

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Finance/Policy, Personnel, & Appointments/Justice & Social Services

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Alix, Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson, Ron Bensyl, Astrid Berkson, Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Stephanie Holderfield, Stan James, John Jay, Brad Jones, Greg Knott, Alan Kurtz, Brendan McGinty, Diane Michaels, Alan Nudo, Steve O'Connor, Patti Petrie, James Quisenberry, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Larry Sapp, Jonathan Schroeder, C. Pius Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Betz, Ralph Langenheim, Steve Moser

OTHERS PRESENT: Sergeant Curtis Apperson (Sheriff's Office), Kat Bork (Administrative Assistant), Deb Busey (County Administrator), David DeThorne (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Tony Fabri (Auditor), John Hall (Planning & Zoning Director), Stan Jenkins (Supervisor of Assessments), Andy Rhodes (IT Director), Mark Shelden (County Clerk), Dan Welch (Treasurer)

CALL TO ORDER

Weibel called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bork called the roll. Alix, Ammons, Anderson, Bensyl, Berkson, Carter, Cowart, Holderfield, James, Jay, Jones, Knott, Kurtz, McGinty, Michaels, Nudo, O'Connor, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Sapp, Schroeder, and Weibel were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

Weibel announced Betz, Langenheim, and Moser were out of town.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

MOTION by James to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Kurtz.

Weibel stated agenda item agenda item 7.E.2, the Resolution in Opposition in HB5055 under Other Business for Policy, Personnel, & Appointments is removed. The bill is not going anywhere at this time. He further stated agenda item 9.A.9 under Finance, Budget Amendment #11-00004 was removed from the agenda and the discussion of the VAC would be moved to the top of the Finance agenda items.

Rosales entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Motion carried as amended with unanimous support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Woznick, a Champaign County Chamber of Commerce member and a board member for a business empowered PAC; spoke about the size of the County Board. He was speaking on behalf of both entities to support moving forward on reducing the size of the County Board following the public approval of the advisory referendum on the November agenda. A smaller County Board coupled with non-partisan redistricting would benefit the voters of Champaign County.

Weibel closed public participation after verifying no one else wished to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kurtz announced that they will be able to reopen the Courthouse's helpdesk for the next year. They have come up with either private donations or grants with the help of Cameron Moore from RPC, Valerie McWilliams from Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, Roger Holland and Linda Frank from the Courthouse. Kurtz thanked the individuals for their support. They are looking for a more permanent solution. The helpdesk will reopen in January.

POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS

Appointments/Reappointments

Rural Transportation Advisory Group

MOTION by Weibel to appoint Christine Bruns (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2011), Minor Jackson (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2011), Martha Paap (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2012), Andy Kulczycki (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2012), Michelle Ramage (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2012), and Stan James (term from 12/22/2010 to 11/30/2012) to the Rural Transportation Advisory Group; seconded by McGinty.

Weibel said the individual applications were on the Board's desks. The individuals were recommended to him by the people who were actually starting this service. Schroeder wished more people who lived outside Champaign or Urbana, such as in Rantoul, had applied for these appointments, but he had no objections to the appointees. Weibel explained each appointee covered a number of different requirements. Andy Kulczycki worked in Rantoul and Stan James was from Rantoul.

Petrie inquired why the terms for some members were shorter than others. Weibel explained the terms were staggered to prevent all the members' terms from expiring at one time.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

MOTION by Weibel to appoint Linda Bauer and Ronald Peters to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District for terms from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015; seconded by Kurtz.

Petrie asked Weibel why he chose Bauer over James Butler. Weibel said Bauer was selected over the other two candidates because she is an active bus rider and he wants someone on the board who uses the bus.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Champaign Southwest Mass Transit District

MOTION by Weibel to appoint David Short to the Champaign Southwest Mass Transit District from a term from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015; seconded by James.

Motion carried.

Appointment of the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair

MOTION by Weibel to appoint Eric Thorsland as Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals; seconded by Cowart.

Weibel noted Thorsland already sits on the ZBA; this appointment is just to make him the Chair.

Schroeder stated he served on ZBA for ten years and for five years as the ZBA. He has nothing against Thorsland, but Schroeder was very disappointed with how Thorsland conducted himself at the meetings when he took over as substitute Chair during the public hearings for the windmill farms. Schroeder stressed that ZBA is the County Board's ear for zoning and ZBA is the public hearing body for land use in Champaign County. He felt a witness was almost being badgered at one of the windmill farm public hearings. The Chair can ask questions, but should not suppose how the witness will answer. He would not vote for Thorsland for the Chair position at the present time.

Kurtz spoke in support of appointing Thorsland the ZBA Chair and of his dedication as a public servant.

Holderfield identified herself as the witness Thorsland badgered at a public hearing and felt it was unfortunate that anyone would ever be treated with such disrespect and disdain. She had nothing against Thorsland as person, however, his activity was inappropriate and she cannot vote to support that behavior. She understood there is no one else willing to step forward in order to be ZBA Chair. She asked the Board to consider shelving this appointment. If Thorsland is appointed as Chair, she suggested there should be an understanding that no one ever deserves to be treated in that manner.

Kurtz asked if Holderfield should not vote on this appointment due to what he termed a conflict of interest. Ammons said Holderfield could vote against the motion and disagreed that Holderfield had a conflict of interest. Weibel called for a point of order because Holderfield does not have an obvious conflict of interest by the definition of that term since Holderfield has no financial gain in this vote.

Jay spoke of his service on the ZBA and the excellent Chairs the ZBA has had in the past. The ZBA cannot have a Chair who badgers witnesses who come before the ZBA. He recommended the County Board carefully think about who is being appointed as the ZBA Chair. The Board continued to discuss the appointment of Thorsland as the ZBA Chair.

Motion carried.

Community Action Board

MOTION by Weibel to appoint Bill Manning to the Community Action Board for a term from December 22, 2010 to December 1, 2012; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Lincoln Exhibits Committee

Request for Approval of Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding between the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Foundation, and the Champaign County Board

MOTION by Cowart to approve the amendment to Memorandum of Understanding between the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, the Champaign County Forest Preserve District Foundation, and the Champaign County Board; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Lincoln Exhibits Committee 1st Annual Report to the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, December 2010

MOTION by Weibel to receive and place on file the Lincoln Exhibits Committee 1st Annual Report to the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, December 2010; seconded by James.

James was aware Wysocki has been very active as a member of the committee and he was impressed at the job done by the committee on exhibits even with limited funds.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

County Administrator

Vacant Positions Listing

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only.

County Clerk
Monthly Fees Report

MOTION by Weibel to receive and place on file the County Clerk monthly fees report for November 2010 and the Semi-Annual Report - November 2010; seconded by Alix.

Petrie asked why the November 2010 report listed the date it was signed as June 2009. Shelden presumed that was a typo.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Request Approval of Liquor Ordinance Amendments

MOTION by Weibel to approve the Liquor Ordinance amendments requested by Mark Shelden; seconded by O'Connor.

Weibel stated these amendments were deferred from the November meeting because he had hoped to get some information from the County's legal counsel on this issue before this meeting. He has not received any information from the State's Attorney's Office, neither had Shelden or Busey.

MOTION by Weibel to defer the item until more information is received; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried to defer with unanimous support.**

Other Business

Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Champaign County 2011 Apportionment Plan

MOTION by McGinty to approve the Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Champaign County 2011 Apportionment Plan; seconded by Knott.

Knott was extremely pleased the issue has gotten this far, since it has been developing for three-four years. The voters validated the discussion held last fall about reducing the size of the County Board with the referendum. He urged his colleagues to validate the voters' direction by forwarding this resolution to the Redistricting Commission. Knott thought a smaller board with more districts would be more effective. The Board discussed various options last fall and the 22-member, 11-district County Board was a compromise of those options.

Petrie shared what she has heard from constituents about the Board size issue. She is in favor of reducing the size of the Board. Members of the public have commented to her on the functionality, or lack thereof, of the County Board. People who wanted the Board to improve its functionality always listed reducing the size of the Board as a way to make that happen. She has learned that the reason some people voted against referendum was that there was only one option on Board size and it would create an even number of Board members. People voted for the referendum because they wanted a smaller County Board and change in the Board. She was concerned about the restrictiveness of tonight's resolution compared to comments she has heard from certain constituents.

Anderson will vote for the resolution because the voters supported it. None of the voters she has spoken to have made any suggestions about their preferred number of Board members; they just wanted a smaller Board.

James heard comments from rural residents who were worried about a large rural area having only two representatives. He compared it to the amount of area covered by the representatives in the state or federal governments.

Berkson remarked that people objected to a lack of choice in referendum question. Most people she spoke with wanted a smaller County Board. She did not think the Board gave people enough choices.

McGinty described how the size options were vigorously discussed by the last Board and why the compromise was reached to place the issue on the ballot. 74% of voters supported the referendum changing the Board size and number of districts and he will respect what the people said. He recommended supporting the resolution and moving on.

Nudo and O'Connor also spoke in support of the resolution.

Michaels asked for roll call vote.

Carter stated the people in his district wanted to know why no one could answer their questions. He claimed only a few Board members run the County Board and the Board size was not the problem.

Kurtz noted the referendum was advisory and this does not stop the Board members from bringing a substitute resolution for a smaller board with a different make-up.

James called the question.

Motion carried with a vote of 23 to 1. Alix, Ammons, Anderson, Bensyl, Berkson, Cowart, Holderfield, James, Jay, Jones, Knott, Kurtz, McGinty, Michaels, Nudo, O'Connor, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, Sapp, Schroeder, and Weibel voted in favor of the motion. Carter voted against the motion.

Resolution in Opposition to HB5055

This item was removed from the agenda.

Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda

Agenda items 7.A 1-2, 5, & B.1 were designated for the consent agenda.

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES
Monthly Reports

Richards announced there was no current report from the Emergency Management Agency.

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Animal Control October 2010, Head Start November 2010, and Probation & Court Services October 2010, and Public Defender September 2010 monthly reports; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Animal Control

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Champaign

MOTION by Ammons to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Champaign; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impound Services with City of Urbana

MOTION by Carter to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impound Services with City of Urbana; seconded by Quisenberry.

James asked if this contract would bring in more revenue. Busey said the agreement reflects a slight increase.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair's Report

Richards announced the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection meeting was canceled this month.

Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda

There were no items for the consent agenda.

FINANCE

Budget Amendments & Transfers

Budget Amendment #10-00099

MOTION by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00099 from Fund 670 County Clerk Automation Fund – Department 022 County Clerk for

increased appropriations of \$5,000 for the Regular Part-Time Employees line and \$2,000 for the Joint Department Regular Employee line with no increased revenue; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00100

MOTION by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00100 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 021 Board of Review for increased appropriations of \$4,298 for the Appointed Official Salary line with no increased revenue; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00101

MOTION by Cowart to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00101 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 080 General Corporate for increased appropriations of \$1,279 for the Cooperative Extension Service line with increased revenue of \$1,279 from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes line seconded by Jay. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Transfer #10-00012

MOTION by Cowart to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Transfer #10-00012 from Fund 613 Court's Automation Fund – Department 030 Circuit Clerk for transfers of \$125 to the Salaries and Wages line, \$1,100 to the IMRF-Employer Cost line, and \$30 to the Workers' Compensation Insurance line from the Furnishings, Office Equipment line; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Transfer #10-00013

MOTION by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Transfer #10-00013 from Fund 081 Nursing Home – Departments 410 Administrative, 430 Nursing Services, and 462 Alzheimer's Unit for transfers of \$41,000 to the Full-Time Employees line, \$28,000 to the Overtime line, \$30,000 to the No-Benefit Full-Time Employees line, \$24,000 to the IMRF- Employer Cost line, \$24,000 to the Regular Full-Time Employees line, and another \$13,000 to the IMRF-Employer Cost line from the Grant Match line; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Schroeder returned to the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Budget Amendment #11-00001

MOTION by Jay to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #11-00001 from Fund 083 County Highway – Department 060 Highway for increased appropriations of \$107,760 for the Heavy Equipment line with no increased revenue; seconded by Cowart. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #11-00002

MOTION by James to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #11-00002 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 071 Public Properties for increased appropriations of \$60,924 for the Brookens Building Repair-Maintenance line with increased revenue of \$60,924 from the DOE-Energy Efficiency, Conservation-ARRA line; seconded by Rosales.

Weibel exited the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Budget Amendment #11-00003

MOTION by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #11-00003 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 010 County Board for increased appropriations of \$7,500 for the Martin Luther King Event Expense line with increased revenue of \$7,500 from the Martin Luther King Event Contributions line; seconded by Richards. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #11-00004

This item was removed from the agenda.

Budget Transfer #11-00001

MOTION by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Transfer #11-00001 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 036 Public Defender for a transfer of \$38,700 for the Attorney Fees line from the Regular Full-Time Employees line; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Petrie inquired why the monthly payments increased after three months. Busey explained the Public Defender negotiated the compensation and terms of this contract, so she was unable to answer why the compensation increased

Weibel returned to the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Bensyl asked if the item could be deferred until the Public Defender could provide answers to the questions about the compensation. Busey stated the contract was negotiated in April 2010 and is already in place. The compensation increases from March through November to \$3,300 instead of \$3,000. Weibel suggested moving this item to the December County Board meeting and only deferring it at that meeting if the information is not received. Busey stated the Public Defender actually provided the Board with more information than they would normally receive with a budget amendment by providing the contract.

Bensyl asked to forward this budget amendment to the County Board meeting without a recommendation. There was no objection from Board members to move the budget amendment to the County Board meeting without a recommendation.

Budget Amendment #11-00007

MOTION by Jay to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #11-00007 from Fund 080 General Corporate – Department 043 Emergency Management Agency for increased appropriations of \$19,548 for the Other Equipment line with increased revenue of \$19,548 from the Homeland Security-State Homeland Security Program line; seconded by Ammons. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00105

MOTION by Jones to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00105 from Fund 076 Tort Immunity Tax Fund – Department 075 General County for increased appropriations of \$54,000 for the Worker’s Compensation Insurance line with no increased revenue; seconded by Holderfield.

James inquired if the budget amendment was intended to pay for workers’ compensation premiums, not because the County has been sued. Busey confirmed that was accurate.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Budget Amendment #10-00104

MOTION by Ammons to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00104 from Fund 627 Property Tax Interest Fee Fund – Department 026 County Treasurer for increased appropriations of \$72,000 for the To General Corporate Fund 080 line with no increased revenue; seconded by Cowart. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

State’s Attorney

Resolution to Designate the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as Agent and Resolution Authorizing a Litigation Assistance Agreement Between the County of Champaign & the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor

MOTION by James to approve the Resolution to Designate the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as Agent and Resolution Authorizing a Litigation Assistance Agreement Between the County of Champaign & the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Hiring Freeze Waiver

Request to Waive Hiring Freeze for Part-Time Custodian Position

MOTION by Kurtz to waive the hiring waive for the part-time Custodian position; seconded by Anderson.

James wanted to know if this request was for a new position. Busey stated this is an existing position that Physical Plant is asking to fill because an employee left the County's employment. James wanted to give the department heads the right to fill positions if people leave, as long as the position is not new. Busey explained there is a recommendation to change the hiring freeze resolution later on this agenda that addresses that issue.

Berkson noted that no shrinkage by attrition can be accomplished if every vacated position is replaced. Busey concurred and explained 40 positions have been eliminated from County departments since the current hiring freeze was adopted.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

Request Waiver of Hiring Freeze for Appraiser/Analyst Position

MOTION by Nudo to waive the hiring waive for the Appraiser/Analyst position; seconded by Knott.

Weibel asked for the Supervisor of Assessments to explain why it would be extremely difficult for his office to fulfill statutory obligations without this position. Jenkins stated that his office is staffed by seven employees, whereas two years ago it had nine employees. The last employee who filled the Appraiser/Analyst position exited the County on October 1, 2010. The necessity of filling the position is because next year is a general reassessment year and every parcel needs to be revalued or reviewed. There are also three new township assessors who began their terms on January 1, 2010 and they are still getting up to speed. Jenkins stated there is money in the existing budget to fill this position.

Motion carried.

Sheriff

Request Approval of Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement

MOTION by Bensyl to approve the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement; seconded by James.

Kurtz requested an explanation of the agreement. Sergeant Apperson detailed that there two deputies assigned to the FBI taskforce. Money or anything of value seized during the course of a violent crime investigation is put into the Sheriff's bank account and goes to the U.S. Marshals, who then send a check to the Sheriff's Office for 85% of the seized property's value. Ammons asked what that money is used for. To Sergeant Apperson's knowledge the agreement set up a bank account to deposit and transfer money between the U.S. Marshalls and the Sheriff's Office. The money used for investigating violent crimes and narcotics cases. Ammons asked if this money goes into the County's general fund. Apperson thought it just goes to the Sheriff's Office. Busey confirmed the Sheriff has special fund for this revenue and expenditure, which keeps the federal money separate from the general fund. Weibel said a correction needed to be made on the signature line on Page 5. The County Board Chair is the official who should sign the agreement if it is approved, not the County Administrator. Busey confirmed that would be corrected.

Motion carried.

County Administrator

Contract with LRS for IBM AS400 Replacement Project

Busey expressed that this project's budget is included in the FY2011 budget to be paid for from the Courts Automation Fund and the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund as those are the revenue source that pay for this technology. The agreement with LRS has been vetted with the Auditor's Office to ensure compliance requirements in the County's Purchasing Policy and the State's purchasing requirements all have been met. It is a sole source vendor and an approximately \$190,000 project. Additionally, Busey thought it was a good idea for the County Board to see this project and approve it. The technology operations, particularly for the courts systems depend on this technology replacement. It is necessary because the current AS400s are outdated and cannot be maintained into the future.

MOTION by Jones to approve the contract with LRS for the IBM AS400 Replacement Project; seconded by Anderson.

Quisenberry questioned what other alternatives were considered to replacing the AS400s. Rhodes said they could not look at alternative technology because the courts software and Sheriff's Office software is based on AS400 technology. They have to either stay with AS400 technology to go out for new software packages for those two areas. Busey said the County Board has an almost \$3 million investment that technology. It was purchased in 2002, installed, and implemented over a six-year period. The costs of the software itself, without including additional hardware and project management costs, were \$2.8 million.

Motion carried with unanimous support.

General Corporate Fund FY2010 Revenue/Expenditure Projection Report

Busey distributed her reports to the Board. The GCF continues to look the same as it has in the last couple of months, nearly to the end of the year. She projected the GCF will receive \$30.8 million in revenue, taking into consideration that the County will likely not receive income tax money from the State for three months in this fiscal year. That makes a shortfall of \$722,000 in income tax revenue. The other large deficit is in General Government. A good portion of that revenue is attributable to real estate transactions and the criminal justice system fees and fines. The other general sales tax revenues are coming in fairly close to the budget numbers. The final sales tax payment for the Quarter Cent Sales Tax came in yesterday and is up 2.3% for the year. The Public Safety Sales Tax revenue increased 1.14%. Busey projected the expenditure to come in at \$30.77 million. This is \$1 million less than the current budget. Busey stated the FY2011 revenue budget is \$30.9 million and she hopes this is a realistic revenue projection. FY2010 should end with a revenue positive budget between \$700,000-\$800,000. This will help restore the GCF fund balance to 8.5%, disregarding the outstanding Nursing Home loan. She will present a final report on FY2010 in January.

General Corporate Fund Budget Change Report

Busey presented the report of changes to the FY2010 GCF budget.

Harris & Harris Monthly Collections Report

There is no Harris & Harris report for this month.

MOTION by Jones to receive and place on file the County Administrator's reports; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Request to Approve a Resolution Establishing a Hiring Freeze for Champaign County Departments and Offices Funded through the General Corporate Fund and Rescind Resolution No. 7248

Busey presented a request to effectively lift the hiring freeze for permanent replacement positions as they become vacant. She continued to recommend a position be held vacant for three months. The County Board has granted waivers of the hiring freeze to certain areas, primarily in the detention facilities because those operations are down to their minimum staffing levels. Those waivers would still be honored. The GCF departments have eliminated 40 positions over the last two years. A lot of that deduction was accomplished through this hiring freeze and not filling position that became vacant. She pointed out some departments were not asking to fill some positions because they knew they would be asked to eliminate positions. Every office with more the five employees has reduced staffing. Busey feels the current staffing levels create a legitimate argument for and department head to fill position after three month due to overall staffing cuts. This new hiring freeze resolution reflects the current operation and recognizes what the GCF departments have done in eliminated 40 positions.

Nudo recommended deferring this resolution for 3 to 6 months to get some measure from the State about the sales and income tax revenue. He understood Busey's arguments, but the County was not out of woods yet, and department heads have not hesitated to justify the need for certain positions, and he thought the County needs to hear these requests even if all are approved.

Alix asked if the County Administrator could provide some estimate of how many requests for waivers have come before the County Board and whether there are any significant economic or efficiency costs to maintaining the status quo. Busey was unable to cite how many waivers had been requested over the last two years. The elected officials have complied with the freeze although they are not required to do so. The County just approves the elected officials' budgets and those officials are responsible for the internal operations of their offices. Busey thought the hiring freeze was an effective and necessary tool at the time it was enacted and the department heads did everything required to accomplish the required budget cuts. It seemed like this was the time to equalize the GCF positions by lifting the permanent freeze.

James concurred with Busey that it was time to lift the hiring freeze since the departments will be filling positions they have money budgeted to cover.

Berkson asked if the County was reduced to its essential personnel. Busey said that is her opinion. The Board continued to discuss the hiring freeze.

MOTION by James to approve the Resolution Establishing a Hiring Freeze for Champaign County Departments and Offices Funded through the General Corporate Fund and Rescind Resolution No. 7248; seconded by Richards. **Motion carried with a vote of 19 to 5.** Ammons, Anderson, Bensyl, Berkson, Carter, Cowart, Holderfield, James, Jay, Jones, Knott, Kurtz, McGinty, Michaels, O'Connor, Richards, Schroeder, and Weibel voted in favor of the motion. Alix, Nudo, Petrie, Quisenberry, and Sapp voted against the motion.

Treasurer

Monthly Report – November 2010

Welch stated that last month the County Board authorized third year of tax anticipation warrants for the Nursing Home and those have gone through in the amount of about \$780,000. Welch explained how increasing the GCF balance back to its goal of 12.5% would mean the fund would have sufficient cash to cover expenditures throughout the year without having to borrow from other funds. He described the monthly payables for the new Board members. The State of Illinois is now six months behind on sending income tax revenue to the County. Welch offered to answer any questions.

MOTION by Ammons to receive and place on file the Treasurer's November 2010 report; seconded by Cowart. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Auditor

Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy

Fabri described the list of purchases not following the Purchasing Policy for the new members. The County Board discussed the Purchasing Policy.

Monthly Report – November 2010

MOTION by Rosales to receive and place on file the Auditor's November 2010 monthly report; seconded by Holderfield. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Other Business

Request for Establishment of and Funding for a Veterans' Assistance Commission in Champaign County

MOTION by Knott to approve the request for establishment of and funding for a Veterans' Assistance Commission in Champaign County; seconded by Holderfield.

Weibel recalled that a notice was sent to the County Board that a Veterans' Assistance Commission was formed in October 2009. Some of the state statutes concerning the VAC were also sent to Board members. This entity is a new ballgame for Champaign County residents and the County Board, so Busey and Weibel are working to determine the direction of this issue and collect

more information. Distributed to the Board tonight was a letter addressed to Weibel written on the letterhead of the Illinois Association of Veterans Association. The letter contained some good information, including the statement that no VAC has gotten started without a hitch. Several important steps were listed in the letter. A copy of the Champaign County VAC Bylaws has been filed with the County Clerk. Weibel has asked the County's legal counsel to review the VAC Bylaws. Weibel plans to set up a small committee, probably in January, to represent the County Board at the VAC meeting to share their expertise. The development of a process of how veterans' assistance is to be administered will be addressed in the future.

Weibel gave his opinion that the County will likely have to provide office space and some financial assistance to the VAC. He wants to make sure this process is done right and asked DeThorne to comment on the VAC Bylaws. DeThorne stated that it is a statutory mandate that the County Board comply with an organization aimed at passing on tax dollars to veterans in need. In reading the Bylaws, DeThorne noticed the VAC is a public body spending public money and the Open Meetings Act applies. Based on the information he has, there was not a quorum present when the organization was formed. This something that can be remedied, but at this point in time, DeThorne was uncomfortable advising the County Board to proceed in dealing with an entity that is not properly formed. His other concerns, based on the statute's confusing language, included questions regarding to whose authority the County Board should respond. He has started compiling a list of things that need to be remedied after reading the VAC Bylaws. On the subject of a dispersal of funds, the County Board knows better than DeThorne where the County stands financially. When the County was notified of the VAC, no funds had been budgeted for the VAC. Weibel asked DeThorne to send his list of the Bylaws' corrections to the VAC and the County Board when it is finished. DeThorne agreed to do so.

Alix noted the relevant statute is extremely broad with regard to the manner and the amount of funding the County is obligated to provide for the VAC. It is important for the United States to look after its veterans, but they were in dark about how much money this will require County taxpayers to pay, whether there are formulas or other means of determining the level of assistance the County is supposed to provide, or how other counties with VACs determined the level of funding and where it comes from the general fund or by additional tax levies. DeThorne stated the statute, like many military assistance statutes, has been revised from a legislative perspective and from an interpretation perspective that can be challenging. It appears this was born before the days of the Veterans Administration. The guideline the County has is "provide just the necessary sums of money." They can look at the formulas and regulations for the government bodies that currently exist. He has not seen any information indicating what the need is in Champaign County that the VAC is intending to address.

Jones exited the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Petrie wanted a defined list of benefits that veterans already have access to within other levels of government to eliminate duplication of services. The budget proposal from the Veterans Assistance Commission of Champaign County included in the informational packet took her breath away. She shares DeThorne's concern about the new budgetary item when the County is on thin ice.

Richards asked if the motion made by Knott actually put forward specific appropriations for the VAC. McGinty said that was not clear and suggested withdrawing or deferring the motion based on DeThorne's comments on this particular case.

MOTION by Knott to defer; seconded by Ammons.

Weibel agreed with deferring the issues because it would be useful to have an assessment of the needs of veterans in Champaign County and how many veterans in the county are in need of this type of assistance to determine what should be budget towards this program.

Jones returned to the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Schroeder exited the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Board members spoke in support of deferring the item to assess the actual need compared with existing services, to ensure the VAC is a legally organized public body, and because the Bylaws are very general.

Motion carried to defer with unanimous support.

In other business, Busey learned yesterday that the bond market went south in a bad way last month. Because of this decline, the issuance of about \$2 million in bonds for a new facility will wait until January. The project has already begun and there will be bills to pay, so Busey asked to bring a resolution to the County Board next week authorizing the use of loans from other funds to cover those expenses until the bonds are issued. Ammons asked how far along the project was. Busey answered the site work is being done and the steel is being delivered this week.

Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda

Agenda items 9.A1-8, B.1&2, & E1 were designated for the consent agenda.

ADJOURN

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Assistant

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