

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets
CHAIRPERSON: Steve Rutz
DATE/TIME: November 20, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: John O'Boyle Rick Dittmar Randy Jobgen
 Steve Rutz RJ Winkelhake Ron Smith

Other Board members:
Others: Dan Reimer and Donna Berlage.

1. Review and approve minutes – Randy Jobgen made a motion to approve the October 30, 2014 meeting minutes. Seconded by John O'Boyle and motion passed.

2. Citizens Comments

3. Staff Reports

a) Chief County Assessment Office – Chief County Assessment Officer, Donna Berlage reported that her office is currently working on reviewing the township assessor work for Hanover and Rice Townships. Once that is done they will be ready to publish assessed values for 2014. Berlage reported that there is nothing new with PTAB this month. Berlage reported that she has finally spoken to someone with the Illinois Department of Revenue regarding the assessment redistricting for Jo Daviess County. Berlage sent copies of all the documents to the Illinois Department of Revenue and is waiting for a response back. Berlage discussed that on November 4, 2014 she gave a presentation at Cobblestone Crossing Property Owners Association about the assessment cycle and property taxes. The Annual Township Assessors' meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the County Board Room.

b) Treasurer's Office – County Treasurer, Carol Soat gave her report at the Special Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting on November 18, 2014.

c) County Administrator – County Administrator, Dan Reimer distributed a handout of updated financial reports. The Treasurer's office has completed the financials for October 31, 2014. Reimer discussed the Revenues/Expenditures compared to Budget Summary for all funds and the state shared revenue report. Reimer also reviewed updated reports for Hotel/Motel tax receipts, deed transfers, building permits, and well & septic statistics. Reimer discussed that Jo Daviess County is responsible for the property tax levy for three Special Service Areas. Each year in August the County invites the Special Service Areas to attend the joint committee budget meetings. The County asks for financial statements and the most recent audit. A question was recently asked if Special Service Areas are required to have an annual audit. Research indicates that statute does not require a Special Service Area to conduct an annual audit. The Committee discussed that even thou an audit is not required it is still a good idea.

4. Unfinished Business

a) Jo Daviess County strategic goals – Nothing to report at this time.

b) Township Assessor Pilot Program – Nothing to report at this time.

- c) Township Assessor Program Intergovernmental Agreement – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) Update on options to fund the Public Safety Radio Communications System - Sheriff Turner commented that discussions regarding a possible consolidation of dispatch centers is still ongoing. Last months meeting was rescheduled and Mr. Tucker has asked for more time to determine the feasibility of combining the three counties.

5. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action to draft a resolution to purchase a dual purpose police service dog from Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, IN (state purchase) (forwarded to the committee by the Law & Courts Committee on November 17, 2014) - Sheriff Turner discussed that the Sheriff's Department in June was awarded a \$5,000 reimbursable grant from the Dubuque Racing Association. The grant expires on December 19, 2014 so they would like to purchase the dog this year prior to December 1, 2014 from Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, Indiana at a cost of \$8,000. Vohne Liche Kennels has the master contract for police service dogs in Illinois. Only \$4,600 is available in the FY2014 Sheriff Forfeiture Fund (009) budget. On November 17, 2014 the Law & Courts Committee discussed the possibility of expensing a portion of the purchase from the Contingency Fund and then repay the Contingency Fund when the grant is received. County Administrator Dan Reimer was requested to prepare a resolution to purchase the dual purpose canine and to use the Contingency Fund to pay for a portion of the canine and to send the resolution to the Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee for consideration. **Randy Jobgen made a motion to approve a resolution to approve the purchase of a dual purpose police service dog from Vohne Liche Kennels and to use the Contingency Fund (016) for a portion of the purchase and when the DRA Grant of \$5,000 is received to be deposited into the Contingency Fund. Seconded by John O'Boyle and motion passed.**

6. **Board Member concerns** - None

7. **Citizens' comments** - None

Next committee meeting is on Thursday, December 18, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

John O'Boyle made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Seconded by Randy Jobgen and motion passed.