

## **AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE**

**February 14, 2019**

**Present:** Clark Pearce, Chairman

Tim Carlson, Venise McWard, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon

**Absent:** none

**Others present:**

Becky Edwards, Joe Petty, Phil Schneider, Mike Gianasi, Mike Havera, Jamie Ward, Tom Latonis, and Jan Bland.

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Meeting Room, second floor Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Attendance was taken, and Finance Chairman Clark Pearce noted a quorum. There were no public comments.

### **CLAIMS**

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Venise McWard to approve the claims as presented for February. The motion carried.

### **JAIL EXPANSION BID REVIEW**

Joe Petty of JH Petty and Associates of Springfield summarized the bids received during the Building Committee meeting on January 29, 2019. Schwartz Construction was first with the lowest bid and Johnco Construction Co. came in next. Since the opening, Mr. Petty reviewed the bids and called references with good reviews on both. Additional suggestions were discussed by the contractors as to further the cost savings in some areas. The low bid of \$849,000 base bid, including both alternates reduced the bid to \$820,300 for this 2000 square foot addition. Further cost saving suggestions could bring cost of jail expansion down to \$810,000-800,000 (not including any unforeseen problems from the old building portion which was built in 1974).

Board Chairwoman Becky Edwards spoke reminding the committee the original estimates went for \$400-\$588,000 and now with the real expectation of costs up towards the One Million Dollar mark. This expansion would be only a partial fix to the whole problem and to approve the expenditure would be fiscally irresponsible. She reported that after a meeting with Judge Paisley, Sheriff Kettelkamp, Bruce Engeling, States Attorney Havera, Phil Schneider, Zach Hicks, Clark Pearce and Betty Asmussen, she believes and is willing to work towards a plan to build a Judicial Center, with the jail being Phase 1. The cost of the \$1 million for the expansion should go towards the Center rather than just putting a band aide on the issues at the current site.

As revenues decline and there is no guarantee for the housing of federal inmates, a Public Safety Tax question should be put on the ballot. It is the only way to replace the money pit jail and create a new center. She stressed this is not a real estate tax. It would be a sales tax of ½ of one cent – a usage tax for everyone in the County, and, would by no means be attached to property owners. Phil Schneider commented that even if the expansion went forward, that would not solve the issues of the old buildings (jail and the courthouse). He also reiterated that he was not in favor of any tax, however, since it is necessary, a sales tax is better than a property tax.

There is no real immediate solution but reducing the jail population will be attempted as the law allows. Mike McClure made a motion and Vicki McMahon seconded the motion to table the jail expansion discussion with the bids that we have. The motion carried with Venise McWard voting no.

## JUDICIAL EMAIL SYSTEM

On the topic of implementing a new email system for the judicial system, County Clerk Gianasi who had been researching Office 365 for email retention and storage, informed the committee members he may have another vendor for suggestions. There was no action taken.

## COURTHOUSE LIGHTING RETROFIT PROPOSAL INCLUDING AMEREN INCENTIVES

As previously discussed, a proposal was submitted from Energy Efficiency Pros to purchase LED lighting for the Courthouse to receive incentive dollars from Ameren for reducing the energy use. The initial cost is \$14,633 minus Ameren incentives in the amount of \$1,833 with a total cost of \$12,800 for complete retrofit of LED bulbs, not changing the fixtures. The labor will be in house by Zach Hicks and his staff. The estimated operating savings in a year would be \$1,614 for energy and \$1,265 maintenance/replacement and for a 10-year period \$19,374 and \$48,393 respectfully totaling \$67,768. A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Vicki McMahon to authorize the Board Chairman to sign and execute the agreement with Energy Efficiency Pros for the purchase of the lighting and to pay from the Capital Improvement line item. The motion carried.

## REVIEW ENTERPRISE ZONE.

Board Chairwoman Becky Edwards explained that our Enterprise Zone benefits would expire 12/31/2020. In order to continue to offer the advantages of an Enterprise Zone to new companies that would like to move to Christian County, the County (and the City of Taylorville) must apply (not reapply) for a new Enterprise Zone designation. The cost of the application is approximately \$90,000 - \$125,000.

The Enterprise Zone offers an incentive to companies that choose to locate in Christian County. That incentive is a sales tax exemption during the construction and/or renovation of a building they would locate their company. To receive the exemption, the company pays a Certification Fee which is then disbursed as follows; 25% to the County, 25% to the City of Taylorville and 50% to Christian County Economic Development.

She continued to discuss the information that she reported to the Executive Committee which included the discussion of who would prepare the Enterprise Zone application. Board Chair Edwards, Mayor Barry, Mary Renner interviewed a set of consultants and decided the consultants that would be the best choice is WRC, Enterprises, LTD: Jeff Torrecelli and Warren Ribley. WRC has been 100% successful in their applications.

Board Chair Edwards, Mayor Barry and Mary Renner of CCEDC have had discussions with two solar companies that are in the planning stages, to underwrite the cost of the Enterprise Zone application and at the time of their application for sales tax exemption, the three entities would waive their Certification Fee.

A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Mike McClure to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarke Pearce

Finance/Audit Committee Chairman