

Documents Distributed to the County Board at the Meeting

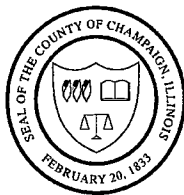
Committee of the Whole

September 14, 2010

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



BOARD ACTION WORKSHEET

RFP#: 2010 - 004

VALUE: \$380,000 over 5 year term

TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES for the COUNTY of CHAMPAIGN

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend the award of Contract for Financial Auditing Services for the County of Champaign for audits on fiscal years 2010-2014 to Clifton Gunderson, LLP.

Evaluation Team:

Tony Fabri, County Auditor; Carol Wadleigh, Chief Deputy Auditor; Brendan McGinty, Chair of Finance; Elizabeth Murphy, CFO for RPC; Deb Busey, County Administrator

REPORT:

1. In response to RFP2010-004, the County received two responses, both designated as responsible and qualified for consideration – one from Clifton Gunderson LLP, and one from Baker Tilly.
2. Upon evaluation of all criteria by the evaluation team, the unanimous decision of the evaluation team was to recommend award of contract to Clifton Gunderson LLP.
3. Funds required to pay the contract cost for the FY2010 audit in the amount of \$72,100 are included in the proposed FY2011 budget for the General Corporate Fund.

COMMITTEE: POLICY, PERSONNEL & APPOINTMENTS DATE: 9/14/2010
COMMENTS: APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD: DATE: 9/23/2010
COMMENTS: APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

FY2010 General Corporate Fund Revenue Projection Report

September 14, 2010

SIGNIFICANT REVENUE LINE ITEMS/CATEGORIES	FY2009 YTD 8/31/2009	FY2009 ACTUAL 12/31/2009	FY2010 BUDGET 12/1/2009	FY2010 YTD 8/31/2010	Projected % to be Received	Projected \$\$ to be Received	\$ Difference to Original Budget
PROPERTY TAXES (CURRENT)	\$4,996,333	\$7,861,688	\$8,089,543	\$5,082,533	100%	\$8,089,543	\$0
PROPERTY TAXES (ESCROW)				\$0	0%	\$0	\$0
PROPERTY TAXES (BACK)	\$0	\$6,227	\$5,200	\$10,914	210%	\$10,914	\$5,714
MOBILE HOME TAXES	\$0	\$9,191	\$10,000	\$0	100%	\$10,000	\$0
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$4,623	\$4,623	\$3,200	\$5,100	159%	\$5,100	\$1,900
COUNTY HOTEL/MOTEL TAX	\$20,297	\$31,857	\$31,000	\$17,316	86%	\$26,635	-\$4,365
COUNTY AUTO RENTAL TAX	\$9,623	\$15,137	\$17,500	\$9,604	87%	\$15,237	-\$2,263
PENALTIES ON TAXES	\$156,140	\$754,106	\$575,000	\$123,051	98%	\$561,537	-\$13,463
BUSINESS LICENSES & PERMITS	\$39,026	\$40,258	\$41,980	\$22,911	56%	\$23,391	-\$18,589
NON-BUSINESS LIC. & PERMITS	\$660,568	\$865,418	\$691,216	\$620,923	106%	\$734,057	\$42,841
FEDERAL GRANTS	\$302,494	\$421,206	\$633,084	\$354,390	100%	\$633,084	\$0
STATE GRANTS	\$154,168	\$221,386	\$234,625	\$146,931	100%	\$234,625	\$0
STATE SHARED REVENUE							
CORP. PERS. PROP. REPL. TAX	\$569,962	\$782,058	\$812,347	\$445,583	85%	\$691,580	-\$120,767
1% SALES TAX (UNINCORPOR.)	\$693,295	\$1,038,170	\$1,165,705	\$679,898	91%	\$1,060,582	-\$105,123
1/4% SALES TAX (ALL COUNTY)	\$3,140,808	\$4,750,176	\$4,887,487	\$3,194,786	100%	\$4,887,256	-\$231
USE TAX	\$287,667	\$417,999	\$456,266	\$256,542	83%	\$379,855	-\$76,411
INHERITANCE TAX	\$76,210	\$143,520	\$165,709	\$306,350	185%	\$306,350	\$140,641
STATE REIMBURSEMENT	\$975,436	\$1,782,018	\$1,196,402	\$1,169,477	100%	\$1,196,402	\$0
SALARY REIMBURSEMENT	\$248,501	\$248,501	\$305,186	\$246,867	81%	\$246,867	-\$58,319
STATE REV./SALARY STIPENDS	\$0	\$43,125	\$43,196	\$38,159	88%	\$38,159	-\$5,037
INCOME TAX	\$1,708,397	\$2,243,895	\$2,650,000	\$1,435,481	80%	\$2,108,459	-\$541,541
CHARITABLE GAMES LIC/TAX	\$0	\$0		\$0	0%		
OFF-TRACK BETTING	\$57,319	\$79,841	\$87,500	\$36,697	56%	\$49,008	-\$38,492
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE							
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REIMBURSE.	\$396,888	\$572,184	\$587,698	\$471,363	100%	\$587,698	\$0
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$369,449	\$685,313	\$534,300	\$296,554	91%	\$488,098	-\$46,202
FINES	\$2,888,894	\$4,226,052	\$4,624,412	\$2,747,152	90%	\$4,139,914	-\$484,498
FORFEITURES	\$624,258	\$954,634	\$997,500	\$686,902	105%	\$1,049,603	\$52,103
INTEREST EARNINGS	\$12,800	\$39,059	\$8,000	\$8,421	105%	\$8,421	\$421
RENTS & ROYALTIES	\$48,637	\$80,710	\$73,000	\$23,424	61%	\$44,725	-\$28,275
GIFTS & DONATIONS	\$731,225	\$864,684	\$553,677	\$423,364	103%	\$570,881	\$17,204
OTHR FIN. SOURCES-FIX. ASSETS	\$12,600	\$12,600	\$18,004	\$8,391	62%	\$11,119	-\$6,885
OTHR. MISC. REVENUE	\$24,070	\$24,738	\$8,000	\$15,692	196%	\$15,692	\$7,692
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$1,097,217	\$1,135,477	\$95,450	\$62,025	91%	\$86,632	-\$8,818
INTERFUND REIMBURSEMENTS	\$1,026,720	\$1,732,784	\$1,770,510	\$1,248,674	100%	\$1,770,510	\$0
TOTALS	\$21,388,006	\$32,211,010	\$31,796,620	\$20,302,228	96%	\$30,505,856	-\$1,290,764

FY2010 General Corporate Fund Expenditure Projection Report

SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE LINE ITEMS/CATEGORIES	FY2009 YTD 8/31/2009	FY2009 ACTUAL 12/31/2009	FY2010 BUDGET 12/1/2009	FY2010 ACTUAL 8/31/2010	PROJECTED % TO BE SPENT	PROJECTED \$ TO BE SPENT	\$ Difference to Original BUDGET (+/-)
PERSONNEL							
Regular Salaries & Wages	\$9,773,448	\$13,365,032	\$12,535,700	\$9,076,358	99.00%	\$12,410,343	-\$125,357
SLEP Salaries	\$5,018,721	\$6,912,877	\$6,854,880	\$5,027,798	101.85%	\$6,981,576	\$126,696
SLEP Overtime	\$199,839	\$335,372	\$401,676	\$171,075	73.93%	\$296,963	-\$104,713
Fringe Benefits	\$1,840,881	\$2,471,406	\$2,503,708	\$1,854,678	98.77%	\$2,472,904	-\$30,804
COMMODITIES							
Postage	\$162,213	\$231,062	\$244,536	\$160,020	78.70%	\$192,441	-\$52,095
Purchase Document Stamps	\$360,000	\$480,000	\$415,800	\$360,000	125.06%	\$520,000	\$104,200
Gasoline & Oil	\$98,589	\$155,018	\$210,875	\$115,566	70.28%	\$148,199	-\$62,676
All Other Commodities	\$412,164	\$677,248	\$575,936	\$323,587	82.31%	\$474,065	-\$101,871
SERVICES							
Gas Service	\$339,914	\$410,906	\$538,793	\$314,367	69.22%	\$372,969	-\$165,824
Electric Service	\$564,899	\$879,648	\$974,737	\$578,955	88.36%	\$861,239	-\$113,498
Medical/Professional Services	\$875,925	\$1,157,842	\$1,196,805	\$806,973	100.00%	\$1,196,805	\$0
All Other Services	\$2,431,949	\$3,815,806	\$3,563,079	\$2,378,204	97.70%	\$3,481,023	-\$82,056
CAPITAL							
Vehicles	\$0	\$79,692	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0	\$0
All Other Capital	\$129,171	\$206,728	\$217,897	\$36,697	100.00%	\$217,897	\$0
TRANSFERS							
To Capital Improvement Fund	\$0	\$58,934	\$148,668	\$0	100.00%	\$148,668	\$0
To Public Health Fund	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	0.00%	\$0	\$0
All Other Transfers	\$47,758	\$1,114,364	\$177,657	\$47,484	100.00%	\$177,657	\$0
DEBT REPAYMENT	\$344,268	\$357,928	\$363,206	\$348,081	100.00%	\$363,206	\$0
TOTAL	\$22,599,740	\$32,754,865	\$30,923,953	\$21,599,842	98.03%	\$30,315,955	-\$607,998

FY2010 General Corporate Fund Projection Summary Report

SUMMARY

	<u>Actual</u>	Fund Balance Less Loan
FUND BALANCE 11/30/09 (unaudited)	\$1,853,899	\$1,520,772
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE % OF BUDGET -	6.00%	4.92%
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Projected</u>
ADD FY2010 REVENUE	\$31,796,620	\$30,505,856
LESS FY2010 EXPENDITURE	\$30,923,953	\$30,315,955
Revenue to Expenditure Difference	\$872,667	\$189,901
Outstanding Loan to Nursing Home	-\$333,127	-\$333,127
FUND BALANCE PROJECTION - 11/30/10	\$2,393,439	\$1,710,673
% of FY2010 Budget	7.74%	5.53%

General Corporate Fund FY2010 Budget Change Report

GENERAL CORPORATE FUND ORIGINAL BUDGET FOR FY2010

12/1/2009

Expenditure	\$31,453,939
Revenue	\$31,454,611
Revenue/Expenditure Difference	\$672

General Corporate Fund Budget As Of: 9/10/2010

Expenditure	\$30,923,953	% Inc/Dec	-1.68%	Revenue/Exp. \$872,667
Revenue	\$31,796,620	% Inc/Dec	1.09%	

EXPENDITURE CHANGES

Department	Description	Expenditure Change	Revenue Change	Difference
EMA	Homeland Security Grant	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$0
Physical Plant	Re-encumber Coroner Office Move Funds	\$1,400	\$0	(\$1,400)
Court Services	Re-Instatement of AOIC Revenue for 2 Positions	\$84,559	\$95,500	\$10,941
General County	Increase Health Insurance for 2 Re-instated Court Services Positions	\$10,941	\$0	(\$10,941)
Physical Plant	Re-encumber Funds for County Clerk Election Storage Space Remodel	\$5,299	\$0	(\$5,299)
Physical Plant	Courthouse Parking Lot Pay Station	\$15,000	\$0	(\$15,000)
General County	Nursing Home Arbitration	\$30,000	\$0	(\$30,000)
Physical Plant	Coroner Move	\$10,110	\$0	(\$10,110)
Administrative Services	Internet Access Services	\$13,123	\$0	(\$13,123)
Supv of Assmts	Salary correction	\$5,884	\$0	(\$5,884)
Planning & Zoning	Re-appropriate funds for LRMP	\$16,998	\$0	(\$16,998)
Mid-Year Amendment	Budget Cuts due to Declined Revenues	(\$945,804)	\$37,305	\$983,109
Auditor	Auditor Stipend	\$4,196	\$4,196	\$0
EMA	Equipment Grant	\$140,149	\$140,149	\$0
Physical Plant	Energy Efficiency Grant	\$5,799	\$5,799	\$0
State's Attorney Support	Benefit Payout & Reimbursement	\$5,060	\$5,060	\$0
Physical Plant	AE Contract for Design Build RFP	\$13,300	\$0	(\$13,300)
TOTAL		(\$529,986)	\$342,009	\$871,995

Changes Attributable to Recurring Costs **\$114,507** **\$95,500** **(\$19,007)**

Changes Attributable to 1-Time Expenses **(\$644,493)** **\$246,509** **\$891,002**

FOR COUNTY BOARD APPROVAL

9/23/10

PURCHASES NOT FOLLOWING THE PURCHASING POLICY, AND EMERGENCY PURCHASES

DEPARTMENT	APPROPRIATION #	VR#/PO#	VR/PO DATE	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	AMOUNT
NO PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED						
Self-Funded Insurance	476-118-533.26	VR#118-088	08/27/10	Painting Hwy Garage 8/24	Roessler Construction	\$ 17,850.00
CREDIT CARD CHARGES PAID WITHOUT RECEIPT						
** Access Initiative Grant	641-053-533.18	VR#641-090	08/16/10	I-Hotel charge 7/8/10	Visa Cardmember Services	\$ 129.87
FY09 EXPENDITURES PAID IN FY10						
** Circuit Court	080-031-533.03	VR#031-363	08/31/10	Atty service Oct'08-Nov'09	John Hensley	\$ 1,510.00
** General County	080-075-533.03	VR#075-006	12/28/09	NH arbitration advance 1/22	CCT-Gen Corp Advance	\$ 7,227.50
** Probation Services	618-052-533.07	VR#618-251	09/07/10	Group therapy 9/28-11/30/09	Kleppin & Associates	\$ 135.00

*****According to Illinois Attorney General and Champaign County State's Attorney,
the Purchasing Policy does not apply to the office of elected officials.*****

** Paid- For Information Only



STUDENT SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

ILLINOIS STUDENT SENATE

Senate Resolution 09-08-2010-02

Centrally Located Polling Place

Authors: David Wall and Nolan Drea

Supporters: David Pileski, Max Ellithorpe, Jim Maskeri, Chris Pudelek

Whereas, the Illinois Student Senate is the official voice of the Student Body of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and

Whereas, it is the duty of land grant institutions to promote and advance the civic responsibility of democratic elections, and

Whereas, an increase in student turnout in elections gives greater representation of our concerns on local, state and federal issues, and

Whereas, the state of Illinois has enacted legislation allowing early on voting on college campuses, and

Whereas, the legislation recommends one centrally located polling place on every state college campus, and

Whereas, in the past, the office of the Champaign County Clerk has been accused of disenfranchising students on Election Day, and

Whereas, the office of the Champaign County Clerk has selected an inconveniently non-centralized location against the expressed wishes of the University, Illinois Student Senate, College Republicans and College Democrats, and

Whereas, the Champaign County Board has the authority to overturn the recommendation of the Champaign County Clerk in the location of this polling place,

Therefore let it be resolved the Illinois Student Senate, on behalf of the University of Illinois Student Body, will conduct a drive to increase the education of our students on electoral matters, including this new law, availing ourselves of potential disenfranchisement, and

Therefore, let it be further resolved that the Illinois Student Senate, on behalf of the Student Body, petition the Champaign County Board and Champaign County Clerk for an early polling place at the Illini Union, and

Therefore, let it be further resolved that we urge, as representatives of the University of Illinois in the community, President Hogan and Chancellor Easter also petition the office of the County Clerk for a centrally located early polling place on campus, and



STUDENT SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

- 1 Therefore, let it be further resolved this resolution be sent to the offices of the Champaign County Clerk,
- 2 Champaign County Board, President of the University of Illinois, the Chancellor of the University of
- 3 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and to the President of the registered student organization iVote.

September 14, 2010

Statement from the Ziegler family regarding the Olympian Drive project:

With a shift in focus from an Olympian Drive project that connects to Route 45 to one that simply focuses on a connection with Lincoln Avenue comes at least a short-term reprieve of the Ziegler Farm. For this we thank God.

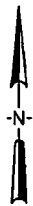
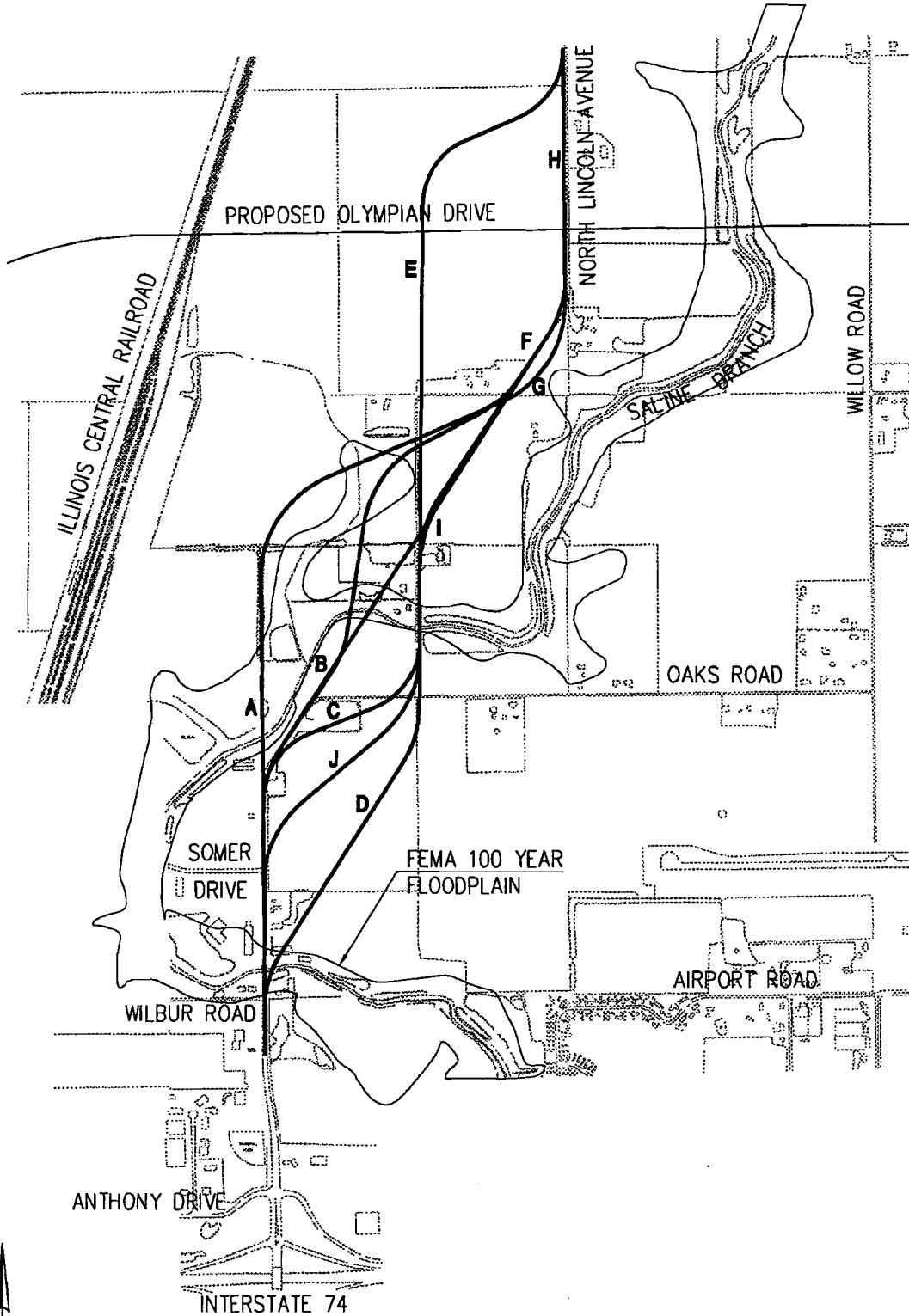
While it appears the Ziegler Farm is safe for the time being, we want to be clear that the Ziegler family is fully committed to remaining active and involved in this effort and will continue to support and participate in the neighbor group we have been a part of in every way that we can, including offering our financial, time, support, encouragement, lobbying, and prayers. The Ziegler family's opinions remain the same as our neighbors' opinions with regard to this project even with this scope change and regardless of either direct or indirect impact on the Ziegler Farm and the Ziegler families.

As the community moves forward in studying a connection from Lincoln Avenue to Olympian Drive, we stand united with our neighbors in requesting an independent needs assessment and demand study, as we have since March. Furthermore, despite the fact that a Lincoln Avenue-focused project will have no direct impact on Ziegler land, our family feels it imperative to have more than one connection route to consider. The Ziegler family joins with our neighbors in calling for the inclusion of at least three additional road route options for this project.

As we and our neighbors have throughout this project, we continue to pray for the Lord to work things out – for the community to find unity in a project that brings both development and jobs as well as peace of mind for neighbors and citizens.

The Ziegler family:
Billy Ziegler
Virginia Ziegler
Eugene Ziegler
Mary Ziegler

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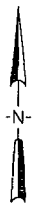
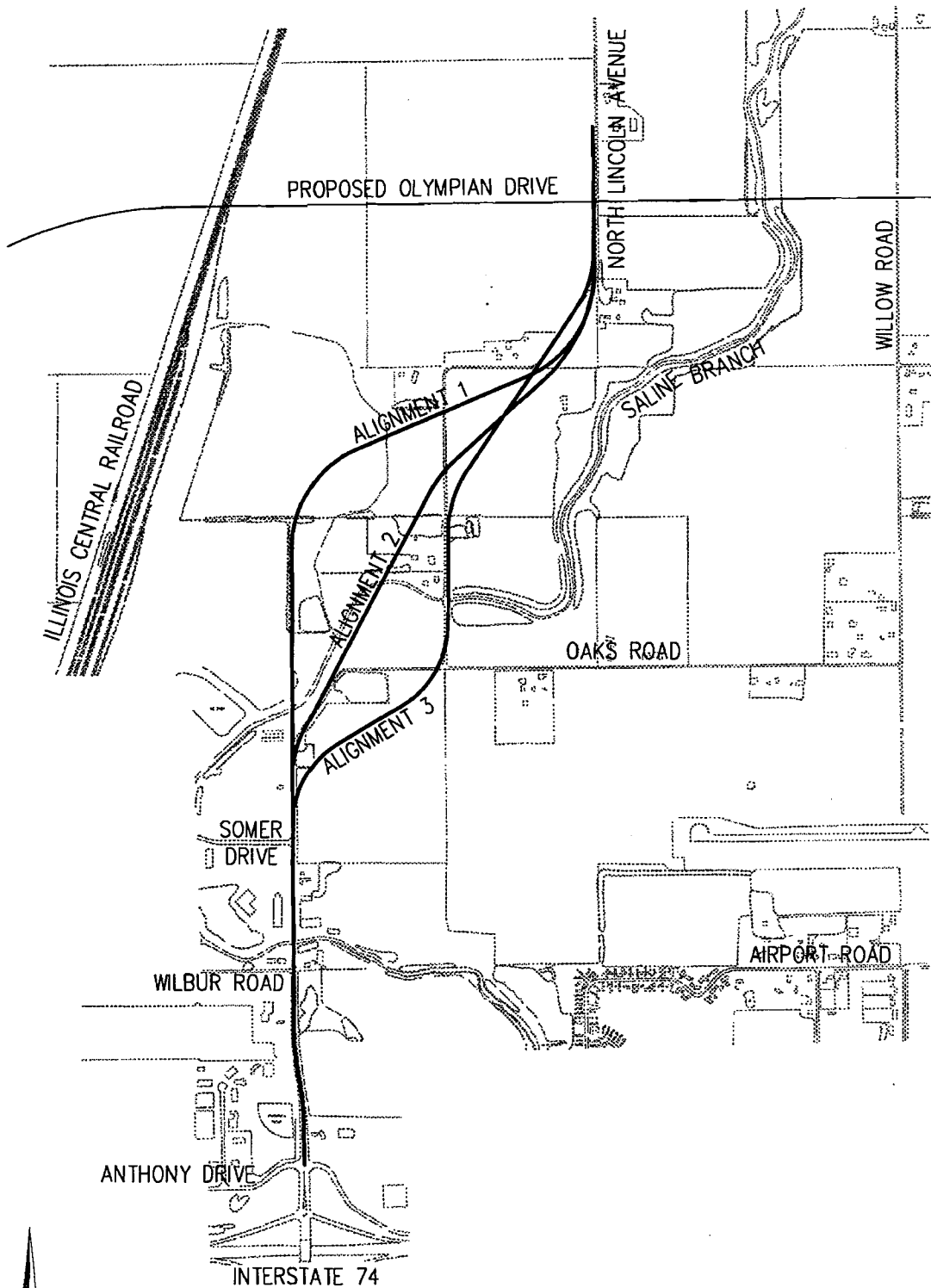
PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENTS

**NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE LOCATION STUDY
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
URBANA, ILLINOIS**

HEI NO. 95S2071

FIGURE 4.4

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ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENTS

**NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE LOCATION STUDY
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
URBANA, ILLINOIS**

HEI NO. 95S2071

FIGURE 4.5

8/7/90 pil

Effort to abolish auditor's office put off

By DEBRA PRESSEY
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Efforts to abolish the Champaign County auditor's office will continue despite a setback on Monday, proponents say.

A group calling itself "Citizens for Efficient Government" asked the county board's Policy, Procedures and Appointments Committee to sponsor a November referendum and put the issue before the voters.

But the committee tabled the request — much to the surprise of Democratic Auditor Laurel Prussing who said she expected the committee to endorse it.

A spokesman for the citizens group, Michael Henneman, said he is part of a non-partisan coalition of local business people interested in making county government more efficient.

HOWEVER, OF THE SEVEN members listed in a letter from the citizens group to the board committee:

■ All are Republicans.

■ Three said their support was enlisted by Mark Shelden, a member of the GOP executive committee. He also was a key worker in state Rep. Timothy Johnson's successful campaign last spring for county GOP party chairman.

■ Three of the seven listed as committee members told The News-Gazette they never agreed to join the referendum effort.

Prussing called the referendum effort a "sleazy" attempt at one-party domination.

"This whole thing was put up by Tim Johnson," she said.

But Johnson said he had been out of town and only learned



"This whole thing was put up by Tim Johnson. . . . He just can't find someone who can beat me in an election so he's trying to destroy my office."

— Laurel Prussing,
Champaign County auditor

'As a state legislator I would not get involved in it one way or another. I think it's the county board's business and if they think there's some savings to be gained, it's for the county board to decide.'

— State Rep. Timothy Johnson



about the committee's existence after Shelden told him about it Monday morning.

Johnson said he called Henneman and asked him to present the proposal to the county board on Monday to ensure the presentation was done reasonably.

"As a state legislator I would not get involved in it one way or another," Johnson said. "I think it's the county board's business and if they think there's some savings to be gained, it's for the county board to decide."

Henneman, saying he'd been invited to join the committee by local developer Thomas E. Harrington

Jr., confirmed that he had discussed the issue with Johnson.

Johnson said the idea of abolishing the auditor's office isn't a new one. He also said Prussing's charge that he is behind the new citizens committee is false.

"Laurel Prussing runs the office of the county auditor not to be the county auditor but as a soapbox to conduct unbased partisan attacks on people she disagrees with," Johnson said. "She uses that office any way she can to attack Republicans — that's the reason she exists."

Prussing, however, said she has done her homework on every is-

sue she has put forward and the public need only check the record.

"I think this instance when he's trying to put something forward as a non-partisan issue when it's purely partisan is purely Tim Johnson," she said. "He (Johnson) just can't find someone who can beat me in an election so he's trying to destroy my office."

Shelden said the idea for the referendum was "out there" for some time in the business community — given the public bickering that has gone on between Prussing and the board.

Shelden explained he helped enlist support but refrained from joining the group because it was hoped the issue could void partisan debate.

Several other people were interested but wouldn't get involved because they fear Prussing, he added.

Henneman, employed with the Champaign engineering firm of Henneman Raufeisen & Associates, was the only member of the citizens group to address the committee Monday.

OTHER NAMES on the letter included Harrington, Savoy accountant Michael Friese and St. Joseph Mayor B.J. Hackler.

The other three — Philo farmer B.J. Miller, Rantoul accountant Michael Graham and retired insurance agent Theotto Bowles of Champaign — said that they didn't know their names were on the letter and that they never agreed to join the group.

Graham, in fact, said he em-

See AUDITOR, A-8

Auditor

Continued from A-1

phatically told Shelden "no."

Graham added that the referendum organizers at first seemed to be interested in doing away with many of the county's elected partisan offices.

"Initially, I didn't think it was a bad idea," he said. "But as it progressed it looked like something I didn't want to stick my nose into."

"As it got down the road it appeared to me that it was really an effort to get rid of Mrs. Prussing."

Henneman told the Policy Committee that he and other members of the citizens group want the county run like an efficient business.

A STEP TOWARD THAT would be abolishing the auditor's office as an elected position and transferring the auditor's duties to a non-partisan staff person reporting to the county administrator, he added.

"The purpose was to look at this not as a Democrat or Republican but as a business decision," Hen-

neman said later. "I hope everybody understood that."

He said he believes the citizens group will pursue the matter beyond Monday's meeting.

Friese, the chairman of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District board, said Shelden called him about joining the referendum effort. The idea of hiring a non-political person to do the auditor's job sounded like a good one, Friese added.

Prussing is currently battling the board in court, via a lawsuit she filed, for control over the county accounting system.

Of his involvement on the committee, Harrington said he's "just interested in efficient government" and the county auditing function could be handled more efficiently by a certified public accountant.

Prussing isn't a CPA, but holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and has completed all but dissertation work on a doctorate in economics with a specialty in public finance.

Hackler said he believed the auditor was also a county board

member and shouldn't be "wearing two hats." Though that isn't the case, Hackler said he believes much of the auditor's work has been transferred to the county administrator.

Shelden said the committee turned to the county board to get the referendum on the November ballot because there wasn't enough time to circulate petitions and file them before the deadline.

PETITIONS TO GET a referendum before the voters this fall must be filed by Aug. 20.

The group would have had to collect 8,000 signatures without the board's backing.

The group's next step, Shelden added, will be to continue looking at the auditor's office and the other elected county offices to see if they could be made more efficient.

"The next step is to find out what Laurel is doing, other than ranting and raving," Shelden added.

"I think she's just totally out of control — and it's going to get her."

Effort draws criticism from county board

Marjorie Sodemann, a Republican county board member from Champaign, said an effort to do away with the county auditor's office was staged all wrong.

"Frankly, I don't think now's the time," she added. "It would have connotations of the wrong spirit. You don't just pick on one office two months before an election."

Furthermore, Sodemann said, the board is in the midst of defending a lawsuit filed by Democratic Auditor Laurel Prussing over control of the county's accounting system.

SODEMANN WAS AMONG the members of the board's Policy Committee who tabled a proposal asking a referendum on abolishing the auditor's office.

A motion to back the proposal had been made by board member Joseph Whalen, R-Rantoul.

Another Republican on the board, Francis "Bud" Barker, said

that he'd heard there was a citizens committee promoting the referendum and that he raised the issue at the Republican board caucus July 24.

"I think that we have to take a good look at where we are with the finances of the county and with streamlining the government," Barker said. "There are possibilities, not only with that office but with other elected offices of the county."

Barker stressed it's not a power issue for Republican board members, but a desire to make county government more efficient with the hiring of the first county administrator six months ago.

But two board Democrats said they were shocked and insulted by the referendum proposal, brought in by a committee of local business people.

"How did this get on our agenda?" Fanny Taylor, D-Urbana, asked on Monday. "We should have thrown this out; it was not

proper."

Linda Cross, D-Champaign, questioned the sincerity of the referendum proposal.

While the board disagrees with Prussing on several issues, eliminating the auditor's office is not the way to deal with it, Cross added.

"If they were concerned about the efficiency of county government, they would have looked at all our elected officers," Cross said. "I'm just absolutely shocked that anyone would submit this thing."

WHALEN SAID HE agreed with the referendum idea but was bothered that he didn't know many of the individuals involved.

He also said the citizens committee should have included some Democrats, to keep the issue non-partisan.

"I'd like to have seen half Democrats," Whalen added.

— DEBRA PRESSEY