



**Champaign County Board
Legislative Budget Hearing
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES – APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED ON OCTOBER 9, 2018

DATE: Tuesday, August 28, 2018
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Lyle Shields Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802

Committee Members

Present: Anderson, Clemmons, Clifford, Douglas, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Mitchell, Patterson, Petrie, Rosales, Stohr, Summers, Vachaspati, Weibel

Absent: Cowart, Eisenmann, Quisenberry, Rector, Tinsley

County Staff: Deb Busey (Interim County Administrator), Tami Ogden (Deputy County Administrator of Finance), Tammy Asplund (Recording secretary), Jane Quinlan (Regional Office of Education), Ginger Boas (Extension Education), Brad Gould (Veterans Assistance Commission), Duane Northrup (Coroner), Janie Miller-Jones (Public Defender), Tom Difanis and Lori Hansen (Circuit Court), Dan Walsh and Allen Jones (Sheriff), Julia Rietz (State's Attorney), Mike Williams (Probation and Court Services), Katie Blakeman and Brian Kelly (Circuit Clerk), Diane Michaels (Auditor), Zebo Zebe (Board of Review), Paula Bates (Supervisor of Assessment), Gordy Hulten and Matt Grandone (County Clerk), John Farney (Treasurer), Mark Sheldon (Recorder), John Hall (Planning and Zoning), Andy Rhodes (IT), Dana Brenner (Physical Plant)

Others Present:

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

County Board Chair Pius Weibel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Goss to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Petrie. Upon vote, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Mr. McGuire entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Mitchell entered the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

IV. Budget Presentation

Mr. Weibel stated there are fifty-five funds to review and asked all to keep questions succinct.

Ms. Ogden prefaced her presentation with information provided by the Circuit Clerk. On August 20, 2018, the Governor signed House Bill 4594 – Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act. This Act is designed to streamline, standardize and reduce court fees and fines in Illinois. Ms. Ogden stated the budgets prepared and presented tonight do not reflect the impact of this recently enacted legislation.

Ms. Ogden presented a power point presentation covering the following funds: Regional Office of Education, Extension Education, Veterans Assistance Commission, Coroner, Public Defender, Circuit Court, Sheriff, State's Attorney, Court Services/Probation, Circuit Clerk, Auditor, Board of Review, Supervisor of Assessments, County Clerk, Treasurer, Recorder, Planning & Zoning, Information Technology, Physical Plant, Administrative Services, County Board, General County, ADA Compliance, and General Corporate Fund Debt Service. The presentation is available in .pdf format on the County's website. There were no questions or comments for the following budgets: Regional Office of Education, Veterans Assistance Commission, Auditor, Supervisor of Assessments, Physical Plant, Administrative Services, ADA Compliance, or General Corporate Fund Debt Service.

Extension Education

Ms. Petrie asked if Extension Education is working with other agencies on the ground water monitoring and noxious weed programs. Ms. Boas responded that yes, she is working with Soil and Water Districts, natural resource groups, Farm Bureau, and University research groups. Ms. Petrie suggested the budget contain additional detail regarding use of public funds. Ms. Ogden provided handouts related to the Extension Education budget.

Coroner

Mr. McGuire questioned whether the County is reimbursed by the State for indigent burials. According to Mr. Northrup, the State does not reimburse the County for these individuals. He noted the County has about four of these cases annually.

Public Defender

Ms. Fortado asked whether the budget for interpreters is sufficient for the year. Ms. Miller-Jones stated she believes it will be. According to Ms. Miller-Jones, the court provides interpreters for court dates. In response to a question by Ms. Petrie, Ms. Miller-Jones said she would like to hire a full time social worker, which would cost an additional \$50,000 in salary alone.

Circuit Court

Ms. Douglas asked for clarification on the Foreclosure Mediation program. Ms. Ogden explained the consideration is to increase the filing fee from \$75 to \$100. Ms. Petrie asked Ms. Hansen to estimate the cost of an additional staff member for the law library. Ms. Hansen stated the employee might be split between Foreclosure Mediation and the Law Library; and no additional funds would be necessary. In response to a question from Mr. Stohr, Ms. Hansen commented that training is not addressed in this budget due to lack of funds.

Mr. Vachaspati entered the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Sheriff

Mr. Stohr asked if the quarter-time employee for the Drug Court Program could be increased to a full-time employee. Mr. Jones responded that if funds were available, he would be happy to increase the position to full-time. Mr. Stohr responded by asking why funds could not be allocated from other areas with fund balances. Mr. Jones replied that is not possible because those other areas are restricted-use funds. Mr. Summers asked whether the record management system fee will remain flat after 2019. Mr.

Jones responded there will be a minimal increase each year; as the program fees are based on a formula related to number of users. In response to a question from Ms. Petrie, Sheriff Walsh stated the cost to provide 24/7 medical and mental health coverage is an additional \$600,000. Ms. Fortado commended the work completed by Mr. Jones and Ms. Ogden to address the funds for recommendations made by the Racial Justice Task Force.

State's Attorney

Ms. Rietz informed the board there is a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a domestic violence/victim advocacy grant. Ms. Rietz explained the grant is a multi-jurisdictional type of grant that requires a significant amount of work to apply to. Ms. Rietz stated there are several additional support positions that could be utilized by multiple departments within the courthouse - including grant writer, publicist, and data analyst. Mr. Goss asked whether the State's Attorney's office is keeping track of the expenditures related to the Carle case. Ms. Rietz replied that the case has been going on for many years and records have not been kept for the entire case. Ms. Ogden noted the case translates to approximately one million dollars annually in revenue to the County. In response to a question from Mr. Summers, Ms. Rietz commented she is unsure what the salary for a grant writer is. She noted the grant she mentioned earlier is worth \$600,000.

Court Services/Probation

Mr. Goss asked why the probation services fund balance is not being expended. Mr. Williams explained the probation services fee fund can only be spent at the direction of the Chief Judge. According to Mr. Williams, projecting the fund balance out five years, given the reductions by AOIC and flat revenue, the fund balance would be depleted by 2023. In response to a question from Ms. Petrie, Mr. Williams confirmed that the Parenting with Love and Limits program is funded by the Mental Health Board budget.

Circuit Clerk

Ms. Petrie asked what the financial impact of House Bill 4594 will have on the County. Ms. Blakeman responded that at this time the budget is based on the assumption there will be no change. She explained the bill does not take effect until July 2019. The Circuit Clerk's office will monitor the changes and respond accordingly. Mr. Stohr expressed surprise at the amount of paper files generated and stored at the Jail and Courthouse and asked whether there is a plan to move to electronic documents. Ms. Blakeman replied the State mandates civil cases be filed electronically. She stated she does not believe the IT infrastructure is in place to make all document generation and storage electronic. Ms. Blakeman noted the State mandates that some documents are microfilmed.

Board of Review

Ms. Petrie asked whether the Board of Review is keeping data relating to the neighborhood equalizers that were sent out, to determine whether they were the trigger mechanism for the appeal. Mr. Zebe responded that data has not been kept.

County Clerk

In response to a question from Mr. Vachaspati, Mr. Hulten explained the voter registration system was programmed in-house and saved the County money annually. The Clerk uses this program to process all voter registration information. He confirmed this is not a voter-facing program.

Treasurer

Ms. Fortado requested an explanation of the Treasurer Working Cash Fund. Mr. Farney commented this can only be used in very specific conditions. The limitations within the statute of the Working Cash Fund includes language stating the Treasurer would forfeit his office if this fund is not paid back. Mr. Farney described it as a “savings account we can’t touch”. In response to a question from Mr. Stohr, Mr. Farney replied the County collected approximately 362 million dollars in tax revenue. He noted Champaign County is one of the largest downstate collectors.

Recorder

Mr. Stohr asked for an explanation of the automation fund balance. Mr. Sheldon explained the intent is to cover digitization projects in the future.

Planning & Zoning

Ms. Petrie stated she believes the office to be understaffed and sees the need for the addition of another full-time employee.

Information Technology

Ms. Petrie asked for an estimate for total expenditures in the next five years. Mr. Rhodes listed several programs and items including property tax system, replacing the ERP (accounting) system, jail management, support while the AS400 ages out, courts technology software, and replacement of the phone system. Mr. Rhodes estimates seven to ten million over ten years. Mr. Vachaspati asked for an explanation of the information security operations center. Mr. Rhodes commented Homeland Security recommended an Albert sensor. According to Mr. Rhodes, the need for 24/7 monitoring requires a better system. He noted some vendors offer a concierge service with a dedicated engineer to monitor and even block potential sites around the clock.

County Board

Ms. Petrie stated she is happy to see training and conferences in some budgets where it is not mandated. Mr. Stohr asked why the Mental Health Board is paying half of the NACO dues. Mr. Weibel responded it is because Ms. Canfield is active in NACO.

General County

Ms. Fortado asked if the budget for employee health care premiums is based on the assumption there will be waivers in the following year; similarly to what the County saw in 2018. Ms. Ogden responded saying that was not taken into consideration for the FY2019 budget.

V. Adjournment

Mr. Weibel adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.