



This meeting was held via conference call per the Governor of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker's signed "Executive Order 2020-07" on March 16, 2020, Section 6, during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation of March 9, 2020, the provisions of the open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended and "Executive Order 2020-08" on March 21, 2020, all public gatherings in the State of Illinois of 10 People or more are prohibited during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation of March 9, 2020.

The public was notified on February 9, 2021, via the Lee County website to email public requests to: countyboardrequests@countyooflee.org and the meeting was live streamed on January 14, 2021, at <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO3ZPalJgtBWmfph0rstLXA>

Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, February 11, 2021

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse - 9:00 a.m.

112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Jim Wentling

Member Roll Call: Chair Jim Wentling, Vice Chair Arlan McClain, Doug Farster, Rick Humphrey, Tom Kitson, and Jim Schielein were present in person, Lirim Mimini attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Members absent: None

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present: Nancy Petersen (County Clerk), Marilyn Shippert (Board Member), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Staci Stewart (Probation), Jonathan Henrickson (IT Intern), Greg Gates (LOTS), Dee Duffy (Zoning Administrator), Keane Hudson (Board Member), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney)(9:48-11:48) John Nicholson (Board Vice Chairman)(10:30-11:48), Danielle Allen (Board Member)(10:38-11:48) and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person, John Simonton (Sheriff), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA), Staci Stewart (Probation), and Greg Saunders (Maintenance Supervisor) all attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Guests: Tyler Coon (Duke Energy Renewables, Developer of the South Dixon Solar LLC Project) and Kyle Barry (Attorney on behalf of South Dixon Solar) were present in person, Adam Lusz attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Tyler Coon and Kyle Barry were present to give a brief overview of the South Dixon Solar LLC Project and answer any questions the committee might have. Adam Lusz attended remotely through Zoom and expressed his opposition to the South Dixon Solar LLC Project.

The January 2021 minutes of the Finance Committee were approved without modification.

Paula Meyer walked the committee through the financial reports that she had emailed out to the committee members and explained the difference in how they looked because they were created in the new software program. She provided the committee with the revenue reports showing sales tax and income tax revenue so far in fiscal year 2021 and reported that everything seems steady. Paula explained that the County had roughly \$91,000 in COVID money still available.

No GREDCO report for February.

No Insurance Committee report for February.

Board Member or Department Head Reports:

There were no Department Head reports apart from items on the agenda.

Old Business

Marilyn Shippert reported that a letter from CIRMA had been sent by regular mail to the Chairman on December 29, 2020, but the letter was evidently lost. Marilyn followed up with CIRMA and an additional letter was sent out on the ninth of February and a copy of the letter was emailed to her. Judging from the email, it appears that CIRMA was not going to pay out any more money toward the litigation cases.

Jim Wentling reported that the committee wanted to discuss the Taser project for the Sheriff's Office that had been tabled in the January meeting.

Motion from Jim Schielein: To un-tabled the Taser project from January's meeting.

Second by Tom Kitson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Last month the Sheriff reported that the office currently has 4 working Tasers. The basic package from Axon, which includes Tasers for 21 Deputies, would be \$61,948.00. This includes training, necessary accessories, gear, cartridges for one year, and a five (5) year warranty. He also reminded the committee that he had roughly \$13,000 coming back from the

CURES program for a metal detector that was being returned. The Sheriff was suggesting that a portion of the remaining \$91,000 in CURES program funding be used to purchase the balance of the Taser project in the amount of \$48,948. Frustration was voiced by the committee because the purchase should have been proposed during the budget meetings. A lengthy discussion ensued that included several different options to fund the project.

Motion from Arlan McClain: To spend \$48,948 out of the Public Safety Tax to fund the Taser Project.

Second by Jim Schielein. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Dee Duffy walked the committee through her request to increase the fee to file a Zoning petition from \$525.00 to \$600. She also requested that any extra occurring meetings for the same petition be assessed the \$600.00 fee. She explained that the cost to conduct a meeting when all members of the ZBA were present, including the alternate and a clerk, was \$535.00. If the fee were increased \$75.00 per meeting the cost for the actual meeting would be met and there would be additional funds to cover the cost of security and upkeep with meeting equipment, laptops, projectors, microphone system, and the added workload to the IT Department with Zoom and YouTube.

Jim Wentling reported that the County received the signed contracts for Operators Union 150.

Motion from Tom Kitson: To move the contracts for Operators Union 150 to the Executive Committee.

Second by Doug Farster. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Jim Wentling also opened the discussion regarding paid versus unpaid leave for COVID quarantine. The committee questioned why the earned sick time for the employee was not being used up before the County covered quarantined time. No action was taken, and the committee agreed this was a topic for Administrative Committee.

The committee paused for a break at 10:17 a.m. and returned at 10:28 a.m.

New Business

Jim Wentling and Marilyn Shippert explained to the committee that the Chairman received information from CIRMA regarding Grant Find, a grant search tool that is available to the County. One representative would be granted a free license to search for grants appropriate for Lee County. The representative that the County chose would be required to attend a webinar on February 18, 2021 hosted by CIRMA, that would show them how the program works. The committee recommended that Greg Gates be the representative for the County. John Simonton reminded the committee that Blackhawk Hills is an organization that the County is already affiliated with that is fluent in grant writing and grant administration.

Motion by Rick Humphrey: To authorize Greg Gates to be the Grant Find representative for the County with a hold on any stipend until more is known about the program.

Second by Jim Schielein. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Amy Johnson reported that her office had hired a replacement employee that would be starting on February 22, 2021. She also reported that she has two (2) full-time employees that would be taking maternity leave, one (1) in April and one (1) in June, so she is looking to hire part-time help. Amy believes that a part-time position was included in the budget process. If this is not the case, she will be contacting BEST, Inc. to hire an intern to save the County money.

Zoning added two petitions coming to the Zoning Board of Appeals to the agenda to be forwarded to Executive Committee. Petition 21-P-1559, Petitioner: Jerad M. Zellhoffer, PPN# 13-21-01-101-005 May Township, requesting special use zoning in Ag-1 Agricultural District for construction and farm equipment/machinery sales/service and Petition 21-P-1560, Petitioner: Jerad M. Zellhoffer, part of PPN# 02-15-26-200-002 Amboy Township, requesting map amendment to be zoned from Ag-1 Agricultural District to I-1 Planned Industrial District.

Motion by Jim Schielein: To move Zoning Petition 21-P-1559 and Petition 21-P-1560 to the Executive Committee,

Second by Tom Kitson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn by Arlan McClain:

Second by Tom Kitson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary

The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting will be 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021