

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

**Special Finance – FY2015 Budget
Tuesday, September 30, 2014
Lyle Shields Meeting Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Alix, Astrid Berkson, Josh Hartke, Stan James, John Jay, Jeff Kibler, Alan Kurtz, Gary Maxwell, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell, Patti Petrie, James Quisenberry, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Rachel Schwartz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Ralph Langenheim, Jon Schroeder

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator), Brain Kelly (Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk), Duane Northrup (Coroner), Andy Rhodes (IT Director), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant)

CALL TO ORDER

Alix called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rhodes called the roll. Alix, Berkson, Hartke, James, Jay, Kibler, Kurtz, Maxwell, McGuire, Michaels, Mitchell, Petrie, Richards, Rosales, and Schwartz were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

MOTION by Rosales to approve the Agenda/Addenda; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

Quisenberry entered the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

FINANCE

Direction to County Administrator for Finalization of FY2015 Budget

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MOTION by Quisenberry to approve direction to County Administrator for finalization of the FY2015 budget; seconded by Kurtz.

Busey presented two recommendations from elected officials and department heads that were budget neutral for the FY2015. Proposal #1 recommends the addition of a Desktop Support Technician to the IT budget to provide support to the courthouse and sheriff's office staff. The position would be funded through the permanent elimination of one vacant part-time clerk position from the Circuit Clerk's budget and permanent elimination of one vacant full-time clerk position from the Sheriff's budget.

Proposal #2 recommends the implementation of the IT Disaster Recovery System, effective July 1, 2015, cutting the cost in half for the first year. This would be funded by the total addition of \$37,950: \$15,000 of which is already in the IT budget and would be re-prioritized. In the Courts Document Storage Fund budget, \$15,000 would be reprioritized; the State's Attorney Automation Fund would contribute \$3,500; and the Probation Service Fees Fund would contribute \$3,500 for this project. Busey stated that the impact on the General Corporate Fund FY2015 total budget upon approval of both proposals would be \$1,673 in savings.

Additionally, the annual future cost of the IT Disaster Recovery System would be \$77,000 and it would be funded through cost sharing based on usage by the Courts Automation and Document Storage Funds, State's Attorney Automation Fund, Probation Services Fee Fund, Public Safety Sales Tax Fund and the General County Fund.

Busey explained that this project is very important to the justice related offices because it is a requirement by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) to have a Disaster Recovery System in place before advances such as electronic ticketing, pleas, and filing can be pursued. This system would also provide backup for the current system. If the current system failed now, the County would probably be without technology for at least 30 days. Busey added that the recovery system would also allow for seamless upgrades to the County system with the ability to switch over while upgrades/updates are loaded.

Quisenberry reiterated that this system not only would provide backup for emergencies, but also would allow the IT department to work more efficiently performing upgrades during normal work hours without disruption to operations.

Petrie inquired why the Sheriff's share of the cost came out of the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund. Busey explained that ever since Justice Technology was set-up as part of the Public Safety Sales Tax the Sheriff's share of technology costs, for example the New World System, have been paid by this fund.

MOTION by Kibler to amend original motion by directing the County Administrator to add recommended funding for the addition of a Desktop Support Technician to the FY2015 IT budget and recommended funding necessary to implement an IT Disaster Recovery System; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

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Busey reviewed the County Board decision points for the FY2015 budget, beginning with the General Corporate Fund. At this point, the FY2015 budget has \$532,610 budgeted for facilities projects. The Facilities Committee recently voted to recommend \$800,000 for the facilities budget.

James reminded committee members that County buildings needed to be maintained and repaired and the funding for this had been lacking for too long. He pointed out that some of the items currently in the FY2015 Public Safety Sales Tax Fund budget could be deferred in order to cover some of the facility projects.

MOTION by Schwartz to divide the question into direction to County Administrator on the FY2015 General Corporate Fund budget and direction to County Administrator regarding FY2015 Public Safety Sales Tax Fund budget; seconded by Berkson. **Motion failed.**

Quisenberry pointed out that some of the facilities projects would be supported through energy grants and he was comfortable with the current funding in the FY2015 facilities project budget. James reiterated that deferred building maintenance would only cost more in the future.

Schwartz agreed that building maintenance was an issue and suggested in the future when the County issued bonds that funding for maintenance of facilities should be included. James disagreed. Hartke agreed with Quisenberry's comments. Alix agreed that the County had a long-term facilities maintenance issue, but also needed to follow the recommendations made by the ILPP Criminal Justice Assessment Report.

Schwartz supported the request by the Nursing Home Board of Directors to eliminate the \$307,490 transfer to cover Debt Service. Jay disagreed because the new Nursing Home was built with the intent that it could support its operations. Quisenberry reminded committee members that the recent service metrics for the nursing home had all improved. He added that the lack of timely State reimbursements has had an adverse effect on the nursing home's operational budget. Maxwell asked committee members to begin to consider other alternatives to fund the needs of the nursing home.

Alix asked Busey to continue her review of the FY2015 budget decision points for the committee. Busey said that at present, the FY2015 Capital Asset Replacement budget for General Corporate was fully funded at \$485,051 for all future capital replacement needs but the committee could choose to budget only enough for FY2015, which would be \$233,044. This would bring the deficit down to -\$884 in the \$35 million budget.

Busey continued the FY2015 Capital Asset Replacement budget for the Public Safety Sale Tax Fund at present was fully funded at \$185,531, but the committee could choose to budget only enough for replacement needs in FY2015, which would be \$76,080. This would bring the deficit down to -\$108,868. There was also an additional amount of \$83,251 set aside for Delinquency Prevention Grant Funding, which had previously not been spent. A contractual obligation would decrease the available amount by \$5,000. Alix recommended reducing the previously unspent funds in the Delinquency Prevention Grant Fund budget to just the already committed amount of \$5,000 and utilizing the rest (\$78,251) to reduce the deficit to -\$30,617.

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McGuire was concerned about reducing the Delinquency Prevention Budget by removing the unspent funds because the newly funded Youth Assessment Center may be at risk of losing the facility in which it is currently housed. Busey explained to the committee that this would be a reduction in the actual amount made available for expenditure and the rest would continue to be documented as previously unspent delinquency prevention grant funding in the Public Safety Sales Tax fund balance, a fact that will be noted in the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund budget document.

Schwartz reminded committee members that once the 2005B bonds are refunded, amounting to approximately \$250,000 there would not be a deficit in the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund budget. Busey stated the budget could be amended in November to reflect the savings when received from the refunding of the 2005B bonds.

Busey asked the committee for the authority to proceed with the preparation of the FY2015 budget based on the direction received. Alix reminded the committee that there would be several more chances to review the FY2015 budget document before adoption in November. Busey added that she could reduce the contingency line by \$884 to reflect a zero ending balance. Alix agreed and there was no objection from the committee members. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes,
Administrative Assistant

Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.