



Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Hearings (Day 3) Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Aug 9, 2022 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 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 and Lirim Mimini were absent. All other members were present in person.

III. Meeting Attendees and Visitors

Judge Ackert (9:00-9:30), John Nicholson (County Board Vice Chair)(9:00-10:28), Marilyn Shippert and Marvin Williams (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney)(9:00-10:20), Bob Thompson (Public Defender)(9:00-10:20), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk)(9:00-10:20), Staci Stewart (Director of Court and Probation Services)(9:00-10:20), Paul Rudolphi (Chief Deputy in the Treasurer's Office), John Simonton (Sheriff)(9:49-12:05), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department)(10:04-12:06), Dave Glessner (Lieutenant Investigator in the Sheriff's Office)(10:53-12:05), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Budget Meeting (August 8, 2022 Social Services Meeting)

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting - Social Services Budget Hearings. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Doug Farster. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Old Business

A. FY2023 Ongoing Budget Discussion and Decisions

Paul Rudolphi reported that the County sales tax revenue was up about \$400,000 from what had been projected. Income tax was up about \$500,000 from what had been projected. Fines and fees are below what was projected, partially because of the renewable energy moratoriums. The budget is roughly up \$1.3 million above what was projected.

VI. New Business

A. Committee and Courts System Joint Budget Hearing

Judge Ackert walked the committee through an overview of the changes coming to the Courts System due to the January 1, 2023, Pretrial Fairness Act (part of the Safety Act).

- Cash bond is eliminated - the act identifies certain offenses that are detainable and certain offenses that are non-detainable.
- Drug offenses are non-detainable offenses - offenders will be cited and released or released with pre-trial conditions.
- Firearm offenses, sex offenses, and domestic or forcible felonies are detainable.
- Weekend court is a very likely possibility. This means the Courthouse would be required to be open and Judges, clerks, court security, State's Attorney staff, Public Defender staff, and court reporters would need to be present.
- With no cash bond, the County stands to lose roughly \$400,000 each year.
- The act will require much more monitoring (ankle bracelets)
- Additional court dates will be required.
- Trials are required to be conducted within 90 days versus 120 days.
- A Public Defender is required to be assigned prior to the defendant's initial hearing.
- Later in the process, body cams will be required which will likely increase FOIA and discovery requests and require additional time for Lee County personnel to review any information/evidence provided from the camera footage.
- All changes are unfunded mandates

Charley Boonstra reported the following changes and requests to the State's Attorney budget:

- The part-time line item was decreased from \$31,000 to \$15,000 because the part-time employee transitioned to full-time.
- Postage decreased by \$500
- Maintenance decreased by \$1,000
- Training and conferences decreased by \$1,000
- Prisoner transport was increased by \$2,000 (from \$3,000 to \$5,000)
- Westlaw subscription increased by \$6,000 (from \$24,000 to \$30,000)
- Additional software purchase of \$2,500

- Two (2) additional employees - an additional Assistant State's Attorney and office staff – total increase o \$152,326

Bob Thompson reported the following changes and requests to the Public Defender's budget:

- Requested a \$65,000 increase in his full-time salary line item to meet the demands required from his office by the Pretrial Fairness Act laws. The increase would be for the Public Defender (\$35,000) and the Assistant Public Defender (\$30,000). The state reimburses a portion of the Public Defender's salary which was included in the office budget.
- The \$65,000 increase would negate the \$7,8000 stipend that was previously requested to account for the initial changes in the law.
- The committee verified that if the law is repealed, Bob Thompson would consider going back to part-time, but would seek reinstatement of bond hearing costs and specialty court reimbursement.
- Also proposed was a \$30,000 increase to the legal line-item to accommodate a contractual hire.

Staci Stewart reported the following changes and requests to the Probation budget:

- The potential for weekend court would require bond reports from the Probation Office. During the beginning stages of the the new law, Staci was proposing a compensation or flex time schedule from the County verses increasing her over-time line item.
- Staci had made a request from the administrative office for an addition staff member. She would only accept the additional staff member if the position was a grant-in-aid position, with full salary reimbursement.

Amy Johnson reported the following changes and requests to the Circuit Clerks budget:

- She reported that the office was set to lose roughly \$40,000 to \$50,000 in fees per year due to the no cash bail changes in the Pretrial Fairness Act.
- One additional full-time employee was requested to accommodate weekend court
- An increase was requested in the over-time line item to accommodate weekend court

**The committee took a break from 10:20 a.m., to 10:28 a.m.

B. Committee and Highway Department/Solid Waste Budget Hearing

Dave Anderson reported the following requests and changes in the County Highway budget:

- The salary full-time line item was reduced by \$65,000 because he had not hired back an engineering technician. When needed a consultant is called in to assist, so the savings is not the entire \$65,000.
- Dave explained that included in the \$500,000 furniture and equipment line-item was a truck that was approved for purchased in 2022, but would not be available for procurement until 2023. Dave wanted to make sure the truck was accounted for and kept in the conversation. After discussion, the committee made the distinction that there was also a truck in the capital budget for 2023. There was a question as to what fund the trucks should be recorded. This topic should be addressed later in the budget process after the County meets with a bonding company and knows whether or not bonding out capital projects will be an option.

Dave Anderson reported the following requests and changes to the Special Bridge budget:

- Dave walked the committee through the township bridge reimbursement process.
- He explained that \$300,000 was plugged in for 1950s and 1960s bridge deck repairs

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the Solid Waste budget. There were no significant items to report.

Dave Anderson reported that the County Motor Fuel Tax was status quo and walked the committee through the \$1.1 - \$1.2 million dollars of Rebuild Illinois Grant funds. These funds will be set up in a separate line item for specific distribution to projects that will be appropriated by County resolution.

C. Committee and Sheriff's Office Budget Hearing

John Simonton reported the following requests and changes in the Sheriff's Office budget:

- The salary-officer line item was increased due to the recent state mandate.

- The full-time line item went down slightly because of retirements and the hire of new deputies (dispatch is not included in this line-item).
- The inmate medical line-item increased by \$17,790 due to an 3.5% increase by the company and an increase in the nurses weekly hours from 25 to 32.
- John explained that the increase in the maintenance agreement line item included all of the LEC contracts: the policy management system, connectivity fees for the tablets, technology controls for the jail (service agreement), and card readers.
- The food and meals line item was increased because of the increased cost of food.

John and the committee walked through the capital budget. Included in the discussion was the capital fund purchasing process for the squad cars and the purchase of rifles.

D. Treasurer's Office Financial Officer Approval

This topic was put on hold until the August 30, 2022, Finance Committee Budget meeting after some adjustments had been made.

E. Replacement Administrator Position Approval

This topic was put on hold until the August 30, 2022, Finance Committee Budget meeting after some adjustments had been made.

VII. Executive Session

There was no request for an executive session.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12.06 p.m. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Doug Farster. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.