

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 1, 2013
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Ashby, Chair
Jay Dunn, Vice Chair
Tim Dudley (arrived @ 5:20)
Kevin Greenfield
Patty Cox
Linda Little (arrived @ 5:22)
Susanna Zimmerman(arrived @ 5:18)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Judge A. G. Webber
Ed Yoder, Treasurer's Office
Deb Garrett, Environmental Mgmt
Mike Baggett, Asst. State's Attorney
Amy Stockwell, Auditor
Jim Root, EMA
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Josh Tanner, GIS (arrived at 5:25 p.m.)
Lori Long, Probation
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender's Office
Bruce Bird, Highway Dept
Jerry Lord, DPBC
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keith Ashby at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting on 3/4/13 was made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Patty Cox and motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims as presented made by Patty Cox seconded by Kevin Greenfield, and motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Audit Sub-Committee

Amy Stockwell reported that there is a meeting scheduled for the end of the month where the preliminary reports from the auditor will be heard. The Auditor's office met with the outside auditor today and the process is proceeding quite well. There have been no major issues.

Auditor

Amy Stockwell reported on the IMRF 2014 preliminary rates. The rates are given for calendar year. We are currently in 2013. The 2014 rates will be published to the departments as part of the instructions for the new budget. Regular IMRF is down a tiny bit. SLEP is down a little more and ECO is up. Not having spoken with IMRF yet, preliminary conclusions are that this is due to a big retirement in ECO. The ECO program is closed, so the current participants cannot be increased. The spreadsheet Carol does monthly shows the IMRF payroll in all the various categories for both employer and employee contributions. Regular IMRF is the vast majority of the expense, then SLEP with ECO at the bottom.

Amy stated she would be going to Springfield, as usual, for the IMRF rate meeting at the end of this month. She invited the committee members. They are also offering a webinar on May 2 @ 2 p.m.

As pension legislation is being worked on in Springfield, IMRF is not a problem because it is essentially fully funded. Local governments make their contributions every year, but because the whole pension thing is being talked about, there are a number of bills pending in the legislature. IMRF has an excellent review of what's up and they update daily. I have it for Linda so the Legislative committee can help keep an eye on that.

Board of Review

Josh Tanner reported that there are 58 cases pending in PTAB starting back in 2009 and then 2010 & 2011. No hearing dates are scheduled yet. In answer to Jay Dunn's question, Josh stated that the bulk of them, 43, are from 2011 with 2 small cases left from 2009 and 2010 has 13.

Supervisor of Assessments

No report

GIS

No report

Treasurer

Macon County Board Resolution to Execute Deeds to Convey Property on which Taxes were Delinquent

Motion to approve moving resolution on to the full board was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Jay Dunn and motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Establishing Fee for Electronic Real Estate Tax Payments Macon County Treasurer

Ed explained that Dave Coe from Fike and Fike was present to answer questions. Keith Ashby asked how many payments are expected. Ed replied there would be approximately 13,000 payments from banks and mortgage companies. Right now they are being charged \$5 duplicate fees for paper. A lot of them want the electronic service which we can provide. State Statute says \$5 can be charged and that is what he is requesting. He anticipates \$25,000 to \$26,000.

Kevin Greenfield questioned how much other counties are charging. Ed stated that it varies from county to county. Some charge up to 25 cents per real estate property. In our case, we have a little over 57,000 properties. For example, in LaSalle County, who are exactly 1/3 bigger than we are, the charge is 20 cents per parcel plus a flat rate for the disc plus another charge when they make the payment on the first installment. Kevin Greenfield stated that there is quite a difference from their 20 cents versus the \$5 we want to charge. Ed explained that he's talking about whether they want the duplicate paperwork. Companies only need about 500-800 parcels. I don't see how I can charge them 20 to 25 cents times 57,000 properties. That is not fair to them. Larger companies will have a little over 5,500 mortgage properties and this is passed on to the mortgage holder. It is not a loss to them and it keeps them from sending someone down to the Treasurer's office to go through paper when they can get it on the disc, sit at their station, go through the properties and get what they need without

sending someone to Macon County. That will be a savings for them. I have a lot of requests from the past 2 ½ years I've been here that want this service. Kevin agreed that this is a good idea, but that he still was not sure why we are at \$5 when LaSalle is at 25 cents. Ed explained that LaSalle is charging the 25cents, but also the flat rate. When you send them the copy, they get all the properties in the county, not just the mortgage properties. Kevin said, if they have 12,000 properties? Ed said they are paying \$5 apiece. Kevin said that is \$6,000. Ed agreed that they are paying the \$5 apiece anyway but they are saving the cost of having to send someone from their location to this office during tax collection to go through all the statements. Kevin asked if they are charged \$5 each? Ed said yes, on all duplicate copies they request. If I go to a flat rate, companies like Cor Logic would be more than happy to pay \$3,500 for the disc and possibly 15 to 20 cents a parcel. But they will be the only ones who can pay it because anyone else I work with cannot do it. They only have a few hundred properties. I am trying to make it fair to smaller numbers as well as larger numbers. Either way, I'm not out any money. I'm just trying to make it fair to the institutions that have fewer mortgage properties they have to work with.

Linda Little question: So, we are currently charging \$5 per parcel for duplicate tax bills?

Ed: Yes, just for duplicate tax bills.

Linda: This resolution is to establish a \$5 per parcel fee if they are requesting a duplicate tax bill?

Ed: Yes. It is not \$5 times 57,000 properties.

Linda: The resolutions is worded that the \$5 fee is to cover the cost of the electronic real estate tax payments. It does not say anything about if they request duplicate tax bills.

Ed: Per parcel paid fee. If they request a per parcel paid fee, that would be a duplicate parcel. It says establish per parcel a \$5 paid fee. That would be any parcel they request, they pay the \$5.

Linda: If they are requesting a duplicate tax bill.

Ed: correct.

Linda: That is not the way this is worded. I'd like for that to be reworded before I vote.

Ed: Ok, we can add that.

Linda: Basically, whether they do it electronically or on paper, they are going to be charge \$5 for the duplicate tax bill.

Ed: yes. I talked with other Treasurers where they lowered their fee structure when they went electronic and they lost the difference because they requested the electronic data instead of the duplicate charge on the paper fee.

Linda: Aren't we going to be making more off the \$5 electronic ones than we are the paper ones?

Ed: Well, not any less

Linda: No, not less, you'll be making more because on a per parcel duplicate tax bill for someone who comes in and pays, you have a person making a copy and either handing it to them or mailing it to them. As for electronic, you have an electronic response. So, we are coming out ahead on the electronic by \$5.

Ed: We do not pay any postage fees. These companies that request this pay all the postage fees. The county is not out any postage money sending these duplicate bills or this disc. Postage is not a problem.

Jay Dunn: How many parcels this would affect? 13,000 x \$5 is \$65,000. You mentioned the expected revenue was \$27,000.

Ed: According to Cheri Meyers, we send approximately 13,000 copies to various companies.

Jay: Are you talking about duplicate bills?

Ed: All of them are not duplicate bills. Correct.

Jay: Explain what a duplicate bill is.

Ed: A duplicate bills is where the companies get a copy of the real estate tax and then they have to send out copies to the homeowners. That is where they request a duplicate bill.

Jay: The homeowner gets a bill, but the mortgage company is supposed to pay it.

Ed: Currently, the homeowner does not get the bill. It goes to the mortgage company.

Jay: So, why do they need a duplicate bill?

Ed: We get the coupons back so we can certify that amount. We have to match it up and make sure it balances.

Tim Dudley: We charge \$5 anyway for a duplicate bill now?

Ed: Correct.

Tim: Why is that in the resolution if we are going to do it anyway?

Ed: If we go with a paperless system, I need something to show this company that I am authorized to do this.

Tim: But you were doing it anyway

Ed: Well, if I have a resolution from the County Board, it is better for business.

Tim: Isn't the point in this resolution that you are going to charge people for using their credit cards?

Ed: No, this has nothing to do with a credit card.

Tim: It says fee for electronic real estate tax payments at the top of the resolution. It makes me think you are going to charge me a fee for making an electronic payment.

Ed: No, it has nothing to do with debit or credit cards.

Tim: I think that heading on the resolution needs to be changed. Shouldn't it say establishing fee for electronic duplication or something versus fee for payment.

Kevin Greenfield: So, all banks that make this payment, are really making a duplicate payment, correct? If they are just paying online and not asking for a duplicate, there is no charge for that?

Ed: If they don't request a duplicate copy, there's no charge. But, any payment that is made, we are going to have to have a copy, so they are going to have to send us a copy for that payment. That is how we collect the fee. We have to tear off the stubs and that is how we balance. Normally, we get a check for one amount. There may be anywhere from 4 to 5,000 payments and we have to balance all that to make sure it comes up to that total.

Linda: I just assumed there was an electronic spreadsheet or something.

Kevin Greenfield: I'd like to hear from the Fike & Fike representatives so they can explain how other counties are setting it up.

David Coe, Fike & Fike: The way we work with the other counties is that we generate a file that is dumped onto a CD or emailed. They process that against the parcels that they know they have to pay. They pick out the ones they want to pay and send us an electronic file back with the payment. We have a process for merging that into the database that we generate reports from that validates the correct payment is being made, that the taxpayer has not come in and already paid causing an overpayment. We send them a file and we get a file back.

Jay Dunn: Do you know of any counties that work with you that charge \$5. Is it more or less?

David Coe: I really don't know what they charge. It is between the counties and the companies they send it to.

Mike Baggett: The Statute mentioned in the resolution authorizing the amount of the fee says it shall be charged and can be up to \$5. It could be less than \$5.

Linda: Do you normally charge them \$5 when they come in?

Ed: I am charging them \$5 for duplicate paper bills. Other treasurers I've talked to are charging the same amount.

Linda: For their \$5, are they getting another paper copy of the tax bill to send to the homeowner?

Ed: They have to get two copies. One is sent to the homeowner if they request it. And they are supposed to by law, but there are no real teeth. If the homeowner requests it, they will send a copy. A lot of the time, the homeowner will call the Treasurer's Office and we will send a copy.

Linda: With the \$5 duplicate tax bill charge that is currently in place, \$5 gets them a copy of their tax bill. With that same \$5, what is Regions Bank going to get? Just an email back that yes, that's it? In which case, they still don't have an actual tax bill to send to their homeowners.

Ed: We will provide them a paper copy if they want one.

Linda: You will? For \$5?

Ed: As long as we get our \$5, I'm good with that.

Linda: I have a problem with the 5th WHEREAS, where it says \$5 per parcel paid fee to cover the cost of electronic real estate tax payment file exchange. Obviously, I think \$5 more than covers the cost of doing this.

Ed: I can give it away, but my automation will go to zero.

Linda: If I pay \$5 for the automation, then it ought not be \$5 to pay in person.

Ed: If someone walks in to the office, I will give them a copy. I'm talking about the banks and mortgage companies. I am not talking about individuals that walk into the office.

Linda: I understand, but the banks are not going to absorb this. It is going to go back to the guy paying the mortgage.

Kevin: If the bank comes in with \$1,400. How many times are they going to ask for duplicates for that \$1,400?

Ed: Good question. I don't know. Maybe 500 or 600. A lot of people paying a mortgage don't care if they get the tax bill as long as it is paid. If you want to cheapen this up, I can see the automation fund going to zero real quick.

Linda: I am not arguing that \$5 is too much if that is what we are currently charging for one form of payment, then it makes sense.

Kevin: If they don't ask for a duplicate, then they can file electronically for free?

Ed: They are still going to pay for the mortgage people. I'm not going to charge them \$10. Whatever person they have down that they pay taxes for, they will be charged one time @ \$5. That is it.

Sheena Driermossel from Fike & Fike: Some of the confusion – this is about electronic payments from the banks. This is not necessarily about duplicate bills. Duplicate Bills is a process that is somewhat going to be replaced. Currently, what they have is that they take all these payments and it is all done manually from the bank. Prairie State Bank brought this to attention recently. Currently, they have about 900 to 1000 parcels they estimated the escrow on. This is in regard to those 900 to 1,000. Out of that, they need duplicate bills on about 25 to 50%. That is what they are coming in and paying the \$5 per parcel on. Usually, it is because the bank does not have their own copy. They have all the parcels they pay escrow on, they pay the tax bills. They go through and see what they are missing. If they are missing 25 to 50 %, they come in and get the tax bills. What they would like to do, is that we have an electronic payment in process where they do not have to come down to the county, give them all the coupons. The county does not have to take the coupons and enter the payments into the system manually. The electronic process is just to do the entire payment process electronically. We

send them the file of all the parcels and they send back a check with a file saying this is who we are paying for. The difference is that you get \$5 right now for duplicate bill. That is 25 to 50% of the 900 to 1,000 in Prairie State's case. The charging structure that LaSalle is using is that when we export the file, we export all the parcels for the entire county. They are probably charging 25 cents for every parcel in the county. It is up to them however many of those they are taking escrows on that they are going to kick back. Ed's process, since he doesn't want to charge for every parcel in the county, is going to be more about how many they are paying for. So they are going to be paying a fee for every parcel that they are paying on. You are going to have a disparity there. They were paying \$5 for 25 to 50% and now you are looking for a fee for 100% of what they are paying. That may be an issue for them.

Ed: That is why I was trying to make it balance out for the smaller lender. The other counties charge a flat fee. I asked them who they sell to and their answer was Core Logic and the others are just out.

Linda: One minute, it sounds like you are saying that if they electronically, they have to pay the \$5 per parcel.

Ed: No, not \$5 per parcel. They are going to pay for the duplicates they request.

Jay: If I understand this correctly, this is basically a wash as far as money because the bank is going to come down here and pay, but they have to come physically and get them, but with this system, they just get it electronically and pay it.

Sheena: I would question your ability to charge them at this point once you go to electronic file transfer. We are doing an import / export process and we are sending all files. To charge them for the ones that will be duplicate will rely on their honesty to say, here are the bills we are missing. The way that this process works is you send them all files and they know who they are holding escrow for. I don't know that the concept of charging for duplicate bills is something that is going to be able to transfer into electronic payments. That works when you have pieces of paper and you know how many you are handing over. When you are sending a file of everything, you might need to get into a fee structure. It is more about what parcels you are paying on in its entirety or the number of parcels we sent for the county.

Jay: But when you do that, you have the disparity from the bank that has 1000 versus the bank that has 7000.

Sheena: correct. And that is where it would probably be better to charge for how many they are paying on totally. Maybe not necessarily \$5. Otherwise, you can go ahead and go with that if you feel your banks are honest and they are going to report accurately. It is just an electronic payment process and it does alleviate manual work on the county side.

Jay: I am not going to vote for this the way it is. I think the lady is right. If we can work out something where they pay on the parcels they actually handle, it would be more fair to all of them.

Tim: I understand that if the banks get this electronically, we really don't need any duplicate bills so we are going to lose the \$5 revenue. If we hit them up for 20 cents a parcel,

Jay: But you have to hit them for the parcels they pay on because if you send them 57,000 parcels and every bank has to pay 20 cents a parcel and some banks only need 1000 parcels while some need 7000.

Sheena: So, for example, in Prairie State Bank's case, if they need 25 to 50% of the bills – just say 30%, take 30% of your \$5 or say we're going to charge \$2.50 for every parcel you are paying on, you will come up, if they were getting 50% duplicate bills and now you charge 25% per 100 they are handling that's where you can make it a wash. You can come up with the number that will get you close to that balance point.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to table, seconded by Jay Dunn, and motion carried 7-0.

*Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations for FY2013
Treasurer's Budget – Tipton System*

Ed reported that Alan, with the Tipton System, was present to give a presentation. He explained that they have installed this system in about 14 counties in Kansas, Missouri & Illinois – 5 in Illinois.

Alan demonstrated the system and explained how it works. When you mail in your payments today, whether through mail, at bank, or at the window in the office, they get a batch of checks and coupons to process. This system runs on software that was derived from the law called Check 21. The software company is Jaguar Software out of Sullivan, IL in Moultrie County. Both checks and coupons are loaded into a scanner that takes a picture and then compares the two to make sure they agree. After all are scanned, a file is created and sent to Fike & Fike. The software balances, creates a posting file, and sends the deposit to the bank. All images are stored for future review and use in problem solving. Reports can be run at end of day or whenever needed. Checks and balances are kept intact through one person doing scanning and another doing the balances if preferred. This system does your day's work for you by getting the file to Fike and Fike and getting the money to the bank, but it does so much more by running reports and storing information and images, etc...

Alan also demonstrated a currency counter. He showed how the counter determines denomination and detects counterfeit bills. Jay commented that last time Alan was here to demonstrate, he had a machine that weighed money also and questioned the cost differences between the two machines. Keith wondered what happened in a machine that weighs bills if some of them are wet. Alan explained that real wet money might throw it off and you might want to hold off counting until it can dry. Jay stated that he had googled money counting machines because between the Circuit Clerk and Treasurer, over \$4 or \$5 million cash goes through the offices. The highest priced one I could find was about \$800. He asked about the differences in the machines. There are a couple of different categories. There are note counters which tell the number of bills there are. Low volume banks use these. These are in the \$800 to \$1500 range. The discriminators which have the ability to discriminate between one bill and the next and those run \$3000 to \$4000 range. Patty Cox explained that from her work at the bank experience, she can vouch for the "you get what you pay for" theory. Alan explained that they do have other choices, but Patty is correct in that you do get what you pay for. This machine is just the one that Ed and he had spoken about.

Tim Dudley: What is the electronic lock box?

Alan: Is everyone familiar with the bank service that offers the ability to pay your bills online through the bank website? It makes processing bills a lot harder than you think. Banks contract processors and there are about 5 to 8 million processors out there. You go to your bank's online billpay website, log in, tell them who you are paying, what dollar amount, account # and all that info is given to the processor. The processor cuts the checks. When those checks arrive, they are keeping their fingers crossed that they typed in the correct parcel #. Because the taxpayer is doing this completely on their own, the county treasurer's office has no control over what is being entered. It takes from 2 to 5 minutes to process one of these checks. We have a working relationship with all the processors. We have them just give us the data, rather than send a physical check to the County, and we consolidate everything down to a posted file that can be

downloaded into Fike and Fike automatically and the money is given by ECH credit the next day. It is essentially reducing these from 100% down to about 5%. Thus it is a timesaver.

Keith Ashby: Ed, how many manhours do you think you'd save a year with this system?

Ed: In conferring with Dave Coe, if it takes 4 hours to run a certain stack of coupons and checks manually, this system could do it in 15 minutes. It is going to be quite a bit of savings especially in part time help. I can't eliminate them. I'll still need some for the counter, but we spend a lot of time getting everything posted and balanced every day.

Keith: Yes, but I need a number of manhours saved per year to justify the expense.

Jay Dunn: The maintenance fee is about 20% of initial cost and it seems extraordinarily high for an annual maintenance fee. Maybe some of the other office holders can tell me if this is in line?

Alan: I can't speak for what the standard is in the "County world", but from my experience in the banking industry, 20% to 25% is pretty standard. I'll go through it. The software includes any phone support, updates and changes, the electronic lock box, full parts and labor on the currency counter and a loaner machine if something should happen. It's kind of like an insurance policy. If something does happen, you are covered.

Patty Cox: With the scanner, you now save the tax bill coupons, will you have to still do that?

Ed: We will still have the coupons, but we can save a lot of time instead of doing it all manually. I will have to do some figuring on how many hours it will save. It will be substantial, but I can't sit here and give you a guess tonight.

Alan: On the savings part, when I've installed this, and then talked with the county afterwards, they tells me in the past, it took x number of days to catch up afterwards, for example in Putnam County where Nancy is the Deputy. Nancy says it her about 7 days to catch up in the past and after the system it was about 3 to 4 days. You will still need some part time help for your counters, but it is going to allow you to cut part time staff as well as freeing up time. Talking to Linda & Cherie earlier, distribution and processing is just a mundane task. In talking with Monroe County earlier, this is what they did. They had one part time person doing the processing and then move the file over to the Deputy and she was able to work on other things.

Keith: Ed, what is your part time budget?

Ed: Around \$16,000.

Keith: How many people?

Ed: Up to 6 people. As soon as the first installment is over, I will keep at least 3 to 4 people to help with posting besides the other 3 in my office working on posting too.

Keith: That is included in the \$16,000?

Ed: Yes. After the first installment, we have to balance and that will take us up to 7 or 8 days to get everything balanced between all the mail ins and everything. We only have 30 days before we distribute the funds to the taxing bodies.

Keith: Do you think you could cut your part time budget in half?

Ed: I believe I could be close to that.

Linda: I am not unconfident that this is a wise investment. My issue is with timing. I don't see it as an emergency and I'm very connected to that idea. To change a current budget, there needs to be an absolute emergency and reason to do it now. This is something that has just come up and we did not know about in the past how much time, labor and money it costs to do tax payments and to receive them. My concern is that why is it necessary to change the current budget. I am very comfortable considering this when budget talks come around this summer. I realize that is after 2 more tax cycles, but it's also after 100+ years of tax cycles. I'm not sold that an emergency situation has arisen.

Ed Yoder: I first saw this at last summer's conference. I talked with other treasurer's that have the system in place and have not heard any negative feedback. We were already in the budget process then. I wanted to think about it for a while. I talked with Alan quite a bit via email and phone. In November, he showed it to my office staff and they all loved it.

Linda Little: I don't doubt that, but I don't see it as an emergency situation.

Ed Yoder: Well, there's never an emergency. The government goes on, no matter what.

Linda Little: It would be lovely to have and I think during the budget for next year is the absolutely appropriate time to move forward.

Ed Yoder: If you want me to wait until budget cycle, I cannot guarantee these prices, but that is another issue. I would like to point out also, that I was able to close out three small dormant accounts. That \$8,636 shows up as additional revenue. If you factor that from the \$21,998, I am asking \$13,362 difference.

Linda Little: I don't discount that, but if we do it for your office, we would have to do it for every dime the Sheriff's office puts into the general fund and every dime the State's Attorney's Office puts into the general fund and that is not how this County operates.

Kevin Greenfield: I am not saying it's a bad program, but I don't know that much about it. I was wondering if there are other programs out there like this.

Ed Yoder: No.

Kevin Greenfield: So, there is no way to get a price comparison or anything?

Ed Yoder: None that I know of.

Kevin Greenfield: Well, if there are no more systems why are you only in 3 or 4 counties in Illinois?

Ed Yoder: I believe they are in at least 12.

Alan: We are in 5 in Illinois.

Kevin Greenfield: There are 102 counties and you're the only game in town?

Alan: I am the only one in my company who services Illinois, but, yes, there are other software companies that do things like this. We've been working with counties for a couple of years now, but my focus is not 100% on counties. So 5 to me is a lot, but the majority of my business is through the banking industry. This is something that the ball has really started rolling on. Purchasing something like this, obviously, does not happen overnight. Ed and I have been talking for months. Our prices are always competitive. Jaguar support is unprecedented. Chair Keith Ashby asked if there was more discussion and if not, stated he would entertain a motion one way or the other.

Linda Little stated she was not ready to vote. Her vote tonight would be no. She stated that she believes it would be nice to have, but it is not an emergency situation.

Keith Ashby explained that the choices are to either vote or table.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to table stating he would like to see some of the other programs that are available. Keith Ashby added that he would like to see some hard numbers on the savings that would be realized to justify the expense. Tim Dudley seconded. Motion to table carried 7-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation Department

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineering Expenses on a Bridge Condition Study for a Bridge on Boody Road in Pleasant View Township

Bruce Bird explained the resolution is for \$2,915 to Homer L. Chastain. This bridge is currently closed. The engineering study will come in and give us a recommendation for the type of repair we can do on this bridge to open it back up.

Motion to approve sending to full board made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman, and motion carried 7-0.

I am here tonight because of the letter Jay sent out a couple of weeks ago in regard to having all contracts come through the Finance Committee before going to the Board. I have questions about future contracts to bring before the committee. What kind of limits on a contract and what constitutes a contract? What is the Finance Committee looking for? This is only for \$2,900. There are different limits on what you are requesting as far as State Statutes go. I think there is a general limit of \$20,000. Computer Equipment has another threshold. Professional services has another. I'm more than happy to bring whatever you want. For example, we are going to be looking for new tires for one of our loaders at the end of the year. It is going to be about a \$15,000 to \$20,000 expense for 4 tires. I don't know if that is something you folks want to see. Jay asked if that was an expenditure or a contract. Bruce asked for the definition of a contract. Keith recommended Bruce draw up some guidelines for the committee's review. Linda asked if the money was already in the budget. Bruce affirmed. Linda stated that she would be comfortable with a report and that she did not want to slow the process down with micro-managing if the money has already been approved. Jay explained that the reason for the letter was that the Board Rules say "all contracts". I remember the contracts we had with a copy machine where we paid thousands and thousands of dollars for it because we couldn't get out of it. I like to see contracts and I like for them to go through the State's Attorney's Office because I don't want to fall into a trap again. I understand some of these are pretty mundane and you have them every year, but what does it take to go through the oversight, Finance and then the Board? Usually every office holder has something going through anyway. Linda commented on the timing issue of going through so many steps and it's interference with the work process. Patty Cox asked if these are contracts for work that has already been completed. Bruce said no. The work has not yet been done. I don't know of any open-ended contracts like Jay was concerned over. I will bring the requested recommendations next month.

Keith Ashby stated that he had one more question for Ed Yoder. He said he saw the Auditor's report for the State Treasurer. It mentioned that approximately \$4.6 billion was invested in repurchased agreements collateralized by securities that were not clearly listed as accepted forms of collateral within the Treasurer's investment policy. We have about \$4 million in that account. Are you comfortable with that being there?

Ed Yoder: With what the State Treasurer is doing? No, I don't feel comfortable with that, but how is it my call?

Keith Ashby: We could pull the money out of it.

Ed Yoder: No, we can't. We can't do that.

Kevin Greenfield questioned clarification

Keith Ashby replied, the Treasurer has \$4.6 Billion that is not properly collateralized. We have about \$4 million in that account. Isn't that like a money market account?

Amy Stockwell: yes

Keith Ashby: So, we could pull that money from that account?

Amy Stockwell: yes

Keith Ashby: Why can't we pull the money out of there, Ed?

Ed Yoder: We can. I mean, as far as I know, we can. I have to research it, but if we can, we can pull it out, but I've got to research it first.

Keith Ashby: Would you do that for me and get back to me?

Ed Yoder: yes.

Public Building Commission

Macon County Board Resolution Increasing Appropriations in the DPBC Lease Fund FY2013

Budget for Energy Savings Grant

Jerry Lord explained that the Public Building Commission has been working on an ongoing 3 phase project to change out the chiller system at the LEC, recover the heat from the chilling operation, and to recover the exhaust air and balance out the building for heat recovery. We requested electric efficiency grant money from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Public Sector for the first 2 phases. Payment in the amount of \$15,000 has been received for Phase 1 and we are under application for phase II in the amount of \$90,000. When the money comes in, it will come in to the County since they are set up to receive money and the DPBC is not. This resolution is to give the Auditor permission to hand that money over to us.

Motion to approve sending the resolution to the full board made by Linda Little, seconded by Patty Cox and motion carried 7-0.

EMA

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Contract with University of Illinois to Provide Training for Command and General Staff Training

Jim Root explained that there is no cost to the training. The class is a requirement for all first responders under the NIMS which is the system we went to post 9-11.

Motion to approve sending the Resolution to the full board made by Tim Dudley, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried 7 -0.

Workforce Investments Solutions

Macon County Board Resolution for Workforce Investment Solutions FY13 Budget Amendment

– Rapid Response Veterans Grant

Robyn McCoy was not present. Linda Little had concerns about not addressing these since they affect grants. Keith stated he was concerned that there was nobody present. Linda did not disagree, but said that if anyone is familiar and since it went through O&P, she'd like to hear about it and have the committee discuss them. Tim Dudley explained that this grant is for work with veterans who may need re-training help in finding or keeping a job. That is why it is called Rapid Response. It is to keep veterans employed or to upgrade them. Linda asked if it was additional money. Tim said that yes, it is a grant.

Motion to approve sending the resolution to the full board made by Linda Little, seconded by Tim Dudley, and motion carried 6-1 (Ashby voted no).

Chair Ashby, in asking for a vote, referred to the resolution as the TAA grant. Mike Baggett brought the issue to attention and Keith Ashby corrected himself that this is for the Rapid Response Grant.

Macon County Board Resolution for Workforce Investment Solutions FY13 Budget Amendment – TAA Grant

Patty Cox explained that this is because of the way the ending of the grant period hits and she has some grant money that she has to use up. It is a timing issue.

Kevin Greenfield asked a question about whether this resolution could go on to the Board without approving. Mike Baggett stated that yes, it certainly could. The Resolution is not worded to say the Finance Committee recommends it.

Motion to approve sending the resolution to the full board made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried 6-1 (Ashby voted no).

Chair Ashby stated that these resolutions are important and he would think that somebody would be here or they would appoint somebody to be here and that is the reason he voted against- not that he is necessarily against the resolutions themselves.

Circuit Court

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Contract between West Law (Thomson Reuters) and the Macon County Law Library

Judge Webber reported that this is a request for, not only West Law, but also for the subscription service for print services from West, the principal vendor for the Law Library as well as the Judge's research. It is renewal of a 3 year contract. It will save us about \$13,300 over the life of the contract. On the electronic research limit, the increase is about 1% for the first 2 years and 3 % for the last year. This is part of the Law Library budget. For the substantial savings, I discontinued a few of the services in the Law Library, particularly the federal services. The ones we do still maintain because we do still need them, we get a 50% discount on because of our subscription to the West Law Next program which is the newest generation electronic research.

Motion to approve sending the resolution to the full board made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman and motion carried 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

None needed

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 29, 2013 @ 5:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Dudley, seconded by Patty Cox , motion carried 7-0, and meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham
Macon County Board Office