

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #4
September 14, 2020 @ 5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Jackson, Chairman
Kevin Greenfield
Debra Kraft
Greg Mattingley
Jim Gresham

MEMBERS PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY

Laura Zimmerman
Helena Buckner

MEMBERS ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair John Jackson at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior 9/8/20 finance committee meeting was made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and roll call vote showed the motion carried 6-0.

(Note that Ms. Buckner has joined the meeting telephonically)

FY21 Budget Proposals

Veterans Assistance

Mr. Collins explained that he had only increased two lines, telephone expense and IT services for the website. Everything else was cut.

Chair Jackson asked about the office manager staff line. Mr. Collins explained that he does not have an office manager currently. Until he gets to be a VSO, he will be administrative.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Coroner

Mr. Day explained that his budget is pretty much the same as last year's. The only difference is in the Deputy Coroner and Administrative Assistant lines. The Administrative Assistant is a contractual employee and is granted a \$700 raise. Traditionally, in the office, the Deputy Coroners have always gotten whatever the union employees get. He explained that the union employee raise is contractual and has to be given, but he would leave it up to the discretion of the board in regard to the other \$1,400 in raises for the Deputy Coroners.

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Greg Collins, Veterans
Mike Day, Coroner
Carol Reed, Auditor
Lisa Wallace, Auditor's Office
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce
Lt. Belcher - Jail
Chief Dep Adam Walter, Sheriff's Office
Dave Ellison, Public Defender
Tim Macken, Mental Health Board
LeAnne Shoemaker, Mental Health
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley. Chairman Greenfield asked if all the raises were included in the motion. Ms. Kraft confirmed and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Workforce Investments

Ms. Wilkerson explained that Workforce Investments Solutions is a federal employment training agency and Macon County is the fiscal agent. Workforce has had a few challenges this year due to COVID. The front doors have been locked since March.

The budget summary is from December, 2020 through November, 2021.

The Workforce allocation for 2020 was \$1,705,856 combined with the carry forward dollars for 2019 of \$555,769. That was an increase this year of \$388,694, which is good. She said that they had gone after some special grants. They have Richland Workforce Consortium Grant of \$65,000. No incentive grant was received this year. They received an Opioid Grant for \$1,322,925 and a Business Layoff Aversion Grant for \$32,524 and just recently, a Community Foundation Grant for \$98,500. There was a carry over of \$30,000 for the Put Illinois to Work Program. That totals up to \$3,679,550.

Ms. Kraft asked about the carry over and how long it can be carried over because she knew that sometimes it can't be carried over and it runs out. Ms. Wilkerson said it was there before she was employed at Workforce and it just keeps getting carried over.

For the expenditures, there were two retirees, Dana Miller, a 25 years plus employee in December and Karen Allen, a 20 years plus employee in January. So with COVID coming on in March and these two retirements of long term employees, there were some challenges. Ms. Wilkerson explained that she had to rearrange some things and after the adjustments, she thinks they're good now. Personnel wages for 11 full time and 1 part time staff along with 7 part time Consortium instructors at the library for the Richland Grant comes to \$103,533. Facility expenses include the telephone, rent, computer repair, equipment, internet access, utilities, copier, repairs, staff travel, and the accident policy for the Pershing Road location. She said they are very pleased with the partnership with the County where they are sharing Nate Binkley as the IT person. He has been a great asset to the workforce. He checks in two to three times a week. The partnership has been really good. Direct Line expenses include the locational classes which are the RN program, the welding program, buying specific classes for training through the college, on the job training which is paying wages while they are learning the job, work experience for people who have never had a job and they are getting paid to learn the job, transportation, child care, reimbursements – that's all part of this. That is why Workforce is able to help people become successful. Incumbent worker, youth contracts, & workman's compensation are also included. As a summary, that equals out to the \$3,679,550.

Ms. Wilkerson distributed a year end review for committee members.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Ms. Kraft and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Public Defender

Mr. Ellison explained that his budget is slightly less than last year's budget. The only increased line is the Public Defender's salary which is statutorily mandated. Everything else is either the

same or reduced. It is about a 3% cut. He explained that his salary is about 90% of the salaries. Some of the salaries were cut a bit for a total decrease to salaries of about \$5,000. He said he had tried to cut other expenses such as telephone & postage. The other expenditure line was the biggest cut. He said they had gotten approved for two contract positions. Those positions have not yet been filled because of COVID and so now, they will only try to fill one of the positions. Those people will be used for some of the more serious crimes. There is a backlog right now. The trials being done now are one or two a month and they are very serious crimes. There is a backlog of people in jail waiting for trials. These are Class 1, Class X & murder cases. There is also a big backlog of people who are going to trial that are not in custody that will still have to be done when things loosen up and get back to normal. At this point in time, only one of these positions will be filled. We can do that now because we are not doing the volume, but as seen in the newspapers, there is an increase in violent crime and gun crime. We all take that very seriously, but it puts extra pressure on the office and staff. He explained that they are trying to cut the best they can, but there just isn't much there to cut. Expenses as far as services, paper, phones, etc. are only about 10% of the budget. The rest is salaries. This year, the estimate is that there will be about 1,700 felonies which is down a little from last year, probably because of COVID. The seriousness of the crimes now coming in are offsetting any savings through lesser amount of filings and felony cases.

Mr. Gresham asked for clarification on the other expenditures line. Mr. Ellison explained that these are contractual type things such as contracted employees, the additional one that is going to be hired, Westlaw & contracts that provide legal research and help with the investigation process and trying to find people. Mr. Gresham said it seems like a big number to throw under "other expenses" and suggested breaking it down a little more for next year.

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Gresham and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Mental Health Board

Mr. Macken said this is year 3 for him to do this.

He explained that the County Board does not approve their budget, but they do have to approve the levy extension. That request is the same amount as it was last year.

The budget this year is \$4.4 million in revenues and expenses and it balances. He said they were able to reduce their operating expenses by about a half a percentage point. Now it is at about 8.06%. The average Mental Health Board in the State of Illinois is about 13%, so they are grateful to be able to do that. The way that is done is through the additional contracts / grants they have through the state that help to reduce operational costs for the 708 board.

Some highlights that should be pointed out because they are important for the community include that the budget did increase, and as mentioned last year, they were able to keep the juvenile redeploy program in Macon County. That is an important set of services for this community given the challenges it is having with juvenile crime. Prior to the year ending, the first year they were able to get that, the budget in that program increased by another \$47,000 before the end of that fiscal year. This year, as the fiscal year started, that \$4.4 million does not a recent notification that they have already increased it \$110,000. He explained that they have gone from the first year contract of \$367,000 to now \$663,000. The state is investing in these

programs across the state. They are interested in seeing additional services and processes put in place to make it more effective.

Something else they are really proud of is that Mr. Macken said he had been approached by a social worker who had started a program which is a Critical Incident and Stress Management Team in Macon County. He said they now fit them in with their Mental Health Disaster Response Team at the Mental Health Board. She had approached Mr. Macken because she had initiated a therapist position working out of the Decatur Police Department. He explained that they were able to fund that through the last fiscal year and will continue that. Having that person there took quite a bit of her time to gain the trust of the officers, but it has turned out to be what appears to be very successful. He said he is hoping to see that expand across law enforcement in this county and with first responders in general. What our law enforcement professionals in the County deal with on a daily basis all of the time can be very stressful and traumatic to them as well as to the EMTs, Firefighters and others. He commented on a current TV commercial where there is a police officer who had been shot in the line of duty and is now a paraplegic who talks about the importance of mental health services being available to law enforcement. So, this is an area that the hope is to see more acceptance among the law enforcement professionals and utilization of services so that they can help them deal with the stress that is involved with that difficult and important job.

With COVID, it has been an unusual year. One of the things that they wanted to do with all the contracts with various agencies was to be as flexible as they could in helping them to expend their contract dollars. Business was not as usual for any of those providers. They were doing things remotely trying to reach clients and provide mental health substance use and developmental disability services in different means. He explained that they were very flexible in helping them figure out ways they could do that. The importance of that and what the State was doing through DHS was saying when we get through this, at some point, when business goes back to the usual, you've got to have a workforce in place that will be able to handle that. It is important that these agencies not lose the revenue and have to lay the staff off and all of a sudden when the floodgates open, not have the people there to provide the services. He said they are pleased that they are able to do that.

The specific request is that the Finance Committee recommend to the County Board, approval of the levy extension at \$2,662,063. This is the same amount as the request was last year. They are at a max levy of 1.5 mils. The dollar amount is actually a little higher than it is anticipated that they will get, but if they don't ask for the higher dollar amount and should more revenues be collected than expected, they would not gain that and would be limited to the specific amount requested. It is the same as last year's request.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT -

There were no comments presented via email nor were there any citizens present to make remarks or comments.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS -

Macon County Board Resolution Approving and Agreement for Inmate Health Services at the Macon County Jail

Lt. Jamie Belcher, Jail Administrator, presented the resolution and a draft of the agreement and offered to answer questions.

Mr. Gresham said that there are conflicting figures as the resolution says \$648,240 and somewhere in the agreement it says \$703 something. He asked if the 15% on top makes the difference. Lt. Belcher explained that the \$648 figure is the estimated cost that they believe it should cost to do all the health services. What they will do is add 15% on to that amount to get the grand total. What they cannot guarantee is, 1) the cost per inmate health care will either go up or down. This is their estimation on what it would cost. This company does stuff a little differently because when they present the bill for services rendered each month, they provide a detailed list of services, medications, x-rays, etc... that were provided for each inmate that required some type of medical care. Some months it will be higher because the inmate population is higher, but some months it will be lower. Whereas traditionally, companies come in and give a dollar amount that is expected to cover everything. That figure is traditionally higher than the true cost. Those companies set a cap on how much they go above and if they reach that cap, they start charging the County for all the extras. Mr. Gresham asked if this one doesn't include something like that, if they exceed an amount, they can bill the county. Lt. Belcher explained that if they exceed the amount, they will bill the County, but the 15% administration fee will not be charged on top of that amount. They're saying the \$648 figure is what it is going to cost, but if stuff goes above, then we owe them money, but if, possibly, at the end of 12 months, it is below what the estimated price is, then we get money back. They have had instances where correctional institutions where they have provided these services before where the first year initial contract was estimated higher than what the actual services cost. So, one correctional institution they provided services for got \$65,000 returned to them.

Chairman Greenfield asked if the contract amount covers the federal prisoners. Lt. Belcher explained that the US Marshall Service directly pays for federal prisoners. This company will provide medical services to those inmates, but as far as the bills, x-rays, doctor visits, etc will be paid for directly from the federal government. We don't pay that money. Mr. Greenfield asked how many inmates the \$600,000 figure is based on. Lt. Belcher said it is estimated at 300 inmates. Their proposal was for 315 so it would be a little higher to provide some wiggle room in the finances. This company does not do per diems where traditional companies will come in and charge a per diem if you go above the base, which ours was 300, but theirs is 315. If we go above those numbers for any period of time, the other companies were charging extra per day per inmate. The costs were escalating just on the per diem costs. This company does not do per diems and understands that jail populations go up and down. Mr. Greenfield asked if there was any other county in Illinois that uses this company. Lt. Belcher explained that he could not discuss the one other county due to the current contract talks with them. There is going to be one. This company is based out of Alabama and are moving their way north. They want to break into Illinois. When the RFP went out, it was put out to 8 or 9 different health care providers and had a total of 2 responses. There are not many professional healthcare based companies around any longer. When you start looking at the places like DMH, St. Marys & Crossings that we previously had, they are not 100% focused on Correctional healthcare where that is the focus of this company. There is a very limited number throughout the US that

actually provide this service. Some places are not licensed in the State of Illinois and don't wish to expand.

The effective date would be October 5th. Contractual notice from Crossing Health Care was given that they were leaving the facility and not renewing their contract. There was a quick turnaround time to get the RFP's out, get them back, research them and then present here.

Mr. Greenfield asked about medical staff and their hours. Lt. Belcher explained that they are going with a 24/7 coverage plan. Currently they have a 160 hour coverage plan. This would provide 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week coverage with either an RN or LPN in the facility. There will constantly be someone there. In the back shifts, right now, correctional officers speak with inmates that claim to have medical issues, but they are not trained or experienced to be able to identify what could or could not be. So, they rely on making a phone call to the provider and they decide over the phone whether the individual needs to go or does not need to go to the hospital. With trained individuals in the jail, the hope is to catch things before it becomes catastrophic. With this company, they are very flexible with their plans. Three plans were offered; 160 hours like the current plan, a middle plan of 172 hours which is the 24/7, and an additional one of 208 hours which is even more coverage for the 24/7. They said that if, in 3 months down the road, we decide we don't want the plan we choose, we can increase it or decrease it according to need.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Chairman Greenfield and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING -

Budget Hearing #5 – Tuesday, 9/22/2020

(Sheriff/jail/Courtroom Security, EMA, Circuit Court, Health Department, State's Attorney)

Regular Finance Committee meeting - 9/28/2020

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office