

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton, Chair. Yerda Potter, Co-Chair
DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 16, 2003. 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Creighton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schubert	

Other Board members: Margie Montelius, Jack Zillig, Bill Cooper

Others: Duane Olivier, County Administrator; Diane Williams, COA Secretary; Bill Miller, Coroner; Steve Allendorf, Sheriff; Lt. Tim Wand; Wayne Lytle, ETSB; Joe Kratcha, GIS; Jean Dimke, County Clerk/Recorder; Lona Kniskern & Linda Nobis, Stephenson Senior Center; John Lang, Regional Superintendent of Schools.

MINUTES

Co-chair Yerda Potter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Marvin Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19 and March 27. Vince Hasken seconded and the motion passed.
2. Treasurer's reports placed on file, no discussion.
3. Cost study update
Duane Olivier referred to "Recommended Fee Adjustments based on Cost Study". Began discussing the Sheriff's Civil Process fee. Sheriff Allendorf noted that there is another firm in the area, Stewart & Associates that is offering the service. The committee decided that this issue needs a special meeting with the Finance Committee and the affected Department Heads. The special meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.
4. County department/office program review:
 - a) Coroner
Bill Miller noted that the summary included in the packets is something that is used to pass out to students. The committee had questions about autopsies. They are required by the state of Illinois for anyone under age 2. They are performed by Dr. Bloom, a licensed pathologist from Rockford. Bill transports the bodies to him. Bill does not see any changes coming from the State that will affect his budget next year. He is occasionally asked to testify. The professional services expense in his budget is for the pathologist and laboratory work.
 - b) Sheriff's Department
Steve distributed his 39-page Annual Report. The mission statement is very defined, and is posted inside and outside of all the squad cars and on a banner hanging in the office so that all staff can see it every day. The Sheriff's building contains the Communications Center, Jail and Administrative office. There is also a firearms range out by the Galena

Golf Club. Steve reviewed the four main divisions of the Sheriff's Office: Law Enforcement, Corrections, Communications and Court Security. There are 46 full and part-time staff, and two canines. Officers serve a 12-hour shift, and they try to have four officers, if possible, on the street during the evening hours. The German shepherd, Kong, is owned by the department and will need to retire in a few years. The bloodhound, Major, is owned by Terry Kieffer, a part-time deputy and is available on loan to the department. The Sheriff is responsible for all Law Enforcement needs in the County. He assists local agencies, if needed. The department has become pretty self-sufficient and needs little help from outside agencies, except for Crime Scene Services from the State Police. The jail will hold 26 inmates; 32-34 can be accommodated by using the floor. The jail population has been full recently, but is leveling off. The Sheriff also serves as the ESDA Director (Emergency Service & Disaster Agency), and is responsible for the Jo Daviess County Hazardous Response Team. Jo Daviess County is unique in that a certain level of service is needed by the 22,000+ full-time residents, and the 1.3 million visitors each year need a different level of service. Some goals for the future are: develop a strategic plan, finish the satellite office in Warren, obtain accreditation from CALEA to reduce the liability insurance, increase involvement in the community and to develop a more comprehensive website. The data collected for the Annual Report is more informative and detailed than in the past. Biographies of the staff are also included. Some highlights of 2002 include the death of Eeyore the bloodhound, three officers were recognized for their life-saving efforts, two cars were lost in an accident but the suspect was apprehended, computers were upgraded, Colin Fulrath 25th anniversary with the department, jail improvements, 2 vehicles were donated to the department and all deputies were equipped with Glock .45 handguns. The DARE program is thriving. Upon questioning, Steve confirmed that the expenditure percentage is high for the beginning of the year because cars were purchased. Also, fuel costs continue to rise. Discussed storage of confiscated vehicles, it is the Sheriff's understanding that the State's Attorney is supposed to pay for that storage. Discussed civil process and the Sheriff noted that they only charge for successful attempts. Computers are not available yet in the cars because of the lack of towers and the lack of funds. A DRA grant was submitted in 2003 to help fund a rescue boat. The Sheriff's Department takes turns with the Health Department in submitting for DRA grants. The calls for service numbers appear higher because more activity is included in that statistic and record-keeping is better. There will be no additional requirements due to Homeland Security that Steve is aware of. He noted that growth in his department is not needed, he can maintain services with the staff he has. His budget would be improved with the adoption of the recommendations from the fee study and the public safety tax. The State's Attorney's actions do affect the Sheriff's budget if staff are subpoenaed to appear in court and then are not needed or notified.

- c) ETSB (Emergency Telephone System Board)
Wayne Lytle reported that a new server for the 911 system was installed in the Sheriff's Dept. They have applied for a grant to fund purchase of equipment to go into Phase II of wireless 911. The current equipment cannot work with Phase II, which will pinpoint the location of a cellular 911 call. Phase II has been delayed because of the phone companies. The cost of that equipment will be approximately \$200,000 to \$225,000. Currently there is \$295,000 in the fund. The Treasurer acts as the collector and by law, all the money is in an interest-bearing account. The board is also looking at a new voice recorder/logger. The program is self-sufficient through the surcharge they collect. They have decided to give up renting the office in Hanover and move to the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff will make room for their 4 file cabinets and meetings can be held in the conference room there.
- d) NICAA
No representative was present. It was discussed that under the Older Americans Act, the organization is prohibited from charging for their meal services, but they are allowed to ask for a donation.
- e) Stephenson County Senior Center
Lona Kniskern told the committee that the organization receives Federal and State funds, for which the money from Jo Daviess County is used as the match. They focus their efforts on people who are over age 60, and within that group to other sub-groups: people over age 75, those living at the poverty level for income, those who live alone and minorities. All their programs have income caps for eligibility. In Case Management the goal is to help seniors be able to live independently. They do an assessment and develop a care plan. They also do pre-screening for nursing home care and contract with Jo Daviess Transit when transportation is needed. The Caregiver program is meant to reach grandparents who are raising grandchildren. They work with the Sheriff's Department investigating cases of elder abuse (about 10 per year). They also share many clients with the Home Health Department. Home Health provides short-term skilled nursing, but Stephenson Senior Center is able to help with longer-term life skills such as housekeeping, grocery shopping and socialization. Their activities are governed by the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965. Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties are considered one service area. Linda Nobis gave an example of a rural client and how they service this client. The committee discussed assisted living and other sources of revenue such as from townships and area churches and organizations.
- f) Regional Superintendent of Schools
John Lang is an elected official for this 3-county office. Each day the office receives 70-100 phone calls from parents and citizens. Some of their income is received from a piece of property in Stephenson County that was left in trust for the district. The Regional Superintendent

conducts visitation and recognition of the 46 schools in the district for compliance and reports to the state. They also review building plans for the new projects in River Ridge and Pearl City to insure compliance with the IL Life Safety Code. They conduct bus driver training since the state has now required a special license for school bus drivers. They conduct GED tests for persons aged 18 and over. The oldest GED certification in the nation was for a woman who was 81 in this district. GED tests are conducted in the office or at Highland Community College. They manage the Jo Daviess-Carroll Area Vocational Center. They score the standardized tests for local schools with a faster turn-around time than if the tests had to be sent out. They offer accredited graduate courses to teachers through Aurora College. There are 31 one-week intense courses in the summer. The Regional Board of Trustees determines the district boundaries. A criminal background check must be performed on all school employees. They coordinate with Freeport on an alternative high school. Every teacher in the district must submit a Staff Development Plan and much of the office's time is spent on teacher certification. John's salary is paid by the state of Illinois, all other clerical staff is paid by the County. Major cuts in the State's budget this year will affect the office.

5. Other

a) Revenue and Expenditure Summary

One-third of the year is represented on the tables (attached.) The state income tax revenue is coming in near the estimate, but the state is more slow-paying with that revenue as well as with elected official salary reimbursements. The quarter percent sales tax is on track with the estimate, but the one percent sales tax is down. Property tax notices will be sent out at least 30 days late, sometime in mid-June, so that revenue will not begin to come in until mid-July. Revenue and expenditures are roughly the same at this point in the year. Duane recommended that the committee start working on the budget schedule at the next meeting. He will also analyze the per diems for the County Board's budget.

b) Building permits for information only.

c) HB 269 has passed the Illinois House and is now in the Senate. This bill will allow County Boards to raise certain Circuit Court fees without requiring a cost study be done. HB 537 is about Health Insurance and would allow County Boards to levy for employee health insurance and would be exempt from PTELL. This bill has been modified to include IMRF and Social Security contributions as well. SB 334 would tax mobile homes on permanent foundations as real estate. HB 2206 is the rental housing program that would charge \$10 at the local level with only \$1.00 staying in the county and the other \$9.00 going to the state.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.