

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 7, 2008

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

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gross, Jones, McGinty (Chair), Nudo, O'Connor, Richards, Weibel, Wysocki

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doenitz

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Denny Inman (County Administrator of Facilities and Procurement)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Jones, McGinty, Nudo, O'Connor, Richards, Weibel, and Wysocki were present at the time of roll call. McGinty declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Wysocki to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by O'Connor to approve the Finance Committee regular session minutes of January 10, 2008; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS

Budget Amendment #08-00018 and Budget Amendment #08-00019

MOTION by Wysocki to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00018 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 716 Shelter Plus Care 3-Even Year for increased appropriations of \$3,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$100 for the Job-Required Travel Expense line, \$100 for the Photocopy Services line, and \$11,800 for the Emergency Shelter/Utilities line with increased revenue of \$15,000 from the HUD-Shelter Plus Care and

Budget Amendment #08-00019 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 717 Shelter Plus Care 3-Odd Year for increased appropriations of \$3,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$100 for the Job-Required Travel Expense line, \$100 for the Photocopy Services line, and \$11,800 for the Emergency Shelter/Utilities line with increased revenue of \$15,000 from the HUD-Shelter Plus Care
Motion seconded by Richards. **Motion carried.**

Budget Amendment #08-00020

MOTION by Wysocki to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00020 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 013 Debt Service for increased appropriations of \$77,613 for the Highway Facility Bond Fund 350 line with no increased revenue; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Budget Amendment #08-00021

MOTION by Richards to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00021 from Fund 090 Mental Health – Department 053 Mental Health Board for increased appropriations of \$37,000 for the Public Relations line with increased revenue of \$16,000 from the Gifts and Donations line; seconded by Wysocki.

Nudo asked if there were any other forms of revenue coming in from the DD Expo to offset the deficient. Busey explained the film was shown at the Ebert Film Festival and the additional costs are being covered by the Mental Health Fund. Wysocki stated she was present at the last Developmental Disabilities Board meeting where a number of individuals who had seen “Canvas – The Film” spoke highly of it as communicating issues concerning a mental health disorder with realism and sensitivity. She would support it based on that board’s recommendation.

Motion carried.

Gross entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Budget Amendment #08-00023

MOTION by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00023 from Fund 685 Drug Courts Program Grant – Department 053 Mental Health Board for increased appropriations of \$47,647 for the Contributions & Grants line with increased revenue of \$39,525 from the Justice-Drug Courts Program line; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Budget Amendment #08-00024

MOTION by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00024 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 022 County Clerk for increased appropriations of \$12,000 for the Election Judges & Workers line with no increased revenue; seconded by O’Connor. **Motion carried.**

Budget Amendment #08-00026

MOTION by Richards to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00026 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 071 Public Properties for increased appropriations of \$16,146 for the 1701 E Main Repair-Maintenance line with no increased revenue; seconded by Weibel.

Wysocki asked what kind of maintenance the budget amendment referred to. Inman said there are some heat exchange units that have already died and have been taken out of the construction project. The way the lease is written, this should be taken out of the County's ongoing maintenance of the facility for the tenant. Inman believes after the bidding process there will be funding available because they are under budget to help with the two years the County will need to maintain the building prior to ILEAS taking full responsibility for the building.

Motion carried.

Budget Transfer #08-00003

MOTION by Gross to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Transfer #08-00003 for a transfer of \$15,520 from the Contingent Expense line in Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 075 General County to the Other Equipment line in Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 071 Public Properties; seconded by Weibel.

Nudo said he was struggling with this transfer because it would purchase three smoking shelters for County properties. He said it is a mixed signal to employees to have smoking banned from the buildings, but then say they can smoke and kill themselves outside. He does not see the reason why the County is supporting the smokers' habit if smoking is banned from all County buildings. Busey gave the historical perspective on the issue. At the November County Board meeting, the Board approved a resolution directing the smoking shelters be built. This was the same night the County Board approved the FY2008 County Budget. It was impossible to include the expense for these structures in the budget. In fact, the cost estimates needed to prepare the budget transfer were not received until the middle of January. Busey explained this transfer is coming to the committee because of an action by the County Board. Weibel said he thought smoking was banned from the buildings because of secondhand smoke, not as an attempt to prevent people from smoking. Gross said, if she remembered the discussion correctly, the state law allows counties to create a smoking area more than fifteen feet from the buildings exterior doors. If the County does not create a smoking structure then the public can smoke anywhere on County property. Busey said the law actually states that no one can smoke within fifteen feet of an entrance to the building. If a person is eighteen feet away from a building entrance and there is no structure, the person can smoke there. Nudo asked if it was mandated that the County create the structure. The answer was no. Wysocki remarked there are still County employees smoking right outside the doors during the day. The shelters would at least move the smokers out of sight of the people who are entering and leaving the buildings. She thought one of intentions of this law was to prevent people from having to walk through a cloud of smoke to enter a smoke-free building. McGinty said he and Nudo had spoken about this transfer earlier today. When McGinty first saw this, his reason for supporting it was to think about accommodating the jurors who are asked to serve and the visitors to the Nursing Home residents. He felt the County Board made the commitment. Inman said the County Administrators did bring an initial proposal to the County Board for a complete smoking ban on County property and the County Board choose the smoking shelters option. The way the state law is written, the County Board could have been held liable for a lot of the people's action if the Board does not have some kind of organized manner for smokers to smoke in designated area. O'Connor said he was a recovered smoker and anyone who is so radical they would refuse to serve on a jury because the County made them stand out and freeze when they wanted to smoke does not get much sympathy from him. He would not want these people on a jury trying him. McGinty said his point was to accommodate those the County asks to serve.

Motion carried with Nudo, O'Connor, and Jones voting no.

ADDENDUM

Budget Amendment #08-00027

MOTION by Wysocki to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #08-00027 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 071 Public Properties for increased appropriations of \$52,500 for the Intergovernmental Loan Principle Payments line with no increased revenue; seconded by Weibel.

Weibel asked if the transfer would have any effect on the budget. Busey said it would have a \$52,500 effect on the budget.

Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

General Corporate Fund FY2008 Revenue/Expenditure Projection Report

Busey distributed her reports to the committee. This report reflects only one month of true revenue and two months of expense because most of the revenue received in December books to the previous fiscal year. At this point, which is early in the fiscal year, it looks like the Quarter Cent Sales Tax would remain flat compared to last year. Income tax is projected to be down over the initial projection and potentially lower than last year. The General Government collection of fees and fines looks slightly lower, but Busey predicted it will look differently in three months. The Non-Business Licenses & Permits, which includes Recording Fees, is over-budgeted this year based on Busey's calculations. She thought there will be a continuation of the fact that it will underachieve. The corresponding expenditure of Purchase Document Stamps is likely to be \$200,000 less in expenditure which would offset the reduced revenue. The bottom line to total revenue looks to come in at 100%, but this would be \$156,000 less than what is budgeted. The total expenditures, including the \$52,500, look to come in about \$127,000 to the good. On paper, the FY2008 budget has a \$21,000 deficit. Based on projections, the FY2008 budget could have up to a \$300,000 deficit. Busey said she does think the General Corporate Fund budget is very tight this year. She did not anticipate the committee would be looking at projections throughout the year which would anticipate increasing the fund balance as a result of this year's budget. The General Corporate Fund began FY2008 will almost a 10% fund balance at \$3.5 million and it is likely the fund will end the fiscal year at right around \$3 million.

Nudo asked at what point Busey would review all expenditures for the remaining portion of the year if the revenue drops, such as sales or property taxes. Busey explained the amount of property taxes for this year is known and will not change. Busey is working on a more substantive report for the committee next month. Busey asked if Nudo was talking about cutting this year's budget because it does not look that revenues will come in to match the expenditure. Nudo asked at what point the County would look at the budget and determine if the County wanted to continue the spending. Busey said they get very serious about the value of the information in her reports after the first quarter. So in March or April, the committee will begin to have a better idea of how substantial an impact revenues changes may have is this fiscal year. Busey's projections from May forward are fairly accurate with regard to where the General Corporate Fund ends the fiscal year. This is the point the committee would end to look at making some changes if a major deficit was projected. Nudo asked how long the delay in reporting sales tax after the quarter is. Busey said there is a three-month delay in the County's receipt of sales tax.

General Corporate Fund Budget Change Report

Report listing the changes to the General Corporate Fund budget was distributed to the committee.

Resolution for the Abatement and Reduction of Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Payment of Bonds

MOTION by Weibel to approve the Resolution for the Abatement and Reduction of Taxes Heretofore Levied for the Payment of Bonds; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Recommendation Regarding Insurance Specialist Position

Busey explained the Insurance Specialist position was sent to the Job Content Evaluation Committee for re-evaluation in January. The committee reviewed the position and found that it has increased in responsibility and recommended a reclassification to Grade Range I from Grade Range H. The Personnel Policy anticipates that reclassifications will typically coincide with the budget process. Because this request is coming to the committee so early in the fiscal year, Busey requested that it be made effective on the first day of the pay period in which the County Board would approve it. This would be February 11, 2008. Busey further stated that she came to the committee late in FY2007 to request the elimination of the Deputy County Administrator/HR and the creation of an HR Generalist positions. The HR Generalist position is classified lower than the Deputy County Administrator position. Busey believes the Administrative Services Department now has an HR Team consisting of the Insurance Specialist, Payroll Administration position, Salary Administration position, and the HR Generalist. The three other positions in the HR Team are classified in Grade Range I. Busey views all of their responsibilities and requirements to be very similar, so it seems appropriate that they are all classified in the same grade range. The Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee approved the reclassification.

Nudo asked if the County compared the Insurance Specialist position to similar positions in other businesses or counties. Busey said Champaign County compares to similar counties, which are Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, and McLean Counties. With Champaign County, these are the five counties in the State of Illinois with a population between 150,000 and 200,000. Counties with populations above 200,000 or below 150,000 tend to have a very different economic environment than Champaign County. Nudo asked for the rate of increase for the position. Busey stated that under the Personnel Policy, the promotion increase rate is 10%. Nudo asked if the person in the position would receive an annual review on his/her anniversary. Busey explained this person is an Administrative Services employee. All Administrative Services employees receive performance evaluations every November. Nudo questioned if the position would receive a raise at the time of the annual performance appraisal. Busey said the County Board typically authorizes salary increases to go into effect on December 1st. Nudo wondered if the County should double up if there is a grade range change that results in a salary increase during the year. Busey said one additional piece of information is that for this individual, who has been doing this job for at least twelve years, maybe fifteen years, this raise will place the individual just above the midpoint for this salary range. Under the Personnel Policy, the midpoint is considered to be a salary that should be paid to a competent individual in a job classification. If Busey was hiring a new person from outside, the Personnel Policy allows her to hire at a salary up to the midpoint. This employee is a seasoned Insurance Specialist with 12-15 years of experience who will be making just over the midpoint. An experienced candidate newly hired for this position would be hired in at very close to what the current individual is making. Nudo said that is a good reason for the salary increase, but from the standpoint of a general policy he wondered if the committee could consider the grade range change in lieu of a raise in December. The performance evaluation would still occur without the additional salary increase. Busey said the policy is written so that any change during a fiscal year goes into effect on the first day of the next fiscal year. She is asking for an exception because the timing of this change is different due to the timing of other changes within the HR structure in the County. There was not enough time to get it done before the beginning of the current fiscal year. Nudo said it has been the exception rather than the rule in the two meeting that he has attended. Busey explained he has seen two individual exceptions. Nudo suggested the committee consider eliminating the December raise if an employee receives a salary increase in the fiscal year as an exception to the Personnel Policy. McGinty noted a person sometimes receives a partial increase during the year and the increase is

completed at the end of the year in private industries. Nudo said the County should consider it to be fair to other employees when an exception is made to the Personnel Policy.

Gross asked if part of the goal in this reclassification was to get the four HR people in the same classification. Busey confirmed it was and clarified that this increase will not place this individual's salary at the same rate as the others in the classification. Gross hypothesized that if the Insurance Specialist did not receive the regular December increase and the other HR people, then position would again fall behind the others. Busey said her other concern is that the candidates for the HR Generalist are being interviewed and there are some very good candidates for the new position. Busey is concerned if the Insurance Specialist, who has been at the County for a long time doing this job, is not brought to the midpoint, yet Busey could hire someone into a brand new position at the midpoint. As a manager, she would not want to surpass the Insurance Specialist's salary with a new hire into a new position in the same classification. But she does want the flexibility to hire up to the midpoint of the classification for the HR Generalist position if she is able to recruit a well experienced and seasoned candidate because she thinks it will result in better services through the department.

Weibel suggested looking into changing the Personnel Policy to have rules about position changes that are made within the first six months of the fiscal year. Busey thinks the goal is well stated in the current Personnel Policy because this truly is an exception, as was the exception in the Supervisor of Assessments' Office that was approved last month. The goal of the policy is to gear department heads towards being very much in tune with whether or not their positions are appropriately classified in the budget season, so that the increase does tie in with December 1st. Most re-evaluation requests come later in the fiscal year; this is just an exceptional situation. Nudo asked if it was possible that this committee could take a look at revising the policy down the road. He would support the reclassification before the committee tonight because he agrees it is legitimate. Busey said the committee could look at the policy and make a recommendation to the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee about a change.

Motion carried.

McGinty said the committee would proceed through the rest of the agenda and save the closed sessions for the end.

Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)2 to Consider Collective Negotiating Matters Between Champaign County and its Employees or Their Representatives

MOTION by Weibel to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)2 to consider collective negotiating matters between Champaign County and its employees or their representatives. He further moved the following individuals remain present: County's legal counsel, County Administrators, County Engineer, Nursing Home Administrator, and the Recording Secretary. Motion seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8 to 0.** Gross, Jones, McGinty, Nudo, O'Connor, Richards, Weibel, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion. The committee entered into closed session at 7:57 p.m. The committee resumed open session at 8:14 p.m.

Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1 to Consider the Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of an Employee

MOTION by Weibel to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1 to consider the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an employee. He further moved the following individuals remain present: County's legal counsel, County Administrators, and the Recording Secretary. Motion seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8 to 0.** Gross, Jones,

McGinty, Nudo, O'Connor, Richards, Weibel, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion. The committee entered into closed session at 8:16 p.m. The committee resumed open session at 8:23 p.m.

ADDENDUM

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Champaign County Board and AFSCME, General Unit and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Champaign County Board and AFSCME, Nursing Home Unit

MOTION by Richards to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Champaign County Board and AFSCME, General Unit and the Memorandum of Understanding Between Champaign County Board and AFSCME, Nursing Home Unit; seconded by Jones. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Nursing Home Administrator Performance Incentive Agreement for FY2008

MOTION by Jones to approve the Nursing Home Administrator Performance Incentive Agreement for FY2008 as amended on performance measure two; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER

Monthly Report

Dan Welch, the County Treasurer, had informed McGinty that he would not be present at the meeting and sent his report ahead of time to be included in the addendum packet.

MOTION by Gross to receive and place on file the Treasurer's January 2008 monthly report; seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried.**

AUDITOR

Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy

Tony Fabri, the Auditor, also told McGinty he would not be present at the meeting. Fabri did not send a Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy list for the committee.

ADDENDUM

Monthly Report

MOTION by Gross to receive and place on file the Auditor's January 2008 monthly report; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

INTER-COMMITTEE REQUEST FROM COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Approval of Transfer from Contingency Fund to Pay for Pay Station Enclosure Structure

Discussion over this topic is documented below.

Budget Transfer #08-00004

MOTION by Weibel to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Transfer #08-00004 for a transfer of \$5,245 from the Contingent Expense line in Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 075 General County to the Other Equipment line in Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 071 Public Properties; seconded by Richards.

Weibel asked if the shelter for the pay station located at the parking lot adjacent to the Courthouse was a combination smoking shelter/shelter to keep the pay station dry. Busey said this shelter was not intended for smoking, it is intended to protect the pay station so that it will work. Weibel asked if people could smoke there. Inman said no. He explained that the firm took the standard bus shelter and made it into shelters for a variety of purposes. With the significantly colder weather, the pay station for the Courthouse parking lot froze up and had to have a board replaced. It was recommended that the pay station be enclosed and heated a bit to prevent freezing in the future so the pay station will continue to work. Inman said there would be a smoking shelter adjacent to it, but people who are trying to pay for parking will not have to be exposed to second smoke. Wysocki asked how much revenue the County was realizing from the pay station. Busey said the revenue is about \$20,000 annually. Gross asked how much it cost to repair the pay station. Inman said the board cost about \$2,500 and stated we do the repairs ourselves. Gross asked if this was the first problem or repair with the pay station. Inman said the most prevalent problem is when the pay station runs out of paper or it fills with coinage. Actual physical maintenance problems have been minimal in the three years the pay station has been in place. Gross asked how long the shelter would last. Inman estimated its life at twenty years; it is stainless steel with bronze coating. Gross asked if the shelter would be heated. Inman said it would. Nudo asked if there would be an ongoing charge for the heat. Inman said the cost would be minuscule on the heat bill. Inman explained there is electrical already out to that particular point, so the costs are the insulation, the shelter itself, and about \$20 in electrical parts to put it in place.

Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

McGinty had spoken to Steve Beckett, the County Facilities Committee Chair, about the long-range planning initiative of a capital improvement plan that was earmarked for the County Facilities Committee. Based on the financial implications of a capital improvement plan and the number of issues already before the County Facilities Committee, McGinty asked Beckett if the Finance Committee could tackle the capital improvement plan. Beckett had no objection. McGinty wanted to let the committee know this would be coming. Both Nudo and McGinty have experience with capital improvement plans and can share their knowledge. Nudo said a plan was a good idea to help the departments prioritize for themselves and to have them understand what the County Board is truly looking for with capital improvements. A capital improvement mission statement would allow the County Board to prioritize capital improvement requests. McGinty said there may be some joint meetings with the County Facilities Committee on this plan. Any questions are welcome. Wysocki asked if the capital improvement plan would include paying some attention to regular maintenance on County facilities. Busey said it absolutely would. McGinty said it should be a pretty comprehensive plan that shows short-term and long-term needs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Inman provided a yellow sheet on the Construction Education Program Plan and Budget. McGinty asked if this page was for information only at this point. Inman said yes. McGinty suggested questions or comments be sent to Inman. Wysocki asked if this program was a part of the ongoing conversation to encourage minorities to move into the building trades. Inman said yes. Wysocki asked if this budget was the whole budget or does it represent the County's share of it. Inman stated that the yellow sheet he gave to the committee represented the summer program that will take place in either June or July 2008. It is a four to six week initial program to be conducted at Central High School and run by Alex Ramirez, one of the few vocational teachers left in the area. The class size will hopefully be fifteen students. Inman said what has transpired since the last meeting was the Construction Education Taskforce was going to go for an Employment Opportunities Grant from Department of Commerce and Equal Opportunity. The Taskforce's contact switched positions within the organization and did not tell the Taskforce that money was becoming immediately available, so the Taskforce

missed a grant cycle. Inman said he was going to amend his request in lieu of \$25,000 to be \$22,640 to help assist in funding the summer program at Central High School in FY2008. Other agencies that will help with this program are Parkland College, IBEW 601, United Way Trades, Team at Parkland, and the University of Illinois. The Employment Opportunity System will also participate in this program. The other agencies will do various things, IBEW 601 will do the OSHA card class testing and issuing the cards so students can go onsite to different construction projects. Wysocki asked who would do the recruiting of these students. Inman said they are pressing heavily on Unit 4 in Urbana in particular to use the counselors to identify the individual students. At the Taskforce's January 30th meeting, they worked on an application. The initial application was five pages and they got it down to three-quarters of a page. The application requires an endorsement from a parent, an endorsement from a counselor, and attached transcripts. The amount of paperwork a student has to do to get into this program is now minimal. One Taskforce group is working on the curriculum and another group is working on the marketing. The Taskforce has had presentations at the Parkland Engineering Open House, in which 600 students attended, of which 130 were from Unit 4 in Urbana. There is a Trades Up on May 7-8, 2008 in which ten students from middle and high schools will be hand-picked, selected with the help of counselors and teachers, who have indicated they have an interest in the construction trades. The students will go onsite and have approximately twenty to thirty minutes of a hands-on session with each trade. The Grade Career Conference at Savoy was held January 7-22, 2008 with 2,500 students and the trades had a well-received presentation there.

McGinty asked Inman if he would be returning to the committee with information in a format for consideration. Inman said he has asked Weibel for permission to take this program directly to the County Board on February 21, 2008 because the program starts in either June or July and the Taskforce cannot get state funding in that short amount of time. He said Naomi Jakobsson is trying to get the grant situation straightened out. Weibel asked if this was something that could not wait until next month. Inman said that was correct.

Jones asked for clarification of the cost of the program. Inman explained the second and fourth items "Teacher Stipend (monthly)" and "Student Stipend (monthly)" should not be there because those are items for a program over the course of an eight-month school year. Jones asked if the County Board was being asked to fund the entire \$22,640 cost of the program and whether the other partners would be paying a portion of the costs. Inman said either Parkland or the Employment System will pay \$1,000. IBEW will probably contribute between \$1,500-\$2,000 for the OSHA cards. Central's costs for using the building are not calculated in the budget. The budget does pay for Mr. Ramirez's salary. Jones asked if the County's portion was over \$20,000. Inman said yes. Jones asked why the County needs to be involved in this if all the other partners are actively involved. Inman said they would have to talk about it historically from that perspective and other Board members could give a better account. McGinty said he recalled the questions at a previous committee meeting mainly being around the issue raised by Jones; namely why was the County the only entity being asked to put up money. At that time, the committee requested Inman investigate getting other entities to pay for the program. McGinty asked if that has happened. Inman answered that he could not comment other than give a range on IBEW's contribution and what he knows about OSHA. McGinty asked if that was a cash contribution. Inman said it was an in-kind contribution. McGinty requested to know about the cash contributions from the other entities and whether the County was the only entity being asked to spend money to make this happen. Inman said no, it would be Parkland and the Employment System. Inman said those entities have been funding the Construction Education Taskforce through their administrative funding to get the Taskforce to this point. Otherwise the Taskforce would be dead in the water. They were the ones who are going to be helping to try to get the grant from DCEO. McGinty asked if this was still an expenditure to get a \$100,000 grant. Inman said no, this is solely for the initial summer construction program. Jones said he understood the County has had an issue with finding minority contractors, but asked why the County is being asked to fund a program to train contractors. He further asked if the Cities of Champaign and Urbana experienced the same problems in finding minority contractors and, if so, why the funding is solely relying on the County. Inman said he had a meeting with Steve Carter of the City of Champaign and thought it would be within Carter's legal authority to approve

funding for the school-year program that would start in the fall. The City of Urbana has had two individuals attend Taskforce meetings and Inman believed they had talked about a \$500 scholarship and summer work shadowing.

McGinty said if this request goes to the full Board, then Inman will get these same questions, which also came up at the meeting months ago. The Board members will ask whether other entities, such as the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, will help pay if they have the same need. He noted a \$500 scholarship versus over \$20,000 in funding is not balanced. McGinty thought this program plan and budget needed to be clearer before it is brought before the County Board. The program is great and needs to happen, but it needs to happen the right way. It is not clear who else could contribute and how much. Inman said the information is going to be the information and it will be incomplete. Inman said the school district is in the middle of their throes and they will not throw in one cent. The school district is just coming to the recognition that they have a financial and educational responsibility to do this. Inman said they are trying to get the courses approved by the state.

O'Connor said it is the County's best interest to back this program 100% because the County is who will have to entertain some of these kids in the Juvenile Detention Center if this program does not work. McGinty inquired if O'Connor thought the County should be the only ones providing that support. O'Connor said he would have to know what it costs to keep someone in the JDC for a day to know what \$26,000 means to us. Gross stated that she wanted to see the total cost, those who are contributing, and what amounts they are contributing. She wanted more information and a proper budget for the program.

Nudo asked if this funding was in the FY2008 budget. Busey shook her head to indicate a negative answer. Weibel spoke up that he has a request to the Regional Office of Education for a report on the status of high school teaching of vocational classes or industrial arts. He has a draft of this report and has requested more material from Jane Quinlan, which he hopes to have by the time the County Board agenda packet, is mailed. McGinty thanked Inman for the information.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

McGinty designated agenda items V A-G & I, VI C-D & G-I, and IX B for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 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.