

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Yerda Potter, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: May 1, 2002 9:00 am

PRESENT: Berlage ___ Lyons Schubert
 ___ Bielenda Montelius ___ Sisler
 ___ Breckenridge Potter ___ Stoffregen
 ___ Carroll Powers ___ Toepfer
 ___ Creighton ___ Rosenthal ___ Zillig
 Hasken ___ Rutherford

Others: Jack Zillig, Law & Courts Committee Chairman
 Steve Allendorf, Sheriff
 Jean Dimke, County Clerk/Recorder
 Carol Soat, County Treasurer
 Sharon Wand, Circuit Clerk

Elected Officeholder Salaries. This meeting was called at the request of the elected officeholders to present and further discuss with the Committee the setting of salaries for elected officeholders at the May 14, 2002 County Board meeting for terms beginning December 1, 2002 for the next four years.

The Finance Committee began considering this matter in November 2001. The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of its meeting on November 1, 2001:

“Elected Officerholder Salaries. The Committee reviewed salary information from the United Counties Council of Illinois and the Honkamp Krueger, Inc. salary study currently being completed for the County. Sheriff Steve Allendorf offered several comments, including: expressing surprise that this matter was being considered so much earlier than in the past; asking that elected officer holder salaries be comparable to other similar positions in the County; asking that the matter also be considered by the Executive Committee; and stating that the \$6,500 stipends paid by the State of Illinois to each elected officer holder cannot be considered by the County Board when setting elected officer holder salaries. Jean Dimke indicated that the salary information contained in the United Counties Council salary survey does not include the State stipends. Vince Hasken indicated that the matter was being considered now so that individuals considering filing for the primary election would know what the salaries are for the various elected positions. John Rutherford stated that the State stipend should not be considered when setting the salaries.

After discussion, Vince Hasken offered a motion to increase the County Clerk/Recorder’s, County Treasurer’s, and Circuit Clerk’s salary by \$1,400 to \$36,400 on December 1, 2002 and \$1,400 more on December 1, 2003, 2004, and 2005. Margie Montelius 2nd the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 3 to 3.

After further discussion about the relationship of elected officer holder salaries to the Salary Plan for non-union personnel, Merri Berlage moved that: 1) the Committee recommend that the Sheriff’s salary be equivalent to a Grade 15 on the Salary Plan recommended by Honkamp Krueger, Inc. and that the salaries of the County Clerk/Recorder, County

Treasurer, and Circuit Clerk be equivalent to a Grade 12; and 2) that the County Administrator develop a plan for implementing such salary levels in the same manner as being considered by the Executive Committee for all other County non-union personnel and present such plan to the Committee on Friday, November 9th. John Rutherford 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.”

In regard to the Committee’s recommendation to make the salary of the County Clerk/Recorder, County Treasurer, and Circuit Clerk be equivalent to a Grade 12 and the Sheriff’s salary equivalent to a Grade 15 on the Salary Plan, although these positions are not a part of the Salary Plan Honkamp Krueger, Inc. reviewed these positions and indicated that if they were on the Salary Plan they would be equivalent to Grade 12 and Grade 15 positions.

The Committee next considered this matter at its November 13, 2001 meeting. The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of its meeting on November 13th:

“Elected Officeholder Salaries. The Committees reviewed and discussed elected officeholder salaries that would become effective December 1, 2002. On a motion by John Rutherford, 2nd by Vince Hasken, the Committees voted to recommend the following salaries for the elected officeholders beginning December 1, 2002.

For Circuit Clerk, County Clerk/Recorder, and County Treasurer a salary of \$40,000 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional 4% each year for three (3) years.

For Coroner a salary of \$13,500 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional \$500 each year for three (3) years.

For Sheriff a salary of \$52,000 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional 4% each year for three (3) years.

At the November 26, 2001 meeting of the County Board the following action was taken relative to the recommendation of the Finance Committee:

“A committee motion to set the Circuit Clerk’s, County Clerk/Recorder’s and County Treasurer’s salaries at \$40,000 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional 4% each year for three years was made by Yerda Potter. An amendment to the motion changing the 4% to 5% was made by Matt Rosenthal and seconded by Joanne Bielenda. The amendment carried by a show of hands of 9 ayes and 8 nays. Lynn Sisler made a motion that was seconded by Larry Lyons to refer the issue back to the Finance Committee for further review. The motion to refer the matter to the Finance Committee carried by voice vote.

A committee motion to set the Coroner’ salary at \$13,500 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional \$500 each year for three years was made by Yerda Potter. An amendment to the motion changing the \$500 to \$600 was made by Matt Rosenthal and seconded by Sally Toepfer. The amendment was defeated by voice vote. John Rutherford made a motion that was seconded by Lynn Sisler to refer the issue of the Coroner’ salary back to the Finance Committee for further review. The motion carried by voice vote.

A committee motion to set the Sheriff’s salary at \$52,000 effective December 1, 2002 and thereafter an additional 4% each year for three years was made by Yerda Potter. An

amendment to the motion changing the 4% to 5% was made by Matt Rosenthal and seconded by Dorte Breckenridge. The amendment was defeated by a show of hands of 8 ayes and 9 nays. John Rutherford made a motion that was seconded by Sally Toepfer to refer the issue of the Sheriff's salary back to the Finance Committee for further review. The motion carried by voice vote."

The elected officer holders presented salary information comparing the current and estimated future salary (next 4 years) of the Chief County Assessment Officer with that of the County Clerk/Recorder, the County Treasurer, and the Circuit Clerk. (attached) Information was also presented comparing the current and future estimated (next 4 years) of the County Engineer with the Sheriff. The office holders also presented a letter from the Illinois Treasurers Association indicating that the State of Illinois is considering eliminating the county official's state stipends along with other possible state budget cuts. (letter attached)

Following discussion, the Committee voted to go into executive session.

The Committee returned from executive session and took no further action. The matter will be discussed and a final recommendation made at the May 13, 2002 meeting of the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.