



**Champaign County Board
Legislative Budget Hearing
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES – APPROVED 12/8/2015

DATE: Monday, August 24, 2015
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Lyle Shields Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802

Committee Members

Present: Alix, Anderson, Berkson, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Harper, Hartke, Harrison, Jay, Kibler, Maxwell, McGuire, Mitchell, Petrie, Schroeder, Schwartz, Shore, Weibel

Absent: Michaels, Quisenberry, Rosales

County Staff: Deb Busey (County Administrator), Dr. John Peterson (Board of Health), Jane Quinlan (Regional Office of Education), Donna Kaufman (Asst. Regional Superintendent), Ginger Boaz (Extension Education), Cameron Moore and Elizabeth Murphy (RPC), Adelaide Aime (Children’s Advocacy Center), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control), Jeff Blue (Highway), and Kay Rhodes (Recording secretary)

Others Present:

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Christopher Alix called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Jay. **MOTION** carried with **unanimous support**.

Schwartz & Carter entered the hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Kibler entered the hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Cowart entered the hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Berkson entered the hearing at 6:28 p.m.

Weibel entered the hearing at 7:14 p.m.

IV. Budget Presentations

A. Champaign County Board of Health – Dr. John Peterson

Dr. Peterson explained the Board of Health contracts with the public health district to provide services. The primary requirements are in the area of food and water safety. Staffing is a large part of the budget. He cited several challenges including the maintenance of the carry-over, including an uptick in tuberculosis cases and an outbreak of mumps on the U of I campus. The overall budget reflects a slight reduction. Discussion followed regarding expenditures and generation of revenues.

B. Regional Office of Education – Jane Quinlan

Ms. Quinlan reviewed responsibilities for and activities conducted by this office, including an annual health/life/safety inspection of all school properties in the county, issuance of building permits for construction on school property, conducting bus driver training, conducting compliance visits, holding hearings for detachments and annexations, and operation of a safe school program (R.E.A.D.Y).

Ms. Quinlan reviewed three handouts regarding distribution of funds to school districts. The overall budget reflects a 4% decrease from 2015. Contributing factors to this include a reduction in the IMRF rate (due to a reduced number of staff) and a change in health insurance plan.

C. Extension Education – Ginger Boaz

Ms. Boaz stated the budget is based on a referendum with each county. The local funds go for staffing. Other sources of funding come from grants and the state. There are four open positions which will not be filled until the state budget issue is resolved. County funds are leveraged through the trained volunteer program. Currently, there are more than 500 of these volunteers working for the U of I extension in three major areas – Master Gardner, Master Naturalist and 4H Youth Programs. Ms. Boaz talked about the fundraising in process for ADA accessibility to the Idea Garden on the UIUC campus. The project is scheduled to start next fall. Discussion on several initiatives by the Extension followed.

D. RPC – Cameron Moore & Elizabeth Murphy

Mr. Moore began by reviewing sources of funding. Most grant money that comes to RPC is Federal grant money. Since July 1st, RPC has not had access to those funds (with the exception of Head Start). The passing of legislature last week that will allow the state to pass-through Federal funds, in the absence of a state budget will help. This will exclude federal funds that require a state match; because without a budget in place, there can be no state match. Federal and state grants account for 88% of RPC projected revenue. Salaries and benefits represent 65% of RPC expenditures.

Operating Fund

Mr. Moore expects to see limited growth in 2016 in this fund; particularly in the summer youth employment program, creation of a juvenile justice council, emergency shelter, case management for the developmentally disabled population, and rural community development initiative.

Early Childhood Fund

Mr. Moore explained this encompasses Head Start and Early Head Start. He anticipates small growth primarily due to receipt of additional Preschool for All money. He explained that while there is an additional \$33,000 for this, the total budget is still less than what it had been in 2008, due to cuts in previous years. There is also a new revenue source via United Way. There was additional discussion regarding changes to the CCRS (Child Care Reimbursement Subsidy).

Workforce Development Fund

The federal government funds many workforce development activities. The program here works with several other IL counties; including Piet, Ford and Iroquois. This operates under WIOA (Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act).

Economic Development Fund & USDA Economic Development Fund

Mr. Moore reviewed these program parameters. He commented that RPC has funds available to lend and would welcome the opportunity to do so. These funds can only be loaned in rural areas.

He noted the administrative costs are 8% of the operating budget. Federal grants allow up to 15% and state grants allow 20%. Ms. Murphy reviewed the 2015 and 2016 expenditure changes depicted in a chart provided with the budget. She talked about the services to be expanded with the increases.

E. Children's Advocacy Center – Adelaide Aime

Ms. Aime began by reminding everyone that the CAC is entirely grant funded; meaning the numbers being discussed is spending authority, rather than actual dollars. She stated the biggest challenge is the end of the U of I funding from the Jerry Sandusky scandal. That funding had been spent on the special forensic interviewer. Also, there will be a 10% reduction from DCFS (Dept of Children Family Services) funding.

Ms. Aime discussed the newly-created endowment which has attracted new donors. She also talked about the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. It could potentially increase the funds to CAC by nearly \$50,000 in 2016; due to an organizational restructure. This change will not take place until next spring.

In response to a question from Ms. Petrie, Ms. Aime informed the board the forensic interviewer has agreed to a voluntary reduction in hours to assist with the shortfall in the budget for this line item. Additionally, some cash reserves will be used and Ms. Aime plans to increase the fundraising efforts for the CAC. There have also some preliminary discussions with Ford County to pool resources.

F. Animal Control – Stephanie Joos

Ms. Joos started with an explanation of the increase in revenues budgeted for 2016; due to additional contracts for service and impound with the incorporated villages. She plans to maintain expenditures at the level of 2015 so the additional revenues can be put into the capital expense fund for the future.

There was discussion on a potential change in the office hours in order to save costs. Ms. Joos has been tracking the service provided on Saturday to determine whether this is a viable cost-saving change. She committed to provide the findings to the board so they can make a more informed decision.

G. Highway – Jeff Blue

Mr. Blue reviewed the reasons for revenue increase. Most are state and local government reimbursements and some pass-throughs for projects such as the Railroad Crossing project (Raymond Township), and an intersection (Cardinal & Rising Road) in Hensley & Champaign Townships. The Railroad project is covered 100% by ICC.

He commented that the ASCME contract is due in 2016. He reviewed expenditures, including equipment and personnel. He noted the last payment to the Highway Facility Bond Fund will be made in 2016 (for the new building). After that, the funds will be redirected to a maintenance fund to cover items like resealing of the joints and other building maintenance that will be required in the future.

Discussion regarding the maintenance of equipment followed. Most of this work is done in-house; and extends to all county-owned vehicles (not just Highway Department). There is also a plan to replace a couple of vehicles in 2016.

Mr. Blue continued with an explanation of the various funds Highway operates out of, including the Highway Fund, the Bridge Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and the Federal Aid Matching Tax. Additionally, there are Federal dollars through the STR program.

Mr. Blue noted that all bridges over 20 feet are owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation; Champaign County is only the overseer. Due to the State's lack of budget, Champaign County is not receiving the Motor Fuel Tax Fund (as of July 1, 2015). The projected numbers for 2016 are in question; as long as the state does not have a budget in place. Discussion regarding hardships caused by the state's inability to pay the motor fuel tax dollars followed. Mr. Alix noted this affects not only county workers, but contractors, workers and unions as well.

V. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Shore to adjourn; seconded by ???. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously. Ms. Petrie adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.