



Finance Committee Meeting - Budget Hearings

(Day 1) Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Aug 1, 2023 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 9:04 a.m., by Chair Jim Schielein.

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

Nancy Naylor and Lirim Mimini were absent. Jim Schielein, Mike Book (9:06-10:43), Tom Kitson, and Tim Bivins all attended in person.

III. Meeting Attendees and Visitors

Judge Jacquelyn Ackert (Circuit Judge)(9:06-9:52), Cathy Ferguson-Allen (Heath Department Administrator)(10:05-10:23), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney)(9:06-9:52), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk)(9:06-9:52), Paul Rudolphi (Treasurer), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services)((9:06-9:52), Bob Thompson (Public Defender)(9:06-9:52), Clay Whelan (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person. Stephanie Sasscer (Assistant State's Attorney) attended the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Budget Hearing for Social Services Meeting on (July 31, 2023)

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2023, Finance Committee Budget Hearing for Social Services Meeting. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Old Business

A. FY 2024 Ongoing Budget Discussion and Decisions

After the report from the Health Department, Wendy Ryerson followed up on some of the questions asked during the Social Services meeting on July 31, 2023. Financial information was provided for both the City of Amboy and the Village of Ashton, that was not included on the applications that justified their requests. She did reach out to the Village of Paw Paw regarding the increase in their requests, but no response had been received yet. More research is being done on the transportation services offered by the Lee County Council on aging.

VI. New Business

A. 9:00 a.m. - Joint Hearing - Courts System

All of the Joint Hearing – Courts System discussion is recorded under below under

B. 10:00 a.m. – Joint Hearing – Courts System.

B. 10:00 a.m. - Joint Hearing - Courts System

All of the Department Heads from the Court System were asked to attend the budget hearing at the same time to explain what impact the Pretrial Fairness Act would have on their budgets. Judge Ackert explained that the Supreme Court found that the Pretrial Fairness Act was constitutional and would therefore go into effect on September 18, 2023. She went on to explain that the act will significantly impact the way criminal court is conducted. Time and resources expended by the Judge's Offices, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Circuit Clerk's Office, Probation Department, and Law Enforcement will eventually be dramatically impacted. The hiring of additional personnel is inevitable. Judge Ackert, Staci Stewart, Amy Johnson, Bob Thompson, and Charley Boonstra all weighed in on the subject. Following are highlights:

- Legislation is not clear at this point as to whether weekend court is mandatory. However, additional work for the Judges, State's Attorney, and Public Defender's Offices will immediately be required during the weekends outside of court proceedings,
- The hours and personnel to process body cam footage is still unknown.
- Technology equipment may need to be purchased in order to accommodate some of the weekend needs.
- The Circuit Clerk's Office will see a dramatic decrease in funding from fines and fees collected.

Amy Johnson requested the following changes to her budget to meet the demands of the act:

- Salary increases.
- Postage increase
- Increase in juror mileage

Bob Thompson explained that his position realistically should be full-time. Because he is looking to return to private practice in the next three years, he is forgoing any request for full-time, but has set forth the following proposal for the staffing needs in his office:

1. Carrying over into the FY 2024 budget the \$30,000 budgeted in legal services for FY 2023.
2. Transferring back to the Public Defender's Office, the roughly \$37,000 in Judge Ackert's budget that is currently being used for a contract attorney.

Charley Boonstra requested the following changes to his budget:

- Request for increased salaries to retain current personnel

The committee took a break from 9:52 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.

C. 11:00 a.m. - Health Department

Cathy Ferguson-Allen walked the committee through her budget, grants, and requests. Following are the highlights:

- Cathy explained that there would be a reduction in her full-time budget line-item because a long-term employee would be leaving. The duties of this employee will be absorbed by the existing employees and a part-time employee would be hired, increasing the part-time budget line-item.
- There were several grants that were acquired or increased that raised the Health Department's revenue stream.
- Increases to the budget included approved salary increases, an increase to the SIPA grant, and increasing the maintenance line item and travel line items due to more in person training and meetings.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:43 a.m. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Mike Book. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Finance Committee Meeting (Day 2) is scheduled for
9:00 a.m., on Thursday, August 3, 2023

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary