

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

County Facilities Committee

November 1, 2004

Meeting Room 1, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beckett, Brumback, Greenwalt, Knott, Crozier, Sapp

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cowart, Smith, Jay

OTHERS PRESENT: Joel Fletcher (State's Attorney's Office),
Deb Busey (County Administrator),
Roger Holland, (Court Administrator),
Barb Wysocki, Bob Kirchner (County Board
members)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Beckett called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Declaring a quorum present, the chair proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Knott to approve the agenda; seconded by Crozier. There was no addendum. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Brumback to approve the regular and closed session minutes of October 5, 2004 as presented; seconded by Crozier. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

DIVERSITY STUDY

Professor Burton Presentation/Discussion

Mr. Beckett introduced Professor Vernon Burton, a Social Scientist from the University of Illinois who has a broad background in cases involving discrimination. He has asked him to speak to the committee to help everyone understand what a racial disparity study is, how much it will cost, how you do it and what can be done with it.

Professor Burton explained there are several ways to do a racial disparity study therefore you will ultimately pay how much you want. He believes that the actual study, the real work that goes into it could be done at the University because the statistics, while they sound complicated are fairly simple. He stated we would need to get a good sense of how the population looks to get a sense of where the contracts are going, a study is a fancy way of showing what proportion you have in a population and what proportion of contracts is awarded. He recommends we do a historical interpretation of the community as well so it puts something there besides the numbers themselves.

Mr. Fletcher stated the comparison we are making is not between the contractors the County has used in the past and minorities in the population as a whole but rather a comparison between the contractors the County has used and those contractors who are willing and able, given that definition will vary from project to project.

Mr. Burton stated we will also want to check and see, if there are minority contractors, why none are applying; although that is separate from the statistics. To figure out who is qualified will take research, and it can get complicated especially if we award contracts from outside the area. This study just looks to see what has happened, it is just a statistic. He explained the County must first decide how broad we want this study to be and what we want to concentrate on. He believes history will come in handy and many times when you go to court Judges understand the history and it makes sense to them.

His feeling is that we would never need to hire a private firm who could charge from \$100-\$200 per hour to much more, when we have the resources at the University of Illinois. The County could gather the data, then it is just a question of putting the numbers into a spreadsheet for a few thousand dollars. These private firms are generally people who are doing this instead of teaching at a University, his experience when he has gone to court seems to be that Judges prefer someone who is not a professional.

Mr. Beckett stated his impression is that the County could do this study and assuming the study reflected a need for action to bring minorities in to the County framework, we could use that as a basis for a program to accomplish that. If we created a program there is the chance that someone who thought that action was wrong could file a lawsuit against the County at which time the validity of the study would come into play.

Mr. Fletcher stated there is concern when using a professional expert in this aspect where the law is changing constantly that they are reluctant to change their models because it calls into questions everything they have done before.

Mr. Burton stated the firms that he knows that would do these studies do not have attorneys, just statisticians or experts who could testify in Court. The expert we hire will not be an expert in the remedy to racial disparity just an expert in putting the numbers together. He stated that not many firms specialize in this; you would find a firm who will contract out with social scientists to do a study.

COURTHOUSE

Courthouse Navigation Project - Use of Courthouse Library

Valerie McWilliams, managing attorney for land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, informed the committee that her office, which has 5 attorneys and covers 3 Counties, deals with civil cases offering free services only to those people below a certain income level. There are roughly 8-9 thousand eligible people for each of their attorneys so there are many people having to represent themselves and stumble through the process not knowing what they are supposed to do. Her organization has received a small grant to pay for a computer and printer, and would like to try 5 mornings a week, if space can be found, to have someone at the Courthouse with a computer and internet access to print out legal information sheets and provide proper forms to the public. She stressed this service will provide legal information and not advice with the goal simply to provide people with more direction.

Mr. Holland stated that Judge Townsend had suggested using the space where the Clock and Bell Tower display is but the IT department has decided that would not be feasible. The second suggestion was made to use the area that could now become the family waiting room, that was also determined to not be suitable. His suggestion at that point was the front desk where the RSVP volunteers are now located. He suggested using one of the conference rooms as an alternative but they would have to ensure the room is equipped with the proper jack and deal with the IT department in handling the firewall network issues.

Ms. McWilliams stated they do not have concerns about sharing space with the RSVP volunteers at the front desk but noted being in a conference room would address any privacy issues people may have.

Committee consensus to find a location in the Courthouse and direct Mr. Inman, working with Tim Breen, to solve the network concerns.

Mr. Beckett stated that Mr. Jay could not attend the meeting but did report to him that he still opposes this project.

Courthouse User Group List

Mr. Inman stated the exterior masonry work is up for action this evening, and he anticipates the landscape and corner signs will be completed at the end of November. He informed the committee that he received a complaint from a citizen who felt the current position of the signs prohibit a clear view of traffic, he suggested the citizen contact the City of Urbana.

The Public Defender expansion is complete with an official move in date around November 11th.

New items added to the list include the vending area at the Courthouse. The plan had been to place a wall that would come out about 2 feet but due to security concerns the vending machines will be placed against the current wall.

Public Defender & Jury Assembly Seating Project Update

Addressed above

Masonry Stabilization & Restoration Project Update

Mr. Inman provided the committee with the A/E report which contains the deficiencies that were noted by the A/E team, he reviewed those deficiencies and the repair options provided by Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger.

The schematic design estimate is \$3.9 million, when the contract for these services was negotiated it was estimated at 4 million. The 3.9 also includes a 25% contingency which is adequate and he believes will be reduced to 15% after design development. If these are approved, construction should begin around May 2005.

Mr. Inman explained there were 2 issues that caught them off guard, the remedial wall and the masonry arches. He feels it is fortunate that they can suggest these items be taken care of in the original budget.

MOTION by Crozier to recommend County Board acceptance and approval of the base bid schematic design and the project schedule as presented in the report from Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger dated October 25, 2004; seconded by Greenwalt. **Motion carried.**

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Invoices #0044056 & 0044762

MOTION by Crozier to recommend County Board approval of Invoices #0044056 & #0044762 in the amount of \$56,885.23 from Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger for Professional Services provided through September, 2004. Invoices are for Masonry repairs and Tower Restoration; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY NURSING HOME CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Farnsworth Group Invoice # 80514

MOTION by Brumback to recommend County Board approval of Invoice #80514 from Farnsworth Group in the amount of \$589.00 for Professional Services provided through September 24, 2004. Invoice is for Site Observation; seconded by Crozier. **Motion carried.**

PKD Incorporated Pay Request #21

MOTION by Brumback to recommend County Board approval of Pay Request #21 in the amount of \$36,897.00 from PKD Incorporated for Professional Services provided through October 20, 2004. Pay Request is itemized as follows: \$11,415 - Staff; \$6,751 - Construction Fee; \$923 - Reimbursables; \$17,808 - General Conditions; seconded by Crozier. **Motion carried.**

Construction Project Update

Mr. Inman stated the walls for wing 2 have been poured and they are still taking delivery of walls and trusses although they are having trouble with the rain. They are trying to get the basement enclosed before winter and the goal is still to have wings 1,2, & 3 under roof so the drywall can be completed over the winter; if we get that done we will still be on schedule.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clock & Bell Tower Project

Mr. Beckett stated the committee continues to work on fundraising with members of the community who have shown interest in the project, he hopes to have some major announcements in the next month.

DETERMINATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Committee consensus to include items VI E, VII A & B on the County Board Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS/CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Beckett expressed his thanks to the current committee stating he has enjoyed working with everyone and is proud of what they have accomplished.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Beckett declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary