provide the last year of funding. Berns said he doubted the state would do so and the consortium decided to move forward with the study. He acknowledged the work of the Illinois State Water Survey and how they have done more than their share. The consortium has negotiated a contract with a private contractor to do the report. Berns thought deferring the item was an appropriate action by the Finance Committee.

**Motion to defer carried with all ayes.**

#### Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

McGinty received an email from David DeThorne of the State's Attorney's Office recommending the minutes remain closed.

**MOTION** by Betz for all the closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by Richards. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

**DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

McGinty designated agenda items 7B-K & O-Q for the consent agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork  
Administrative Secretary

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*