

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023
MINUTES
5:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM.

2. Roll Call

Dave Meinhold, Autum Jones, Jim Baumann, John Krug, Denise Durst all present.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of April 12, 2023, minutes

Motion to approve April minutes made by Jones, seconded by Durst. There were no corrections. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

Dale Dalton, 1248 N. Hickory Hills Road, Metamora addressed the committee. He has spoken to the full board before, but is now asking the finance committee to take on the responsibility to manage and negotiate electrical supply for the county. This would only affect the unincorporated areas. People in the county are concerned about the rising costs of electricity. The committee would need to appoint someone that would carry out the contract once one was approved.

Nathan Henricks, 414 Cottingham Lane, German Town Hills, and owner of Genesis Group Consulting. His job is to off-set electrical costs. Electrical prices continue to rise. He believed that a brokerage firm is not the best option, and the county needs to pull the data back in-house. There is not enough energy, and we are currently pulling energy from North Carolina to meet our demand. In the last three weeks, electrical charges have gone up 3 cents per kilowatt. Anyone can pull the data, it just takes a process of setting up an account and monitoring it to see who is offering the best prices. It was asked about the time it takes to do this and who would do it. He stated the clerk in German Town Hills and Metamora does it, and it would take about 15 minutes to set up an account, and once the data is pulled and a contract is signed, then you would only look at data when you wanted to. Discussion on opt-in opt-out programs. The committee feels that an opt-out would be best - everyone would be automatically enrolled, and one would have to notify the company only if they wished to opt-out. The committee would like to hear what the State's Attorney says about the County forcing people to opt-in or opt-out. Once a contract was in place, the county would not be able to break the contract, but an individual would be able to opt out. On May 19th the prices are expected to rise significantly again. People will not be able to turn their air conditioning on because they will not be able to afford it. We would need to specify the person who would oversee pulling the data, and who would that be. They are asking that the county manage an aggregate program. It was asked what roll Genesis Consulting would play in this - they would be our broker, they would go out and bid our contract. It was felt that the whole County Board needed to discuss this.

Kathy Brown, GPEDC spoke on broadband and a feasibility study. Because of their work at GPEDC they have received a grant from Just Transition. Four coal power plants are closing in Illinois. This is having an effect on the economy of small businesses and Illinois. This grant will fund part of a feasibility study and support the hiring of a grant writing person. There are 5 companies that are interested in the data from a feasibility study. Just

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023
MINUTES
5:00 PM**

Transition will give \$20,000 to the county for this study, but the county would need to put in an additional \$40,000. This feasibility study would help with getting grants for broadband which would help small businesses. Small businesses have a difficult time dealing with grants. This would help them in that the Just Transition grant would help with the hiring of a grant writer. The \$40,000 has not been budgeted for. It was asked if the companies that will use the data could help pay for the study since they will be using the data. Ms. Brown will reach out to them and ask. The data would be available to every company. It was mentioned that we have no guarantee that the company that uses the data would be committed to and follow through in Woodford County. Ms. Brown will reach out to the companies and see if they would be willing to commit funds for the study since they will be using the data. This will be brought up at the County Board meeting next week.

5. Approval of Claims

a. Approval of May 2023 Claims

Motion to approve May claims made by Jones, seconded by Baumann. There was no discussion. *Motion passed.*

6. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer has no concerns with any of the accounts. The ARPA report shows the projects that have been completed and what was paid for those projects. The sales taxes continue to be coming in at a steady rate. The extension and collected report was missing the last page. It will be emailed to the committee tomorrow. This year \$83.3 million dollars in taxes will be collected. Last year \$79.8 million were collected. Many school districts have held truth in taxation meeting as their taxes went up over 5%.

7. Budget

Discussion on what the committee would like to see covered when the budgets are presented. Extraordinary expenses will be anything unique or new that is not done on a yearly basis. If the line items go up over 5%, then they would like an explanation as to why. In the past budgets have been presented to the finance committee. Members of the board have expressed concern because they didn't know something regarding the budget. Even though the budgets are presented to the finance committee, any board member is allowed and encouraged to attend. The finance chairman would like for the offices that fall under Public Safety all report on one night, so any Public Safety member can attend on that night. Those offices that fall under the County Office Committee will be broken into two nights and any member of County Offices can attend those meetings. All Board members are welcome to attend any committee meeting. It was suggested that they make the budget process finance committee a meeting of the whole when the budgets are being presented. We will start the budget presentations in July.

8. New Business

a. Probation (informational)

Mr. Noar wanted to inform the committee that every three years the AOIC (Administrative Office of Illinois Court) does a review of their office. They go through the policies and do an on-site visit. It was discovered that the Electronic Monitoring

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023
MINUTES
5:00 PM**

System and the Alcohol Monitoring System were being paid out of the Pre-Trial Fund. The electronic and alcohol monitoring systems are used for people who have already been convicted. The pre-trial fund is to be used for people who have not been convicted yet. Mr. Noar wanted to let the committee know that next year he will have to transfer money to the general fund to cover these costs. He also informed the committee that they are looking at making the pre-trial coordinator a full-time probation spot so that it can be reimbursed. Right now a grant is covering the pre-trial coordinator salary, but that grant is running out and there will be no grants for the next couple years. The benefits package for this person will be split between the three counties that use the veteran court.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Other

Finance was asked to take ownership of IT. The chairman has been looking at options. The Sheriff is the main user of IT. They are leaning toward starting with a contract. That would allow us to get our feet in the water. Look at tickets and see what is going on. There are three things to look at; 1) having someone here on site a couple days a week; 2) do they have experience in working for a County; and 3) the cost. They want to move quickly on this. We have budgeted for hiring an IT person. As a Tech I would set up computers and do minor things. A Tech 3 would have greater capability and knowledge, but a questioned if they would be willing to do Tech 1 jobs. It was asked what a Tech 2 person does, and the committee is not sure. We will do an RFP. We are not obligated to take the lowest bid. Need to take the bid of the company that fits our needs. We would need to address what we do in an emergency after hours – how we handle it, and how do we compensate. It was suggested that we draw up a 1-year contract with periodical review. Since we are going to do periodical reviews, why not do a shorter contract. We would have to see if the company or individual we hire would be open to a less than 1 year contract.

11. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote


12. Any action coming out of Executive Session

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Jones, seconded by Baumann. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Dave Meinhold, Chairman
Finance Committee