



Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 10, 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, Lirim Mimini, and Jim Schielein were present in person. No committee members attended via Zoom video conferencing.

Members absent: None

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present: Mike Koppien (Board Member), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Dee Duffy (Zoning Administrator), John Simonton (Sheriff), Staci Stewart (Probation), Jonathan Henrikson (IT), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person, Marilyn Shippert (Board Member), Greg Gates (LOTS), Kevin Lalley (EMA) all attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Visitors: Joan Sage (Comcast Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager).

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

Paula Meyer provided the committee with the latest County financial statements and was present to answer any questions the committee might have.

GREDCO (Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation) Report: Lirim Mimini reported that GREDCO closed on 10 acres next to the Rochelle Transload center and will spend \$1,000,000.00 to develop a container yard so industries in the area will have access to a new intermodal service. Since Global III closed, all intermodal traffic is forced to go to Chicago. Construction for this project will begin in August. Project Jackpot (former Nippon Sharyo facility) will announce a new industry that will open its doors later this year or early next year. It is a steel fabricator company. The average starting wage is \$25 per hour. City of Rochelle has broken ground on a 100-Megawatt Substation just north of the Lee Ogle line. This will provide power for expanding the industrial development into Lee County.

Insurance Report: No report in June

Motion by Jim Schielein: To move the two (2) Joseph Meyer Resolutions to the Executive Committee.
Second by Tom Kitson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Board Member or Department Head Reports:

Old Business

John Simonton reported that he had received a consolidate bid from Procom and Engel Electric for the card reader system at the Old Courthouse. The bid was for \$18,662, which included hardware, labor, two exterior doors (one north door and the south door) and an interior door for the room that houses the election equipment and IT servers. He will be submitting the bid to the American Rescue Plan Committee to see if that funding is appropriate for that expense. John also mentioned that the purchase of a generator for the Old Courthouse would be a good idea because if the power goes down, so does the card reader system.

Lirim Mimini asked the committee to reconsider their opposition to the CPACE resolution that was presented previously in committee. He expressed his desire to have Andy Shaw and Kevin Marx come back to the

committee and present their argument for the economic incentives that the County would benefit from with this program.

New Business

The committee walked through the auditing proposals that were received. Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, was the lowest proposal at \$48,470 for the first year, \$49,900 for the second year and \$51,400 for the third year. The audit scope included County General, Circuit Clerk, LOTS (DOAP and 5311 Grants), ETSB, and the Jail Commissary. Paula Meyer did reach out to Lauterbach & Amen to confirm that the proposals encompassed all the above. She also explained that all the proposals received came from reputable firms with sufficient experience.

Motion by Rick Humphrey: To accept the Lauterbach & Amen, LLP auditing proposal and send to the Executive Committee.

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

Joan Sage was present to discuss the Comcast Franchise Agreement that renews in August of 2021. She explained that Comcast is regulated by the FCC and according to the Cable Act, the County is allowed to charge a fee up to 5%. Currently the County is not charging a fee. If the County decides to charge a fee, a public hearing will need to be held to make the public aware. The Board would vote on the matter, and within ninety (90) days, Comcast would add the fee to the customer's bill. The charge would be noted on the bill as a franchise fee. Once every quarter, the County would receive a check for the collected fees. The fees can be charged any time after the contract is signed. Lee County is one of the few entities that do not charge a fee.

Jim Wentling explained that Amy Johnson from the Circuit Clerk's Office contacted him and would not be able to attend the Finance Committee meeting. She is hiring two replacement employees and the cost falls within her budget.

Jim Wentling explained that last month the committee voted to accept a letter of credit in lieu of an escrow account the Shady Oaks 2 Wind Farm decommissioning but did not have a resolution. The resolution is on the Executive Committee agenda for the County Board meeting.

Kevin Lalley explained that he had talked to Chairman Olson and the purchase of the badge maker was approved for payment out of the CURES funds. He then received an email explaining that the CURES funding had been exhausted. The cost of the badge maker was \$4,488.25. Jim Wentling encouraged him to bring the invoice to the ARPA meeting at 1:00 pm to see if it could be funded under this program.

John Simonton addressed the committee once again regarding the overtime in his office. Paula Meyer reported that \$85,000 in left over CURES funds from 2020 had been added to his budget earlier in the year which would carry the office for a while, but not until the end of the 2021 budget year.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Schielein:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 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, July 8, 2021