

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 13, 2020

Present via phone: Vicki McMahon

Absent: None

Present: Venise McWard, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce and Tim Carlson (in person),

Others present: Mike Gianasi, Betty Asmussen and others as listed: Becky Edwards, Ben Jacobi, Steve Sipes, Vince Harris, Greg Seiders, Greg Nimmo, Judge Brad Paisley, Senior Citizen representatives, Amanda Cole, Brent DeMichael either online or in person and Janet Bland.

The Audit/Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via freeconfercecall.com and at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to hear additional budget proposals, agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Attendance was taken, and Finance Chairman Clark Pearce noted a quorum.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Venise McWard to approve the claims presented for August. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

APPROVE WECS COUNSEL THROUGH COUNTY BOARD DECISION

During the special meeting on August 3, 2020, the Board approved an additional \$5,000.00 to conclude the current WECS proceedings in the Zoning Board of Appeals and sent to this committee for additional \$2,500.00. ZBA Chairman Steve Sipes spoke that this process was nearing conclusion to submit to the full County Board, however, it is important that Attorney Ben Jacobi continue. In his time on the ZBA, there has never been such an immense undertaking with companies and other attorneys. Zoning Administrator Vince Harris echoed his comments that continuing counsel was important to the ZBA as well as for the County Board. Attorney Jacobi explained that most likely there will be a third ZBA meeting to define the advisory report for the County Board as well as explanations and guidance to the full County Board upon receipt of the report. He will attend the meetings remotely to help control costs. A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Tim Carlson to extend counsel's service up to \$2,500.00. Roll call polled all ayes: Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce and Tim Carlson. The motion carried.

BUDGET HEARINGS CONTINUE

Courts

Judge Brad Paisley presented the court's budget noting not much change. Some items were reduced, and other lines were requested by the Chief Judge to increase. Jury Commissioners will be eliminated as many counties have already done so. Although a small amount in the budget, the Judge and Circuit Clerk can do the process and have been for a while. He will submit and an ordinance to officially change the process at a later date. The juvenile detention line has always been unpredictable. This past year was high as threats to schools, teachers and students were occurring. Youth detention costs vary from \$120-\$150/day.

Health and TB

Greg Seiders new Health Director noted most everything is same as both revenues and services are projected and changed during COVID-19 and will certainly have an effect going forward. The Health Department is totally funded by grants and fees. There has been just one nurse, but with the influx of cases, he will be hiring two more temporary nurses as well as the three contact tracers currently working on COVID matters. TB services cover salary of one full time nurse. TB is part of the County's levy.

EMA Update

Greg Nimmo reported that there are two grants the county can apply towards COVID expense reimbursements; CARES, a state program with a 25% compared to PA-Public Assistance-FEMA, a federal program with a 75%

reimbursement. Registration opens next week for FEMA. Salary reimbursements availability are still unclear. The time to receive reimbursement checks is unpredictable.

TB last case in Christian County

The question was asked, when the last case of TB in the county was. The answer was not known.

Senior Citizen Presentations

Reporting from Pana, Taylorville and South Fork were the directors of the respective units. Each described their services and activities offered to their senior citizens. Meals on wheels distribution and transportation continue to be the most needed service from all groups. The activities for seniors are also very important. The County levies monies to be distributed to all senior citizen groups.

U of I Extension

Amanda Cole, Program Director for the Christian, Jersey, and Montgomery counties distributed program materials. She receives money from grants and works with two different budget dates with the one submitted for the time period of being FY 2022. During last year's budget hearing she promised to reduce the requested levy amount by the amount of dollars raised locally. Therefore this year's request is \$1000.00 less.

Christian County Mental Health

Brent DeMichael, Director of Mental Health Services discussed the services still provided. Due to COVID-19 the on-site manufacturing facility has been closed, but the services for independent living arrangements continues. The 708 Mental Health Board includes a county board member. According to DeMichael by statute annually the county shall increase the levy by \$2000.00.

BOARD ROOM UPDATE

County Clerk Michael Gianasi reported the TV mount has been purchased and is also looking into a better sound system. There was no update on software for accounting and payroll.

DEED OF CONVEYANCE APPROVED

Christian County is trustee for delinquent tax properties. A resolution was presented to adopt.

- Motion to adopt by Mike McClure and seconded by Venise McWard for property in Pana Township: Pana Township: 11-25-22-223-002-00. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Nolan spoke about the CEDS program claiming many comments from the former director/grant writer for West Central Economic Development that they applied for grants but there was no money for grants, the county did not pay their dues and TIF districts took money away from schools. Also repeated that CEDS would be used for benefits for the wind farms. Committee Chairman Pearce stated it was a vehicle for matching funds_for local entities. Chairwoman Edwards asked why a debate on every aspect of economic development? Why should we wait?

A motion was made to approve the CEDS report by Tim Carlson and seconded by Mike McClure.

Discussion and comments continued:

- West Central was not paid dues by this county from 2002-2018 (when West Central failed to produce grants).
- Each community must decide its project under economic development and apply for the 50/50 grant
- The money is awarded to the community not to the county.
- The participation for grant funding is through the Economic Development Administration a federal funding source, the county where the community is located must agree to the CEDS and the CEDS must be on file with the Economic Development Administration.

- This is to approve the strategy. The one-time fee of \$1,334.00 has been paid. A “Resolution on Participation to Obtain a Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy” was passed on August 20, 2019.
- Shelby County dropped out.
- What about Rodney Davis and Avery Borne calling in on the subject.

A roll call vote polled the following: Ayes-Mike McClure and Clark Pearce. Nays-Venise McWard, Tim Carlson and Vicki McMahon. The motion failed.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards commented after the vote that all who voted no just turned down economic development in Christian County.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mike McClure and seconded by Tim Carlson. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Pearce
Finance/Audit Committee Chairman