

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets
CHAIRPERSON: Steve Allendorf, Chairman
DATE/TIME: February 28, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve Allendorf John Schultz (6:32 pm) Staci Duerr
 Jacob Shireman Brandon Behlke Ron Smith
 Scott Toot John Lang

Other Board members: None

Others: Donna Berlage, Melisa Hammer, Dan Reimer and Eric Tison

1. **Call to Order** – Steve Allendorf called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – **John Lang made a motion to approve the December 27, 2018 Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Ron Smith and motion passed.**
4. **Citizens Comments** – None
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - a) FY2017/FY2018 Strategic Goals & Plans – Chairman Allendorf asked to forego this item, the County Board Retreat is in May to develop new goals and plans.
 - b) Discussion and possible action on start time for the FY2019 Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meetings – The consensus of the committee is to leave the meeting start time at 6:30 p.m.
6. **New Business**
 - a) Discussion and possible action on a Resolution to Amend R2016-17 A Part Time Clerical Work Force Pool That Includes Non-Represented (Non-Elected Employees) – Chairman Allendorf pulled this item and explained that this item was inadvertently left on the agenda from the cancelled January committee meeting. This item was on the February 13, 2019 Special Executive Committee meeting and was moved forward and approved at the February 13, 2019 County Board meeting.
 - b) Discussion and possible action on a request from GGMI request to the County Treasurer to provide additional lodging information – Melisa Hammer discussed that she received a request from Rose Noble, GGMI. The Treasurer’s office currently provides GGMI with a monthly pdf spreadsheet showing hotel/motel tax receipts for each lodging or entity. GGMI has requested that a spreadsheet in an Excel format be sent to them instead. This would make it easier to sort and manipulate the information in the various categories. Hammer’s concern is that her office does not send out information in a format that can be manipulated. She did discuss this request with the State’s Attorney and his advice is to stay with our practice to only send things in pdf format. Hammer discussed that a local lodging owner recently informed the County of the difficulty they were having with an online reservation site and their reluctance to collect or even inform guests who book online of local hotel/motel tax requirements. Eric Tison, Planning & Development Administrator, commented that staff does review online AirBnB type sites regularly.

However there are so many online travel agency sites out there that it is not possible with limited resources to investigate and regularly monitor all of them, more staff would be needed. There appears to be a lack of or no information on some of the websites about hotel/motel tax fees. Hammer added that she has an email from AirBnB telling one of their clients that they have entered into a voluntary collection agreement with the local tax collector in Galena, IL. That is false. Tison is concerned how many of these potential rentals are being made available that will not qualify for a guest accommodations license. Eric Tison has volunteered to draft a press release that will go to the Development & Planning Committee meeting in March. Steve Allendorf commented that we should work on this subject more and look into having a joint meeting with the Development & Planning Committee **John Lang made a motion that per past practice the County Treasurer provide financial information to Greater Galena Marketing, Inc, (GGMI) in PDF format. Seconded by Brandon Behlke and motion passed.**

- c) Discussion and possible action to approve and support a letter to be sent to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) requesting IMRF to reconsider and reverse its 2018 decision to reduce the investment performance standard from 7.5% to 7.25% – Dan Reimer discussed that Chris Lauzen, Kane County Board Chairman, sent information which was included in the informational packet regarding the effects of reducing the investment performance standard from 7.5% to 7.25%. This decision will increase the Jo Daviess County required employer IMRF contribution by about \$75,000. With the negative return on IMRF investments in 2018 and the new formula for calculating IMRF rates for member entities, the rates for Jo Daviess County could easily increase by two percentage points or more for both IMRF and SLEP. If this turns out to be the case, based on estimated payroll of \$5.4 million, our required IMRF contribution could increase by \$100,000 or more in FY2020. We should receive our 2020 IMRF and SLEP rates around April 1st. **Brandon Behlke made a motion to approve and support a letter to be sent to the IMRF requesting IMRF to reconsider and reverse its 2018 decision to reduce the investment performance standard from 7.5% to 7.25%. Seconded by Ron Smith and motion passed.**
- d) Discussion and possible action on recent Walmart Policy changes that will have a negative impact on their employees with disabilities nationwide - Steve Allendorf requested that this item be put on the agenda. As many of you already know, the Galena Walmart has an employee that is currently affected by this policy. Allendorf would like to see the County make a statement on the policy change and the effect it will have on employees with disabilities. He would like to see a letter drafted and sent to the Walton family voicing our displeasure with this change. There was future discussion with no future action.

7. Staff Reports

- a) **Chief County Assessment Office** – Donna Berlage, Chief County Assessor, reported that the Board of Review finished their complaint hearings on January 8th and final decisions were mailed out on January 18th. The final abstract was given to the County Clerk on February 5th. Devnet rolled the assessments to the County Clerk on February 14th and we have begun our new year. Senior homestead assessment freeze applications and tax deferral letters were also sent out in January.
- c) **Treasurer's Office** – Melisa Hammer, County Treasurer, reported that we have been working with the auditors for the last couple of weeks. The TRaoffice has been getting a lot of calls about tax bills so we have been letting them know about the wedge program. A lot of them are very encouraged and glad that we have put that out there for them to be able to get a copy of their tax bill. Hammer has been doing a lot of research on the

hotel/motel taxes. We are getting ready to print our property tax bills. We would like to have them mailed out by May 1st.

d) Grants Administrator – Trina Orr, Grants Administrator, was not in attendance.

d) County Administrator – Dan Reimer, County Administrator, commented that the auditors have been onsite for the field portion of the audit and their last day was Monday. We have continued to provide additional information as requested. Things have gone very well with the audit. Reimer credited the Treasurer’s Office for accruing revenue and expenses to the proper period to meet requirements of generally accepted accounting practices. We are the only county that provides the auditors with a trial balance that they don’t have to make adjusting journal entries. Reimer reviewed the Revenues/Expenditures/Fund Balances for ALL County Funds FY 2018 report.

8. Citizens’ comments - None

9. Board Member Concerns – None.

The next Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 28, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

Brandon Behlke made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm. Seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.