

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS SEPTEMBER 12, 2017  
BUDGET HEARINGS – DAY #2

The meeting of the County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois (Budget Hearings – Day #2) was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Chairman Robert Elmore, Commissioner Delbert Wittenauer, and Commissioner Vicki Koerber were present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Elmore declared there was a quorum present and the meeting was ready for business.

Also present were County Clerk Dennis Knobloch, Sheila Wetzler, Treasurer Kevin Koenigstein, and Annmarie Marcuson.

Chris Howell came to the meeting to present the budget request for the Weed Commissioner. He said most items remained the same, but he was requesting a \$1,000 increase in his salary line item. Mr. Howell explained that a portion of his salary is paid by the Weed Commissioner budget and the balance is paid by the Highway Department..

Aaron Metzger presented the budget request for the Highway Department.

County Highway fund - \$776,000 compared to \$774,000 last year.

Matching Tax fund - \$310,000 compared to \$307,000 last year.

Bridge fund - \$78,000 compared to \$82,000 last year.

There was discussion regarding the proposal to lease space to house equipment. Commissioner Koerber asked if Mr. Metzger could discuss this with Ryan Weber and John Wagner to see if one large shed could be constructed to take care of the storage needs of the Highway Department, EMA and the Health Department. He said he would do that, but he still needs some type of storage on the west side of the County, so the necessary equipment is close to Rock City in Valmeyer where the sand is stored for sandbagging. Mr. Metzger said he would also check to see if more ground could be purchased next to the Highway Department Garage south of Waterloo that could be used for the construction of a large shed to accommodate the storage needs of the three Departments.

Mr. Metzger said the Road Districts are again asking the County Board to allocate \$110,000 in sales tax proceeds to be used for various Monroe County Road District projects. There was discussion regarding the positives or negatives of combining some of the County's Road Districts.

Mr. Metzger said the Highway Dept. union employees would be receiving a 3% salary increase as per their contract. Mr. Metzger also discussed his proposed Construction calendar for the coming years, and his Equipment Replacement schedule through 2022.

There was discussion of the budget for the 708 Mental Health Board. Commissioner Wittenauer said he would like to see that group receive a 5% increase over the \$415,000 they received last year.

John Wagner presented the budget request for the Recycling Center. He said the dollar amounts were the same as the previous year. He said he was allocating money in the budget for next year

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to cover the purchase of a new skid steer. The skid steer being replaced would be given to the Highway Department for their use. Commissioner Koerber asked about the details of the phone

service at the Recycling Center. Mr. Wagner will work with Commissioner Koerber and Ms. Marcuson to see if the cost of the phone line could be decreased.

Mr. Wagner also presented the budget request for the Health Department. He said the union contract is up, so negotiations would be taking place. Mr. Wagner said the Misc. line item was for contract RN work, and he also reported that grant revenue was down from previous years. His total levy request was for \$300,661 – the same amount as used in previous years. There was also discussion about the proposed new Health Department Building, and the possible construction of a large storage facility that could be used by various County Departments.

Lisa Fallon presented the budget request for the Circuit Clerk's office. She said her goal is to be completely paperless in her office. She currently has a part-time employee scanning files, and once converted to several different digital formats, those paper files can be destroyed. When asked she said she would be happy to participate in a Cost Study to see if any fees could be increased, or if any fees could be added for the services provided by her office.

Ms. Fallon said she would like to retain the part-time employee on a permanent basis, with her working three days a week.

Chris Hitzemann presented the budget request for the State's Attorney office. He said his salary was set by State statute. Other expenses for the office would remain the same. Mr. Hitzemann said he was looking at a system for automating the activities of the office that would tie him in directly with the Judge and the Circuit Clerk's office. The total cost of this system is about \$25,000, with payments spread over a three-year period:

\$13,034.45 due in year 1  
\$ 5,976.00 due in year 2  
\$ 5,976.00 due in year 3

Mr. Hitzemann said he would also be instituting some new fees to help cover some of the costs of the new systems, with his goal to also lean toward a paperless office. He said he has also researched the use of a collection agency to help collect fines and court fees that have been outstanding for a long time. There would be no charge to the County, as this company would add their fees on top of the amounts collected. Mr. Hitzemann said he has done some research on conducting a fee study, and would be happy to lead the effort among the County offices to see that this is completed.

Judge Doyle presented his budget request with no change from the previous year. Judge Doyle said there have been some discussions with St. Clair County regarding the funding for the Probation Officer budget, but he said he felt that we should be able to continue with the same budget information currently being used.

Kelton Davis presented the budget for the Regional Superintendent of Schools. He said the request is based on the EAV of Monroe and Randolph Counties. Currently Monroe County has 62.67% of the EAV within his area, and Randolph County has 37.33%, so the dollar requests are

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based on those numbers. Mr. Davis asked for \$144,824 as compared to \$138,926 last year. He said later today he would be meeting with the State's Attorneys and Sheriffs from Monroe and

Randolph Counties regarding some revisions to the Juvenile discipline and truancy policy. He said he was hoping to be able to develop some community service programs to help control these problems.

There was some discussion of office space. Mr. Davis said he had previously looked at the office space in the Annex Building currently being used by the Health Department, and he felt it would suit the needs of the ROE office if necessary. When told what the Health Department is currently paying in rental for their office space, Mr. Davis said he wasn't sure if that would be workable in his current budget. Mr. Davis said he would continue these discussions with the County Board whenever necessary.

Mr. Koenigstein presented the Commissioner's budget for discussion. The changes discussed included:

- Preparation of Budget – increase from \$6,500 to \$7,000
- Human Resources – increase from \$0 to \$2,000
- Mileage – decrease from \$4,500 to \$1,000
- Weed Eradication – increase from \$35,200 to \$36,250

Mr. Koenigstein also led the discussion regarding General Fund revenue sources. He said he anticipated most of the tax line items would remain the same or slightly increase. He said he also was anticipating an increase of about 4% in the tax levy for next year, with the increased CPI percentage and more growth in Monroe County property values. Mr. Koenigstein said he was waiting until after Sheriff Rohlfing presented his budget request next week to determine what increases could be realized in the fees charged by the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Koenigstein said with the increase in property and housing activity in the County, there would be a resulting increase in the fees collected by the County Clerk's office. Also discussed were State salary reimbursements and rental figures being charged for miscellaneous County office spaces. Other fees and various sources of income were also discussed, including overhead reimbursement from the Nursing Home. Mr. Koenigstein told the Commissioners to study these numbers, and more discussion would take place at a later date. He said he is currently anticipating about \$7 million in total revenues for the coming year.

Mr. Koenigstein led the discussion of General County expenses. It was decided that Ms. Marcuson's salary would be split 60% County Board/Human Resource budget and 40% Treasurer budget.

There was extensive discussion regarding the County's Health Insurance plan. The County Board may look at adding a second plan that could be used by those employees who have young families and limited health insurance costs. It was decided once again to set aside \$5,000 to be used for food costs at the Senior Center.

Mr. Koenigstein said so far this year the County has spent \$36,000 on legal fees for the Negotiator/Human Resources. It was anticipated that at least \$50,000 should be set aside for this

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next year. There was also discussion regarding Economic Development, and next year will be the second year of a three-year commitment to the EDC.

Mr. Koenigstein suggested going back to the practice of setting aside \$30,000 annually for miscellaneous construction and repair projects in County buildings.

It was decided to once again levy \$12,000 for the General Assistance line item, and move Sheila Wetzler's salary to the General County budget category.

Mr. Koenigstein presented the budget for the Treasurer's office. He said he was reducing his Equipment and Maintenance budget to reflect his previous monthly payments to Americom, and after purchasing some new computers during the coming year, he would reduce that budget line item even further. All of his other budget line items remained the same.

Mr. Koenigstein discussed various budget items including Social Security, Tort and Immunity and IMRF. Chairman Elmore will check with CIRMA to see if we can get their proposed amount for the Insurance payment we will owe them for the coming year.

The tax levy was discussed. Mr. Koenigstein told the Commissioners they should think about what amounts they wanted to include for the Ambulance Service, the Monroe County Extension Service, the Nursing Home Salary line and for the 708 Mental Health Board.

Commissioner Wittenauer left the meeting, and more discussion followed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Koerber, with a second by Chairman Elmore. All voting Aye, none Nay and Commissioner Wittenauer Absent. Motion carried.