

**FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
COUNTY BOARD ROOM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021  
MINUTES  
4:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Chuck Nagel (chairman), Richard Hill, Autum Jones, Dan Steffen, and Justin Faulk all present.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve December 2020 minutes made by Hill, seconded by Jones. *Motion passed.*

**4. Public Input**

Jarrod McMorris and Charles deCastega from Good Energy addressed the committee. They would like a referendum put on the April ballot that would allow residents in the unincorporated areas of Woodford County to have the option of a third choice for energy. Within the Tri-County area there are more than 30 communities that have offered this choice. The deadline for the Board passing this referendum for it to be placed on the ballot in April is January 19<sup>th</sup>, the date of our board meeting. The residents in the non-incorporated areas would not be able to have this third option choice if the referendum does not pass in April. This was brought up in 2013, however the referendum did not pass. Residents would have the option of opting out, if they did not want to participate. There is a possibility of the County receiving revenue from it. This will be discussed by the committee later in the meeting.

**5. Approval of Claims**

Motion to approve January claims made by Schertz, seconded by Hill. *Motion passed.*

**6. Treasurers Report**

All accounts are starting out on a positive balance. Our one revolving loan participate is continuing to pay. The statement of revenue and expenditures was presented and we only have one month of comparison, but there were no concerns so far. The one-cent public safety, quarter-cent, and one-cent sales tax report was given. Last year with Covid, we were concerned with how we would far, but we ended the year on a strong note. The taxes received on one-cent, quarter-cent, and one-cent public safety tax for this year is greater than what was received last year in the same time frame.

**7. Budget**

**8. New Business**

a. Illinois Assist Mortgage Credit Certificate Program – tabled from December  
Motion to bring this off the table made by Steffen, seconded by Faulk. *Motion passed.* Motion to move on to the full Board for discussion made by Faulk. There was no second on that motion.  
*Motion dies for lack of a second.*

b. Appointment of Finance Committee Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Faulk nominated Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill will be coming off of the Finance Committee, so he will not be available to hold the office. Motion by Hill to appoint Autum Jones as the Finance Vice-Chair, seconded by Faulk. *Motion passed.*

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c. GPEDC extra stipend for grant administration work

When the County hired Mr. Cummings to administer our grant application work for the RLF there were to be two applications and two fees paid for the work done on each application. It was thought that the second application would be lower than the first application, as some of the same information could be transferred between the two applications. However, there was so much work that went into that application, that an additional \$1,500 was requested. At the time of the request, we were in the middle of a budget process, and asked that the invoice be put off until the new budget. It is now being requested that the additional \$1,500 be paid. Motion to approve extra stipend for GPEDC grant application administration work made by Hill, seconded by Jones.  
*Motion passed.*

**9. Unfinished Business**

a. Update on RLF projects

The Board decided to use the \$1.6 million from the RLF closeout for the removal of architectural barriers. We divided this grant money into two separate projects – one for buildings, and one for sidewalks. We have received the funds for payment of the architect and engineer work submitted so far. The architectural design work is about 90-95% complete, and the Engineer work is about 80% complete. Drawings have been submitted to the communities for their review. It is anticipated that we will be able to start these projects in the spring.

**10. Other**

The referendum was not on the agenda, so no action can be taken it. However, it can be discussed. One concern was that people had to opt out of the program. The committee did not like this, and felt it would be better for citizens to have to opt in instead of opting out. With everyone being in automatically, it provides an economic drive for a lower price. This price is then locked in for a period of time. Should the price lower during that time, people can opt at that time, or whenever they want. Our letterhead would be used to inform the citizen of the option, so they will see that it is coming from a legitimate entity and not a scam. We already have an agreement with the company, however, it is not offered to the residents in the unincorporated areas of the county because the referendum did not pass in 2013. The committee also did not like it was presented that the County could generate revenue by hiring another energy company. The committee did feel that the full Board needed to make this decision and not just them. It will be placed on the agenda for the full board.

The CEDS Strategic Plan has been drafted and being reviewed. It is hoped that the full Board will receive it in February.

The department heads, Chairman Krug, and Vice-Chair Logan met to discuss the non-union pay adjustments. They have taken the non-union employees pay and have compared it to the ASCME chart. Most of the non-union hourly employees needed a pay adjustment to be at the same level as union employees. The department heads are preparing documents that will be brought to the committee next month for discussion/approval to adjust the non-union pay. It was originally thought that this would be put in place with the next budget year, but we have the money to do it

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now, and to even out the playing field, it would take affect with the board approval, and not be retroactive. The appointed department heads will need to be looked at individually and addressed after the non-union are adjusted. The committee wants to incorporate this process into the Policy Manual so that it continues with the future boards. It the past it was stated by a Board member to let them join the union, however, the committee feels that this is not the path to go down. If you treat the employee's right, they don't need a union. This affects about 27 employees. The committee feels that this has been an issue for some time, and while it may not be a perfect solution, it is taking steps in the right direction.

**11. Executive Session**

**12. Any Action Coming Out of Executive Session**

**13. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Jones, seconded by Hill. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM

Submitted by: Deb Breyman

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Chuck Nagel, Chairman  
Finance Committee