



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Sep 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom

112 E Second St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jim Schielein.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jim Schielein, Vice Chair Arlan McClain, Tom Kitson, Lirim Mimini, Doug Farster, Rick Humphrey, and Tim Bivins

Arlan McClain, Doug Farster, and Tim Bivins were all absent. All other members were present in person.

Also present: John Nicholson (County Board Vice Chair), Mike Koppien, Marilyn Shippert and Tom Wilson (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Paula Meyer (Treasurer)(9:00-9:42), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy in the Treasurer's Office), Sara Leisner (ARPA Grant Coordinator), John Simonton (Sheriff), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) were all present in person.

III. Public Visitors

Jeff Stauter (Executive Director of Kreider Services), Don Vock (Kreider Board of Directors - Secretary/Treasurer), Jane Lynch, Rick Boysen, and Mary Oros (Councilwoman City of Dixon)(9:04-9:58) all attended the meeting in support of the Timber Creek Golf Course/Kreider Services item on the agenda. Courtney Kennedy (9:00-9:04), was present in person, on behalf of Meadow Solar, LLC, to answer any questions the committee might have regarding the community solar project petition coming to the County Board.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (August 18, 2022)

Motion to approve the August 18, 2022, Regular Finance Committee Meeting minutes and the August 30, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Wrap-Up minutes.

Moved by Lirim Mimini. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

Paula Meyer walked the committee through the monthly financial report. A question was asked about the New LEC taxes. Paula explained that the New LEC tax was trending higher than expected, which meant that additional funds could be paid toward the debt.

VI. Treasurer’s Quarter Financial Report – Presented every December, March, June, September

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Rick Humphrey. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Insurance Committee and GREDCO Reports

From GREDCO, Lirim Minini reported that the City of Rochelle approved a small container yard next to the city's Transload Center on Steward Road just North of the County line

There was no report from the Insurance Committee.

VIII. Approval of Monthly Resolution(s): 12 (Twelve) Joseph Meyer Resolutions

Motion to approve the twelve (12) Joseph Meyer Resolutions and move to the Executive Committee. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Lirim Mimini. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

IX. Other Business

There was no discussion under other business.

X. New Business

A. ARPA Committee Recommendations

1. Broadband Grant - Matching Funding

a. Broadband Grant Detailed Budget 8.25.22

b. Lee County Broadband PowerPoint Presentation

Wendy Ryerson walked the committee through the Broadband Grant topic on the agenda. Highlights are below.

- One of the top five (5) priorities identified in the ARPA Strategic Planning Meeting was Broadband.
- Ogle County applied for, and received a Broadband planning grant and included Lee and Putnam Counties in the planning process.
- For twelve (12) weeks, Ogle, Lee, and Putnam Counties (along with many other entities) participated in a planning grant program that would help identify what work needed to be done to pull together a Broadband project for County or Community government, including networks, areas,

funding opportunities, and barriers to network development.

- The Broadband grant currently available is not getting Broadband to homes, it is developing and securing the necessary “middle-mile” infrastructure that would eventually bring Broadband to communities. Future phases will bring Broadband into homes.
- The deadline for application of this grant is September 30, 2022.
- The County Board would have to approve participation at the September County Board Meeting. Notice of the award will be announced on or about March 1, 2023 and the grant requires the complete buildout to be completed within five (5) years.
- The process requires collaborative efforts between Counties and public and private partnerships.
- The County's private partner is Syndeo Networks
- The Federal Government allows the construction of fibers paths to the rural communities, but not to the homes (phase 1).
- Broadband provided within the jurisdiction of cities and towns falls under the Connect Illinois Program (phase 2).
- The Federal Government is asking for a 30% match for funding and this is where the private and public partnership comes into play.
- Syndeo is matching 15% in real dollars along with contributing towards all of the administration and equipment costs.
- The total cost of the project is roughly \$47 million. Syndeo's cost is roughly \$6.3 million. Lee County's cost, over five (5) years, is between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million.

Wendy went on to explain that the motion coming out of ARPA was to fund the project at 100% (\$1,677,366.97). Concerns had been expressed that the project would not be completed by the deadline set forth by the Federal Government, that all funds needed be allocated by 2024 and expended by 2026. If the projected was not completed on time, the ARPA funds could not

be used. Wendy recommended funding the project at 50% from ARPA and 50% from a different funding source.

Motion to support and recommend the grant match funding for the Broadband Grant paid for out of capital in the amount of \$350,000. **Moved** Rick Humphrey. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The committee to a break from 10:11-10:18.

2. ARPA Capital Fund Allocation Recommendation

This item was overlooked on the agenda and will be brought back during the November ARPA meeting.

B. Request for Reconsideration Regarding the ARPA Vote on the Kreider Golf Course

In the August Finance Committee meeting, a motion was made to use \$250,000 in ARPA dollars to fund the Kreider Golf Course Irrigation request and move the request to the Executive Committee for vote during the August County Board Meeting. The motion was voted down during the County Board Meeting. Jim Schielein reported that after the meeting, new information regarding the project had come forward. Because of the new information the topic was added to the September Executive Committee agenda. However, no motion to reconsider the motion was forwarded from the Finance Committee.

C. New Hire in the State's Attorney's Office

Charley Boonstra reported that the office has an applicant that he thinks will be a good fit for the County as an additional Assistant State's Attorney. The applicant has a background in Municipal and County law and roughly ten years of experience. The request for this applicant to start prior to the budget year is on the agenda for the Finance Committee for approval.

Motion to authorize the State's Attorney's Office to hire a New Assistant State's Attorney prior to December 1, 2022, and move to the Executive Committee.

Moved by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Lirim Mimini. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XI. Executive Session:

There was no request for an executive session.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:33 a.m. **Moved** by Lirim Mimini. **Second** by Rick Humphrey.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for
9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 13, 2022