

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

**Finance Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
Lyle Shields Meeting Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Alix, Astrid Berkson, Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Josh Hartke, Stan James, John Jay, Jeff Kibler, Alan Kurtz, Ralph Langenheim, Gary Maxwell, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Patti Petrie, James Quisenberry, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Rachel Schwartz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Max Mitchell, Jon Schroeder

OTHERS PRESENT: Van Anderson (Deputy County Administrator/Finance), Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Joe Gordon (Probation/Court Services Director), Gordy Hulten (County Clerk), Roger Holland (Courts Administrator), Andy Rhodes (IT Director), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), Randy Rosenbaum (Public Defender), Dan Walsh (Sheriff)

CALL TO ORDER

Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rhodes called the roll. Alix, Berkson, Esry, Harper, Hartke, James, Jay, Kibler, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGuire, Michaels, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Schwartz, and Kurtz were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

MOTION by Jay to approve the agenda/addenda; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

James Kilgore encouraged committee members to work on three tasks: 1) Funding for the recommendations made in the ILPP report; 2) Measures of evaluation set in place for the new programs; 3) Continued community involvement in the process.

Rosales entered the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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Beldon Fields spoke of his concern regarding two recommendations in the ILPP report: 1) a recommendation to use the downtown jail to house federal prisoners; 2) recommendation for the Criminal Justice Executive Council to meet in closed session.

Barb Wysocki said the League of Women Voters endorsed the recommendations found in ILPP report. They also endorsed the processes leading up to the final report and believed that the successful implementation of the ILPP recommendations would decrease the jail population and thus decrease the need for a new jail.

Marlon Mitchell, Director of Prison Ministry for Mount Olive Baptist Church thanked everyone for examining the Criminal Justice System as a whole, as well as Dr. Kalmanoff for his work. Mr. Mitchell encouraged the creation and funding of a re-entry program.

Diane Zell, a representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Champaign County said that NAMI recommended that the committee consider four points while preparing the FY2014 budget: 1) Increase the allocation of public safety sales tax funds to social services by up to 30%; 2) Preventative programs would reduce prisoners by half and the costs related to their imprisonment; 3) Public monies allotted to social service programs are used in a cost effective manner; 4) Those who receive appropriate mental health treatment could become contributing members of society.

Jessica Watson said she suffers from Schizophrenia Effective Disorder and she encouraged the committee to fund preventative services for mental illnesses. She is a productive member of society because she receives medicine and counseling.

Damita Parsley, an ex-offender said she was released from prison 15 months ago and she cannot find a job. Ms. Parsley felt that if alternative sentencing had been available she would have had a better chance to become a productive member of society. She said that the assistance available to her now does not really help her situation. Ms. Parsley supported the creation of a re-entry program.

Aaron Ammons represented the groups C-U Citizens for Peace and Justice, as well as Citizens with Conviction. Mr. Ammons said they supported funding for an investigator in the Public Defender's office. Mr. Ammons had talked to the Court Administrator who informed him that he was interested in moving forward with pre-trial services.

Michael Lynbansky said data exists that suggests that the current incarceration system was not meeting the needs of the community. Mr. Lynbansky supported the creation of a re-entry program and other restorative alternatives.

Lynn Stuckey did not agree with the use of public safety sales tax funds to pay for utilities at justice facilities. Ms. Stuckey recommended that the dependence upon public safety sales tax funds to pay these utilities be reduced by one quarter each year. Ms. Stuckey also suggested that any funds leftover each year from the fund that the Sheriff uses to pay for inmate food expenses be used toward restorative programs.

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Mark Enslin was encouraged by the public input meetings. He encouraged the committee to be creative with the budget in order to finance the ILPP recommendations. He supported the creation of a re-entry program and the need to evaluate the effectiveness of all new programs.

Sofia Lewis encouraged committee members to work on the Criminal Justice System from the inside out with emphasis placed on functions and then make the decision of whether or not forms of incarceration are needed.

Public participation closed at 6:55 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Petrie reminded everyone that she and Hartke would hold their fifth town meeting on Sunday, October 6, at the Champaign Public Library. Kurtz said Schroeder had informed him he was unable to attend the meeting. Kurtz pointed out he had received many postcards from the public urging the allocation of more public safety sales tax funds towards programs to keep people out of jail and encouraging the choice of prevention over construction of jails.

FINANCE

Decisions Regarding the FY2014 Budget

Alix, Deputy Chair of Finance distributed a summary of his recommended actions as a starting point for discussion with regard to the options presented by Busey for the FY2014 budget. He explained his strategy was to identify the immediate needs listed in the ILPP report and address those as well as possible. The re-entry program is important however, he was not able to identify funds for it in this budget, but perhaps other committee members could.

MOTION by James to accept the budget recommendations made by Alix for purposes of discussion; seconded by Langenheim.

Hartke felt that the need to hire a person to build re-entry program should be at the top of the list. This position would cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Hartke did not believe that this position should be dependent upon federal funding. Hartke said the committee needed to make a commitment to the community and create a line item for this position. He suggested reducing the Facilities Repair and Maintenance budget to \$400,698 and placing \$200,000 in a line item specifically for justice and justice programming.

Busey said there was \$81,136 left based on the recommendations made by Alix that could still be appropriated and still reach the fund balance goal. She suggested using the Grants and Contributions line item to budget funds for justice programming until it is clear how the funds would be used for justice programming. Hartke agreed the line item should be flexible.

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MOTION by Hartke to amend original motion by adding \$200,000 to the Grants and Contributions line item for justice programming, which may include a re-entry program; seconded by Berkson.

Petrie supported the reduction of the Facilities Repair and Maintenance line item by \$200,000 because funding is available through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grants.

James said there was merit in many items coming before the committee but there was only so much funding available and the facilities budget had been set after a long and hard discussion. James continued that the downtown jail fell apart because previous boards delayed maintenance. James did not want to add programs that could not realistically be funded. He stated that the County should maintain what it has already. He explained that grant funding was not something the County could depend upon for support. James also stated that many of the Criminal Justice System recommendations would more than likely come in at a higher cost than predicted.

Kurtz understood both sides, but from his perspective, these new programs would pay for themselves over time and he supported a re-entry program. Quisenberry asked if the Sheriff determined that minor modifications could be performed at the jail, could the funding come from the \$200,000 set aside for Criminal Justice System improvements instead of the Facilities Repair and Maintenance line.

Alix said that decision would be up to the County Board. The Sheriff would need to identify something more important to take precedence over a re-entry program. Quisenberry explained he asked this question because although this type of expenditure did not deal with a re-entry program, it did address other items listed in the ILPP report. Hartke was not opposed to other spending as long as a re-entry program could be implemented.

Quisenberry pointed out that Dr. Kalmanoff had indicated that the County should not pay for a re-entry program, but that state and federal grants should fund it. However, Quisenberry did not believe this would happen unless the County could provide some seed funding. He was interested in what the new Deputy County Administrator/Finance could accomplish in this area. Quisenberry said that if \$200,000 is set aside and the County goes into deficit by \$30-\$40,000 he was comfortable with it. He stated that because there was no one in place to build a framework and lobby the County for what is needed, the committee needed to tolerate some ambiguity in order to move forward. Although he was uncomfortable setting aside \$200,000 without more specific details, he agreed it should be done to move ahead and other funding sources may be identified in the future.

Kibler was not adverse to the proposal, but he was concerned because a focus should be placed on mental health needs before a jail re-entry program. Kibler felt that as it is now; it appeared to be a blank check for a very generic item that could be used for anything and he would like the language to be more specific.

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McGuire agreed; he was not against a re-entry program either. He took issue with the ambiguity of the language because other line items have a specific definition for their purpose. He said there is no plan in place for a re-entry program. The estimated cost for a re-entry program has already increased from \$155,000 to \$200,000. He stated that the County Board just raised the cost of insurance to employees and now they would fund the cost of this program. The Facilities Committee has a list of items that are needed and legitimate. McGuire concluded by stating that facility maintenance needs were not items that could be diverted.

Langenheim reminded everyone that the facility maintenance needs list had been much longer and it was reduced to high priority essential items. He was in favor of a re-entry program; however, he did not agree that funding should come from Facilities Repair and Maintenance.

Schwartz pointed out that the idea was to set aside \$200,000 so that if a specific item(s) were identified, funds would be available. She asked about the possibility to use these funds towards Drug Court because it was a successful existing program that would lose its federal funding.

Busey suggested that if these funds were set aside, the caveat should be that these funds would not be used unless the County Board gave direction. If the Board chose to take a portion of this and fund Drug Court, then that is what would happen.

Harper agreed that a re-entry program had merit, but he did not understand where the funding would come from because they are in a county that has over \$44 million of debt. He stated that if the facilities were not maintained, they would deteriorate.

Hartke pointed out that budgeting \$480,000 for facilities was more than what had been reserved in some time. He would be happy to spend some of the \$200,000 on mental health.

Petrie reiterated that DCEO had workshops all over the State inviting entities to apply for grant funding. She explained that there were other places in the budget to locate funding, for instance, \$61,000 from the TIF was going into the General Corporate Fund. In addition, ILPP had mentioned in their report that the County should revisit the cost to secure the courthouse. Petrie stated that she had taught social planning for years and there were two things that invite failure for social programs; no funding upfront and if they are not funded then there is no implementation. The community would say that the County failed if the Board does not implement these programs and fund them. She agreed that mental health needed some funding but they need to assist the other programs and all programs should have an evaluative portion built into them.

Berkson said the whole justice budget was in flux. The County Board does not know where the holes would appear and therefore they should not be specific about the purpose of the reserved amount of \$200,000.

Esry stated that preventative facility maintenance is needed and it was not responsible to wait until something goes wrong in a building. Emergency repairs or replacements would

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cost much more than routine maintenance and scheduled replacements. He stated that these facilities were also owned by the public.

Alix reminded the committee of the motion that was up for discussion.

Jay agreed with the recommendations made by Alix. Jay had witnessed the County Board place the building repair and maintenance budget last for many years and would not support removing \$200,000 from its budget.

Richards stated the Board needed to make a down payment on the County's future and set aside funding for the programs recommended in the ILPP report. He also recommended that the Facilities Committee discuss how to obtain the grant funding.

Michaels was not prepared to budget \$200,000 by reducing other budgets in one or two areas because even after the 13-month fiscal year the County would still be in a hole. Alix said that if this motion succeeded, the County would be \$118,000 in the hole and the committee would then need to decide where the funding would come from to balance the budget.

Maxwell agreed with many of the comments but did not believe the County could take the place of the State and Federal government because the County does not have the resources. He said the Sheriff proposed a reasonable program and needed time to check the numbers. Maxwell questioned whether the full amount of \$200,000 was needed to provide start-up funding.

McGuire reiterated that deferred facility maintenance would only cost the County more in the end. Schwartz pointed out that there was have \$37,000 available in the 202 Art Bartell Construction Fund which could be moved to the General Corporate Fund instead of the Capital Replacement Fund it could be used toward facility needs.

Kibler reiterated that he would not support funds for a generic item and wanted the language to be more specific. Quisenberry suggested that they vote on the issue and put it in the budget for now because this was only a committee vote and it was not final. Then they could look at areas in the budget to fund it and if it does not balance then they would need to reconsider it.

A **motion** was made to call the question and seconded. **Motion carried.** Alix clarified the amendment to the motion: *Add to the draft budget \$200,000 to a Grants and Contributions line in the General County Budget, which requires a majority of the Board to approve any spending or a super majority of the Board to approve any transfers to a personnel line item or a different fund.* **Motion carried with a roll call vote of 10-8.** Alix, Berkson, Hartke, Kurtz, Langenheim, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, and Schwartz voted in favor of the motion. Esry, Harper, James, Jay, Kibler, Maxwell, McGuire, and Michaels voted against it.

The Finance Committee of the Whole recessed at 8:00 p.m. Session resumed at 8:10 p.m. Michaels did not return to the meeting.

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Alix reminded the committee that the current draft budget had a deficit of \$118,000 and asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

MOTION by Schwartz to transfer \$37,000 from the 202 Art Bartell Construction Fund to the General Corporate Fund; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

MOTION by Quisenberry to amend the funding from 6-months transition to replace the Zoning Director to 3-months transition funding; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

MOTION by Quisenberry to reduce the current allocation for facilities repair by the amount the draft budget is out of balance, which is \$68,437; seconded by Hartke. Quisenberry was comfortable with this because he expected the Deputy County Administrator/Finance to locate State and Federal grant funding for the County.

McGuire would not support this because there were several identifiable facility needs and the \$200,000 for justice funding was not specific at all. Harper agreed. James concurred because he would never support a budget that puts off legitimate needs. James also pointed out that the County Board recently approved an increase to employee insurance premiums to decrease some of the County's costs, but now the savings would be spent on new programs.

Alix agreed that the County does have serious facility issues and maintenance has been deferred for a long time. However, he would support the motion because these funds were not being spent; they were being budgeted. **Motion carried with a roll call vote of 10-7.** Alix, Berkson, Hartke, Kurtz, Langenheim, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, and Schwartz voted in favor of the motion. Esry, Harper, James, Jay, Kibler, Maxwell, and McGuire voted against it.

Alix asked for a vote on the main motion, which was to adopt the FY2014 Budget recommendations as amended. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant