

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARINGS

Monday, August 28, 2017

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Alix, Jack Anderson, Bradley Clemmons, Lorraine Cowart, Shana Crews, Aaron Esry, Stephanie Fortado, Jim Goss, Stan Harper, Josh Hartke, Robert King, Jim McGuire, Max Mitchell, Kyle Patterson, Patti Petrie, Jon Rector, Steve Summers, C. Pius Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brooks Marsh, Diane Michaels, Giraldo Rosales, James Tinsley

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Snider (County Administrator), Tami Ogden (Deputy Administrator/Finance), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), John Farney (Auditor), Elizabeth Burgener-Patton (Board of Review), Dan Welch (Treasurer), Mark Shelden (Recorder), Gordy Hulten (County Clerk), Dan Walsh (Sheriff), Julia Rietz (State's Attorney), Joe Gordon (Director of Probation/Court Services), Katie Blakeman (Circuit Clerk), Judge Difanis (Circuit Court), Duane Northrup (Coroner), Janie Miller-Jones (Public Defender), John Hall (Director of Planning & Zoning), Andy Rhodes (Director of Information Technology), Jane Quinlan (Regional Office of Education), Brad Gould (Veterans Assistance Commission)

CALL TO ORDER

County Board Chair Weibel called the hearing to order at 6:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rhodes called the roll. Alix, Anderson, Clemmons, Cowart, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Hartke, McGuire, Mitchell, Patterson, Petrie, Rector, Summers, and Weibel were present at the time of roll call establishing a quorum. The following County Board members entered the meeting after the roll call: Crews at 6:11 p.m., King at 6:32 p.m. and Esry at 6:39 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Petrie to approve the agenda; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried with unanimous support.** Weibel turned the meeting over to the Deputy Chair of Finance, Chris Alix.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

County Administrator, Rick Snider and Deputy County Administrator of Finance, Tami Ogden presented the budget highlights for each department and department heads were available for any specific questions. The department budgets and other funds covered via slide show presentation were: Auditor, Board of Review, Supervisor of Assessments, Treasurer, Recorder, County Clerk, Sheriff, Correctional Center, State's Attorney, Juvenile Detention Center, Court Services, Circuit Clerk, Circuit Court, Coroner, Public Defender, Administrative Services, Physical Plant, Planning & Zoning, Information Technology, Regional Office of Education, Veterans Assistance Commission, County Board, General County, ADA Compliance, General Corporate Fund Debt Service and Capital Asset Replacement Funds.

Snider explained that the intent of the budget presentations was to provide an overview of each department's budget. Snider first provided background on the FY2018 fiscal environment before moving into more in-depth discussions of each department budget.

A number of changes have occurred with the State of Illinois. The first change will have a large impact on the county's finances. The State has reduced income tax allocations to local governments by 10% for 1-year. The General Assembly will accelerate payments to local governments to offset this reduction. However, the anticipated total impact to FY2017 and FY2018 is expected to be \$316,000. This figure takes into account both the reduction in income tax allocations and the accelerated payments.

The Illinois Department of Revenue has implemented a service surcharge for the collection and administration of the county's taxes. This will have a direct effect on the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund. In FY2017, the surcharge total is approximately \$48,000 and expected to be \$98,000 in FY2018.

Sales taxes continue to underperform. The General Assembly approved an increase in the level of 9-1-1 fees for landlines. Previous statutes did not provide sufficient revenue to local governments. This is expected to provide an approximate \$1.8 million increase to METCAD operations by the second quarter of FY2018.

A potential property tax freeze would impact the General Fund by approximately \$224,000 per year. The ultimate disposition of the nursing home may have a significant impact on the county's finances as well.

Annexations by municipalities within the county have an impact on sales tax and gaming revenues. For instance, the recent Village of Mahomet annexations will reduce revenue by \$100,000. Lastly, the ADA compliance and related facilities plan will move forward, particularly in the area of the downtown jail and Sheriff's office.

Snider discussed savings and revenue opportunities for FY2018. The county could implement the civic contribution on the electric aggregation program. Statute allows for a 1/10 cent fee for the county to administer the program. The potential revenue is approximately \$100,000 per year. An optional four-day workweek pilot program will be implemented. Interest has been expressed and it will require the

agreement of both the department head and employee. There should be further reductions in the METCAD fees pursuant to the 9-1-1 levies.

Further reductions in health insurance premiums are expected based on the final decision of the Labor/Management Health Insurance Committee. The backlog of Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) payments are catching up. They were 9-months behind. The Supervisor of Assessments converted some of the old property cards. Apex initially provided parcel sketching and updates on 100 parcels, resulting in an increase of \$145,000 in assessed value. The program will be expanded to 7,700 parcels.

Hartke left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The Circuit Court and Public Defender are working to generate more fees. Many years ago, this had been a significant revenue source peaking at \$150,000 in 2011. The revenue has declined to approximately \$20,000 a year.

The Circuit Clerk and State's Attorney are looking into an amnesty program to generate revenue from uncollected fees and fines. Other counties have benefited from this approach. Uncollected fees and fines currently total \$78 million. Some people are eligible for the Circuit Clerk's expungement program but they have not paid their fees and fines. An amnesty program would help to address this.

Circuit Clerk, Katie Blakeman provided an explanation of how the amnesty program works. She stated that a person with outstanding fees and fines that have been sent to collection, adding another 30% to their total owed, could have the fee or fine removed from collection if they pay what is due. This then allows them to pursue expungement of their case. The contract with the collection agency is with the State's Attorney's office.

Department heads have put forth some ways to either, generate revenue or savings. Revenue contributions and impacts listed below.

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|----------------------------|------------------|---|
| REVENUE | | |
| Circuit Court | \$15,000 | Partial salary reimbursement from Law Library |
| State's Attorney | \$15,000 | Negotiate increase in Support Enforcement contract |
| Probation & Court Services | \$125,000 | Transfer to offset losses in AOIC funding |
| Sheriff | \$38,310 | Increases to negotiated contracts for LE services |
| Property Taxes | \$404,961 | \$186,137 shifted from IMRF, FICA, and Extension levies |
| Fees and Fines Declines | \$(271,495) | Decline since FY2016 actual |
| Nursing Home | \$(280,198) | No reimbursement for debt service on General Obligation bond |
| PSST Reimbursement | \$411,644 | Increased reimbursement for Public Safety Utilities/Maintenance |
| Revenue Impacts | \$458,222 | |

Expenditure Contributions and Impacts

| EXPENDITURE | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Recorder | \$(58,256) | Continuation of funding for 2 FTEs from Automation Fund (not sustainable) |
| Highway | \$(41,000) | 50% reduction of mechanic reimbursement |
| Circuit Court | \$(18,502) | Position reclassification |
| Sheriff | \$(12,758) | METCAD fees held flat |
| State's Attorney | \$(58,500) | Moved fringe costs to budget, reduced non-personnel expenditures |
| IT/multiple departments | \$(16,892) | Spyglass savings |
| Physical Plant | \$(86,000) | Utility savings – also renegotiating contracts, savings unknown |
| VAC | \$(1,776) | 4-day workweek |
| Supervisor of Assessments | \$(38,824) | Office re-organization – savings captured in FY2018 |
| General County | \$(10,532) | Eliminate Senior Services funding; planning contract offset |
| CARF Transfer from GCF | \$(7,500) | Moved ESRI licenses to GIS Fund |
| Corrections | \$99,390 | Increase for nursing services |
| Health/life Insurance | \$(105,426) | 12% projection; current 9.9% increase |
| County Clerk | \$111,600 | 2018 elections – election judge pay increases in 2016 |
| Sheriff | \$40,000 | Increase for cars – not restored to full funding |
| Coroner | \$10,400 | Increase for lab fees – synthetic drugs |
| Circuit Court | \$20,000 | Attorney/Legal Services |
| Expenditure Impacts | \$(174,576) | |

Items that are not reflected in the budget at this time are the hospital property tax exemption case, health insurance premium improvements, fund balance discrepancies to be resolved with the Auditor, increased headcount of – County Executive, County Board Strategic Plan: ERP Replacement and Cloud services implementation.

The hearing recessed for a break at 8:05 p.m. and resumed at 8:17 p.m.

The hearing adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant

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