



# Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Mar 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM CDT

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

## I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m., by Vice Chair Mike Book.

## II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jim Schielein, Vice Chair Mike Book, Tom Kitson, Lirim Mimini, Tim Bivins, Nancy Naylor

Mike Book, Tom Kitson, Lirim Mimini, Tim Bivins, and Nancy Naylor all attended in person. Jim Schielein attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Also present: Dean Freil, Keane Hudson, Mike Koppien, Bob Olson, and Tom Wilson (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Sara Leisner (ARPA Grant Coordinator), Reid Mitchell (Financial Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Patty Rudolphi (Grant Fiscal Coordinator), Paul Rudolphi (Treasurer), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

### Discussion during roll call:

- Alice Henkel explained that during the hearing for Steward Creek Solar the use of battery energy storage was questioned because the County is currently under a moratorium for battery energy storage. Alice wanted to make sure that all the Board Members were aware that the moratorium was for stand-alone systems only. Last year when the state introduced their new citing standards for wind and solar, they allowed for battery energy storage as an accessory to a wind or solar project.

## III. Public Visitors

Scott Remer and William Hantzmon (Steward Creek Solar, LLC), both attended in person to answer any questions the Board Members might have regarding petition 23-P-1617. Petition 23-P-1617 was motioned to the Executive Committee during the County Services Committee Meeting.

## IV. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting - (February 15, 2024)

Minutes from the February 15, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

## V. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

This topic was discussed during the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report

## VI. Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report – Presented every December, March, June, September

Reid Mitchell walked the County through the Treasurer's Monthly and Quarterly Financial Reports. Following are highlights:

- County general expenses were higher than expected due to the increase of CIRMA Insurance premiums
- Due to the increase in salaries negotiated in the FOP contract late last year, the Sheriff's budget is slightly over compared to last year's totals

**Motion** to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Nancy Naylor. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Insurance Committee and GREDCO Reports

Nancy Naylor reported that there was no report for March from the Insurance Committee.

Lirim Mimini reported that there was no report for March from GREDCO.

VIII. Administrator Report

Jeremy Englund reported that for the time being, he would be taking over the County's insurance administrative duties while some internal changes were made.

IX. ARPA

A. *Quarterly Report* – The next report will be presented in April 2024

X. Approval of Monthly Joseph E. Meyer Resolution(s):

There were no Joseph E. Meyer Resolutions for March.

XI. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XII. New Business

A. *Technology Modernization Grant Award - New Courts*

Charley Boonstra explained that for the last several years, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts has put forth a technology modernization grant program that the Counties throughout the state could apply for. In the last couple years, the County requested between \$150,000 - \$250,000. This year the County requested just over \$1 million. The application was awarded as submitted, except for radios requested for the Bailiffs. The grant money will provide technology modernization to all the courtrooms in the New Courts building, including the new grand jury courtroom that will be built out this spring.

Paul Rudolphi explained that this is a reimbursement grant so the County will front the costs and then be reimbursed by the state. He went on to report that the cash flow is available.

B. *\*\* Discussion Topic Only - was not on the posted agenda - New Squad Purchase BAR Form*

Clay Whalen explained that the Sheriff's Office had recently been in negotiations for a contract with the Villages of Ashton and Franklin Grove to provide law enforcement services. Ashton had not had a police officer in almost three years while Franklin Grove's police officer retired several months ago. It was agreed that Lee County would provide each village with 20 hours of law enforcement services, and the two would split costs. As part of the cost for these services, the villages agreed to pay \$48,000 for the cost of a new squad car over a 4-year rotation. Schimmer Ford has provided the Sheriff's Office squad cars over the last several years, and they typically take several months to arrive after the order is placed. There is currently a new squad that is available for purchase on the lot of Schimmer Ford that will immediately fulfill the need for an additional squad.

Because this topic was added to the agenda after posting, no action could be taken. This topic will also be discussed by the Executive Committee. With consensus, it can be added to the County Board agenda.

XIII. Executive Session:

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XIV. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Nancy Naylor.

**Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
9:00 a.m., on Thursday, April 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary