



Finance Committee Budget Hearing Meeting – Thursday, July 29, 2021

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse - 9:00 a.m.
112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Vice Chair Jim Schielein

Member Roll Call: Chair Arlan McClain (8:40-1:02), Vice Chair Jim Schielein, Doug Farster, Rick Humphrey (9:16-9:26), Tom Kitson, and Lirim Mimini (8:30-12:26).

Members absent: None

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present: County Board Chairman Bob Olson (8:58-9:16), County Board Vice Chairman John Nicholson (in and out of meeting from 9:12-12:15), Marilyn Shippert (8:56-1:02), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator)(in and out of meeting from 9:12-1:02), Paula Meyer (Treasurer), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy Treasurer's Office and member of the ARPA Committee (American Rescue Plan Act), Becky Brenner (Board Secretary), Jesse Partington (Coroner)(8:30-8:53), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk)(8:45-9:16), Dave Anderson (Transportation/Solid Waste)(9:12-10:00), Greg Saunders (Maintenance Department)(10:15-11:22), Greg Gates (LOTS)(11:22-12:13), Teri Zinke (12:13-12:40), Janice McCoy and Karla Belzar (Illinois Extension)(12:41-12:56).

Coroner

Jesse Partington requested funds for an additional part-time Deputy Coroner and explained that there would not be a longevity bonus in 2022. He also explained that he no longer had the printer/copy, so there was no need to budget the maintenance agreement.

Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson made the committee aware that the Supreme Court had mandated e-filing for criminal and juvenile cases with a go live date of November 1, 2021. She included \$17,500 in capital requests for this mandated software, \$10,000 for case management software, a request for ten (10) new computers and \$8,000 for a new microfilm machine. She included minimum wage increases for her ten (10) full-time and four (4) part-time employees along with two (2) employee longevity bonuses. She also made the committee aware that, in the future, the Supreme Court may also mandate additional changes to the case management software system which would come at a much higher cost and that due to the no cash bail associated with the Criminal Justice Reform Package, the office stands to lose roughly \$40,000 in revenue per year.

Transportation and Solid Waste

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the handouts he provided. Included in the handouts were the cash balance projections for the County Highway, County Special Bridge, County Matching, and County Motor Fuel Tax Funds and the Programming and Contractual Services line items. He reported that budgeted salaries went down from 2021 because he did not have to set aside funds to overlap with retirees and the resignation of an engineering technician. Dave also explained the revenue source he wanted to use to purchase major equipment using one (1) of two (2) options: 1) Appropriate an additional \$270,000 in 2021 for an excavator, trailer, and pickup truck. Appropriate \$270,000 in 2022 for tandem dump truck, 1 ton truck, office equipment and small equipment or 2) Appropriate \$548,000 in 2022 for all equipment.

Maintenance

Greg Saunders reported that his proposed budget included a minimum wage increase for his employees. He explained that his supply budget increased dramatically during the pandemic and products were more expensive and difficult to get. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the department's request for a storage building. \$100K was budgeted in the capital fund for possible upgrades to the old jail garage as an alternative building. Other request included a new pickup with plow, skid loader and trailer, two (2) new

boilers for the New Courts Building, Old Courthouse electrical panels upgrade, generator for the Old Courthouse, replacement generator for the New Courts Building, and new cab and salt spreader for the lawn tractor. Greg felt that the request for new roof top HVAC systems with filtration systems for the Old Courthouse and the New Courts Building would qualify for reimbursement under the ARPA Grant.

LOTS

Greg Gates walked the committee through the organizations operations and the budget which included Greyhound, local rides, DOAP, 5311, and grant sources. He also brought the committee up to speed as to the progress of the Mass Transit conversion. There was a lengthy discussion regarding avenues of reimbursement from LOTS to the County for unclaimed overhead and services. There was also a question regarding Greg's salary, but he explained that his salary of \$82,000 had not changed.

Animal Control

Teri Zinke presented a flat budget except for a minimum wage increase. Paula explained that the budget looked different this year because funds had been consolidated. Possible forgiveness of building payments was discussed along with the collection of fees from the city of Dixon.

Illinois Extension

Janice McCoy walked the committee through the department's operations, programs, and budget needs and requested \$100,000 from the County for FY2022.

Motion to adjourn by Doug Farster:

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Becky Brenner – Lee County Board Secretary