

Montgomery County Board

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 3rd, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM – County Board Room

Members Present: Chairman Joe Gasparich, Mike Plunkett, Mary Bathurst, Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, Bonnie Branum and Board Chairman Roy Hertel

Others Present: Tony Hard and Shelby from McDonough Whitlow, Sandy Leitheiser, Ray Durston, and Mary Purcell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval SOA Report:** Ray Durston reported that the Board of Review finished up their meetings and they will be ready to turn the abstract over to the state in about three weeks. The SOA office has begun work on the 2014 assessments and will print books as soon as they balance and turn over to the new year. There were 79 letters mailed out for the 2013 senior exemptions and about 20 have responded so far.
2. **Update/approval GIS Report:** Mary Purcell reported that there is nothing new except a conference call with Beacon Schneider that will take place on Tuesday, March 4th at 1:00 PM.
 - **GIS Work Group Report:** Megan Beeler reported that she will participate in a conference call with Beacon Schneider tomorrow along with Mary Purcell, Sandy Leitheiser, Ray Durston, and Bill Purcell. Chairman Hertel stated that Megan Beeler did a good job in negotiating with Beacon Schneider regarding an issue that came up in the past few weeks.
3. **Update/Approval Monthly Coal Revenue Report and Revenue, Expense & Bank Balance Report:** The committee reviewed the monthly coal revenue reports that were prepared by Treasurer Jenkins.
4. **Update/Approval Annual Health Insurance Discussion:** The committee discussed the need to schedule a meeting with Travis Schmidt and Jollie Burris of Consociates to discuss the Annual Health Insurance renewal. The Finance Committee will have a joint meeting with the Personnel Committee on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 8:30 AM in the County Board Room. The Personnel Committee will change their monthly meeting from Thursday, March 27th to March 18th.
5. **Update/Approval Annual Circuit Clerk Audit Report:** Need full board approval at the March meeting.
6. **Update/Approval Intergovernmental Agreement City of Litchfield For Police Radio & Telephone Services:** Committee discussed the history and background of how and when these agreements took place with the City of Litchfield and City of Nokomis. Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson is reviewing the Intergovernmental Agreements. The County and the Sheriff will need to have a meeting with the City of Nokomis to discuss the written agreement.
7. **Update/Approval Structural Improvement Notification Permit Process:** Committee Chairman Gasparich stated that the Economic Development Committee has a recommendation in regards to the Structural Improvement Notification Permit Process. Megan Beeler explained that the County Comprehensive Planning Commission discussed a process to give the authority to put some teeth in enforcing the Structural Improvement Notification Permit and the need to let people know that this process exists. Beeler also stated that Economic Development Committee has discussed and thought that more information and education needs to take place so that people know about this process and to enforce it. The request is to ask Durston to do some public relations and education to contractors about the Structural Notification Permit Process so they can inform people before any building takes place. Chairman Hertel suggested that the Economic Development Committee invite Ray Durston to come and give a brief history on how the Structural Improvement Notification Permit Process works and for Durston to give suggestions on how this could work. Gasparich asked Durston to come back to the next meeting with some ideas on how this could work.

- 8. Update/Approval Priorities for Long-Term Improvement Fund:** Gasparich stated that the Finance Committee needs to look at the definition of what the 33% of Coal Revenue money that is being put in the Long-Term Improvement Fund should be spent on. The committee discussed that the Full Board needs to have input on what the Pillars of Development are and how the money should be spent. Branum stated that he felt the top priority for the money should be spent on County roads and bridges before giving money to other projects. The committee also needs to discuss how much money needs to be sitting in the remaining 66% of Coal Revenue funds before approving projects. Bathurst stated that there is a desire to define what this money needs to be spent on and that she doesn't want to define today what any needs may be 15 years from now. The committee discussed letting the board members come up with ideas based on the history of the committees they serve on and then go to the public with the list and ask for public comments based on the board's list. Gasparich stated we should go to the public with some choices on how to spend this money and let them comment. Gasparich also stated that if there are grants to match with this money it would be a good way to go and he would prefer waiting until after budget hearings so we see where we end up. Plunkett stated that the board could look at how much money is in the fund at budget time each year and then look at the priority of the projects at that time and decide what the top priority is. Hertel and Branum stated that the board needs to prioritize the needs of the County before other projects are included in the process. Gasparich asked committee member to come back next month with a couple of ideas on how to define the Long-Term Improvement Fund and then go to the public in the fall.
- 9. Update/Approval Water & Sewer Line Easement for IDOT on County Owned Property in North Litchfield Township:** Tony Hard stated that McDonough Whitlow is working for the Capital Development Board and has been asked to design a water and sewer line. One of the options for the installation of this project would require an easement to go on County Owned Property. Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson and Engineer Kevin Smith would need to be in any negotiation meetings regarding this issue if the option selected is to run down a County road way.
- 10. Update/Approval Setting Salaries for Elected Officials – April Recommendation:** Committee discussed the need to review the salaries for the County Clerk, Treasurer, Circuit Clerk and the Sheriff. The salaries must be set 180 days prior to the election. Plunkett stated that the elected officials did get a 16% increase up front four years ago because the State of Illinois was cutting their stipend pay. Treasurer Jenkins is preparing a survey of about 30 counties for the salaries of these elected officials so the committee can review and come up with a recommendation at their April meeting. The full board will need to take action by the May full board meeting.
- 11. Update/Approval ROE Quarterly Report:** Marchelle Kassebaum will submit by this Friday. The Quarterly Report will need full board approval at the March meeting.
- 12. RSVP for Farm Bureau Breakfast and Coal Mine Tour:** The Farm Bureau has invited County Board members to a Breakfast on Tuesday March 11th, 2014 at 7:00 AM. The Coal Mine Tour has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th after the board meeting.
- 13. Update/Approval Other Business: None at this time.**

Motion by Mary Bathurst, second by Bonnie Branum to pay bills and approve payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Bonnie Branum, second by Connie Beck to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Chris Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.