

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

**Brookens Administrative Center, Jennifer K. Putman Meeting Room  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Betz, Brendan McGinty (Chair), Alan Nudo

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carol Ammons, Jonathan Schroeder

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey (County Administrator), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant)

**CALL TO ORDER**

McGinty called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Betz, McGinty, and Nudo were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Nudo to approve the agenda; seconded by Betz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Betz to approve the Strategic Planning Committee August 3, 2011 minutes; seconded by Nudo. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**REVIEW FEEDBACK FROM COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS & ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS**

Busey said goals should be established based on the new feedback received from County Board members. McGinty asked Busey what items she felt should be prioritized in the establishment of goals for the County. Busey stated facilities infrastructure and a long-term plan to fund infrastructure, technology, specifically the 30-year-old accounting system and real estate tax cycle system. Busey said recently at the Technology Oversight Committee meeting, department heads wondered if the Board was aware of just how underfunded technology really is for County offices. Busey added, in a staff

comparison with other counties, Champaign County had less staff in almost every office, and in some offices by a significant number. Champaign County was also the largest of the comparable counties. Busey said the operating budget has been cut as much as possible and department heads want to know why the County does not have the same level of revenue to operate as counties like Peoria and McLean. Busey said she would perform a study on this. A department head recently asked Busey that if the County Board would not increase the marriage license fee, do they really understand the lack of revenue for the operations of this government. Busey said the County began tax caps following decades of very conservative property taxes and probably has the lowest rate of comparable counties.

McGinty asked if Busey agreed that the Nursing Home should be on the list of the priorities. Busey agreed, stating that although MPA still provides an optimistic outlook. If the State revenue starts coming in, the Nursing Home should be able to come out of it but it is going to be a struggle. Busey said they had to negotiate with the primary agency provider of staff because they have not received payment in so long.

Nudo said items that received an average ranking of four seem to all be financial. Nudo said numbers: 14-Financial Solvency of the Nursing Home, 16-On-going commitment to improving health insurance, 18-Adequate time to review County Board contracts, 19-Succession planning for County Administration, 20-Comprehensive plan for facilities and campuses, and 21- Long-term solutions for County jail facilities seem to stand out as priorities based on the feedback from Board members. Busey said more than half the Board agreed with numbers: 19-Succession Planning, 20-Plan for facilities, and 21-Solutions for the County Jail.

McGinty said from an IT standpoint, not only is there not enough staff, but the hardware and infrastructure need to be replaced. McGinty said technology could provide some efficiency because it would allow employees to do more in less time. McGinty said the cost to update the infrastructure would be immense. Nudo asked if this could be considered a bond issue. Busey said typically items need to have a life span of at least 20 years in order to issue debt and most technology would not qualify under the policy. Busey stated in order to generate additional revenue IT would begin billing departments, which are outside the General Corporate Fund for IT services. Busey said General Corporate is supporting RPC, the Nursing Home, Mental Health, and Highway. Busey said they will also charge on the hardware side for utilization and the total cost for the year then departments outside General Corporate would pay their share.

The committee consensus was to focus on items that had a score of four. Betz asked Busey if any new sources of revenue could be identified. Busey could not identify any new funding source and suggested that perhaps it was time for the Board to scale back and focus funding on core services. The challenge for the Board is to balance the demands for funding with the available revenue. Busey said if a service is not mandated then perhaps the County should not provide it. Busey said they could also reevaluate what is being paid for out of Public Safety such as Justice Technology and public safety facilities and utilities.

McGinty suggested he and Busey prepare a consolidation of financial needs in the targeted areas of the jail, facilities, IT, and the nursing home for the next meeting. Nudo agreed. Busey said the actual goals should be stated in more broad terms and then the areas of the jail, IT, facilities, and the

nursing home would fall under this umbrella. It was agreed to bring this information to the next meeting along with the statement of Vision, Mission, and Values to create a goal statement.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The committee did not schedule its next meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

McGinty adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes  
Administrative Assistant

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*