

**MINUTES**

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call**

Committee Chairman John Dreher called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2009, in room 319 of the Vermilion County Courthouse Annex, Danville, Illinois. Upon roll call the following members were present: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. 7 present.

Also present were: Jim McMahon, Vermilion County Board Chairman; Bill Donahue, Civil Attorney; Linda Anstey, Auditor; Bob McIntire, Public Defender; Steve Laker, Director of the Health Department; Brian Huchel, Commercial News; Tracy Moss, News Gazette; Nikki Bogart, Financial Resources Director and secretary to the committee.

**Agenda Item 2 – Adoption/Amendments to the Agenda**

Mr. Dreher stated that he was unaware of a need for Executive Session this evening and asked if the committee found it necessary; not being necessary, Agenda Item 14, Executive Session, was stricken from the agenda. Motion by Mr. Stark to approve the Agenda, second by Mr. Nightlinger. Motion carried by acclamation.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes, August 3, 2009**

Motion by Mr. Leigh to approve the Minutes, second by Mr. Wilkus. Motion carried by acclamation.

**Agenda Item 4 – Audience Comments**

None.

**Agenda Item 5 – None**

**Agenda Item 6 – Resolution: Maintenance Account, Danville Public Building Commission, Transfer Switch, \$11,799**

Motion by Mr. Stark to approve this Resolution, second by Mr. Stal. Mr. Stark explained that the previous \$4,500 approval was for labor only and this Resolution is for the cost of the switch. It was an oversight to exclude this amount originally. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 7 – Resolution: Establishing the Number of Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Officers 2009/2010**

Motion by Mr. Wilkus to approve this Resolution, second by Mr. Pollitt. This Resolution increases the number of deputies to 38, an increase of 2. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 8 – Ordinance: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Vermilion County for the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year, Coroner, \$50,000**

Motion by Mr. Stark to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Pollitt. Mr. McMahon explained that last year there were 660 death reports and 44 autopsies; to date this fiscal year, there have been 479 death reports and 42 autopsies. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 9 – Ordinance: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Vermilion County for the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year, States Attorney, \$13,148**

Motion by Mr. Wilkus to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Leigh. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 10 – Ordinance: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Vermilion County for the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year, Public Defender, \$1,753**

Motion by Mr. Stark to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Wilkus. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

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**Agenda Item 11 – Ordinance: Line Item Transfer (Out of Category), Judicial, \$6,250**

Motion by Mr. Stal to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Leigh. Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 12 – Ordinance: Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Vermilion County, Illinois for 2009 – 2010 Fiscal Year**

Motion by Mr. Nightlinger to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Stark. Mr. Pollitt confirmed that the total levied amount will decrease. Mr. McMahon stated that the teamwork from elected officials and department heads has been "awesome". He added that the levy is being decreased by around \$23,000. He said that we have tried to be conservative and overestimate expenses while underestimating revenue. Additionally, we are holding the Estimated Assessed Valuation, EAV, at the prior year amount of \$835,000,000. Mr. Leigh asked for the cash balance of Fund 009, the Law Enforcement Fund. Ms. Bogart replied that it was \$4.2 million at 11/30/08. He inquired about the schedule of repayment on the bonds jumping up in 2020. Ms. Bogart replied that one of the payments increases sharply when the other payment ceases. The bonds for the Juvenile Detention Center will be paid off in 2019. Mr. Leigh also asked about the Court Document Storage fees budget increasing. Ms. Anstey replied that the fee has been raised. Mr. McMahon added that Mr. Gardner has been aggressively collecting the fees. Mr. Leigh asked about the miscellaneous revenue in Fund 81, VC Electronic Monitor. Mr. McMahon answered that the revenue in this fund is generated from the people who wear the electronic monitor since they pay for the equipment.

Mr. Pollitt asked if the budget takes into account a reduction in sales tax revenue from the state. Mr. McMahon answered in the affirmative. Ms. Bogart stated that the anticipated regular sales tax has been reduced 7%; this is 1% of all sales tax collected in the state, per Ms. Anstey. The anticipated supplemental sales tax has been reduced by 12%; this is the ¼% sales tax, paid by the state, for sales originating in Vermilion County. Discussion about a total tax bill inclusive of all taxing bodies ensued. Clarification was made that the **county portion** of the tax bill will decrease.

Mr. Stal inquired about any increases for personnel expenditures in the budget since many contracts are outstanding. Mr. McMahon replied that there are no increases for outstanding contracts except for the Nursing Home and Public Safety Building employees who have a contract in place; there are two contracts that are in place and raises have been budgeted accordingly for those.

Mr. Pollitt stated that the Nursing Home will be paying the FICA and IMRF expenses that are outstanding from prior years. Additionally, the Nursing Home is showing some "good, substantial numbers" that are helping the overall county situation. Mr. Dreher added that the cooperation of the department heads and elected officials deserves recognition. Mr. Wilkus added that he also appreciates the efforts of department heads and elected officials and that this is a good budget. Mr. Pollitt interjected that "this is the third straight year that we are presenting a budget and not requesting a property tax percentage increase". He concluded that "people's taxes are going up but they are not going up because of what the county is taxing".

Mr. McMahon mentioned the difficult financial position of Jefferson County and the steps that they are taking to reduce expenditures. He referred to some of their efforts as part of his alternative plans should it become necessary. This year, however, it appears unnecessary.

Mr. Laker offered that the state has made payments to the Health Department and there is approximately \$44,000 receivable remaining. He added that the payments received by the state have been around \$280,000. He hopes to make a payment on the line of credit soon; perhaps \$100,000 or \$150,000. He is concerned about cash flow because the payments that he has received are through June 30 and the state is still behind.

Mr. Leigh inquired about the reduction in the Corporate Replacement Tax. Ms. Anstey answered that this is a tax on corporations in the county and is paid to the county by the state. Since we have lost some businesses in the last couple of years and this payment has a lag time, we are now experiencing the decrease. Ms. Bogart added that this is down 20.7%, or \$300,000. Mr. McMahon stated that sales tax will likely show an increase in the future due to car sales. However, we are budgeting the revenue according to the trend, not according to the short spike.

Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

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**Agenda Item 13 – 2009 – 2010 Annual Tax Levy**

Mr. Dreher stated that this tax levy reflects just under a \$24,000 reduction from last year's figure. If the EAV stays the same, the reduction will be slight. If the EAV increases, the reduction will be more significant. Motion by Mr. Wilkus to approve this Ordinance, second by Mr. Pollitt. Mr. Dreher said that "it's a tiny little reduction actually but we are still proud of it". Upon roll call, the following members voted yes, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. Motion passed, 7 yes.

**Agenda Item 14 – Executive Sessions – Stricken**

**Agenda Item 15 – Items of Information**

Mr. Pollitt inquired about the timing of passing the budget. Mr. McMahon responded that we will put the budget out to the County Board members tomorrow; on Tuesday, September 8, the County Board will hopefully vote to put it on public display for 30 days and then pass the budget at the October meeting.

Mr. McMahon said that the budget looks great in part because the Nursing Home and the Nursing Home committee are doing such a great job. He discussed the repayment of FICA and IMRF from the Nursing Home to the General Fund. He thanked Linda Anstey, Nikki Bogart, John Dreher and all the members of the Finance Committee for their efforts in helping compile the budget.

**Agenda Item 16 – Per Diem Roll Call and Adjournment**

Upon per diem roll call, the following members were present, to wit: Chris Leigh, Orick Nightlinger, Russ Pollitt, Terry Stal, Bruce Stark, Terry Wilkus and John Dreher. 7 present. Mr. Dreher adjourned the meeting.

**Minutes by: Nikki Bogart, Financial Resources Director**