

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Finance, Tax & Budgets  
**CHAIRPERSON:** John Creighton, Chair. Yerda Potter, Co-Chair  
**DATE/TIME:** June 18, 2003 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

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

Other Board members: None

Others: Duane Olivier, County Administrator  
Jean Dimke, County Clerk/Recorder  
Carol Soat, County Treasurer

**MINUTES**

Chair John Creighton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Domer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21, 2003. Vince Hasken seconded and the motion passed.
2. Treasurer's reports placed on file.
3. Delinquent real estate tax liquidation program. Jean Dimke and Carol Soat described the Tax Liquidation Program offered by Joseph Meyer & Associates. The goal of this program is to return properties to the tax rolls that have long been delinquent in tax payments or have been abandoned. The Finance Committee had considered this program in 1999, but had determined at that time it would not be beneficial to the County. Jean and Carol suggested that it might be time to reconsider the program because of the number of tax delinquent or abandoned properties that are now on the tax rolls. On a motion by Vince Hasken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merri Berlage, the Committee requested that Jean and Carol obtain a proposed resolution and agreement from Joseph Meyer & Associates, have the State's Attorney review the documents, and present them to the Committee at its July meeting.
4. FY2004 Annual Budget preparation schedule. Duane Olivier reviewed a proposed FY2004 Annual Budget preparation schedule with the Committee. The schedule begins the budget process earlier than in the past and allows more time at the end for County Board consideration. On a motion by Merri Berlage, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jody Carroll, the Committee approved the proposed schedule and requested that it be sent to all departments and agencies receiving county funding with a letter expressing the Committee's revenue and expenditure concerns for FY2004.
5. Building, Zoning, & Guest Accommodations fee review. Duane Olivier presented a cost summary for building, zoning, and guest accommodations licensing fees (attached). In the spirit of the recently completed cost study for other service fees, this cost summary includes not only direct program costs, but also an allocation of indirect overhead costs. A revised fee schedule will be developed and presented to the Committee in July that will cover the program costs in each program area, e.g. building inspection, zoning administration, and guest accommodation licensing.
6. Indemnity Fund discussion. The State's Attorney has not yet completed a review of the statutes related to this matter.

7. 2002 Tax Levy extension – Tax Cap Limitation Calculations. The Committee reviewed a copy of the Tax Computation Report prepared by the County Clerk/Recorder for all taxing bodies in the County (attached). The Report indicates the 2002 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), the County's tax levy request, and the PTELL limitation on the tax levy. This year, PTELL has had the effect of reducing the County's tax levy by \$13,600. The Report automatically spreads the reduction proportionally over the various tax levies in the County's Tax Levy Ordinance. On a motion by Vince Hasken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merri Berlage, the Committee concurred with the proportional reduction presented in the Report.
8. Housing Authority's health insurance coverage request. The Jo Daviess County Housing Authority, a County Board appointed body, has requested consideration of having its employees included in the County's group health insurance program. The Committee has some concerns about this request, but asked the County Administrator to collect additional information about the Housing Authority employees and discuss the matter with Medical Associates. The Committee will consider this matter at a future meeting.
9. Other.
  - a. Golf Trust of America (former owner of the Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort). State's Attorney Glen Weber and appellant's attorney David Albee are preparing final arguments for submission to the Court by June 19<sup>th</sup>. Judge Kelly has indicated that he may rule on the case on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Revenue and Expenditure Summary. 50.0% of the year is represented on the attached tables. General Fund revenues are estimated at 48.7% collected, excluding property taxes, and expenditures at 49.7%.
  - c. Year-to-date building permit information. (Attached)
  - d. HB 269 has passed both the Illinois House and Senate and is on the Governor's desk for signing. This bill will allow County Boards to raise certain Circuit Court fees without requiring that a cost study be done. The bill has not yet been signed by the Governor. 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.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.