

Sharon K. Williams, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Barry Robinson, District 3
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4
Rachael Parker, District 5
G. Allen Mayer, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson
R. Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk

Vice-Chairperson -Stephen M. Morris, District 10
Gregory Adamson, District 11
Robert Baietto, District 12
James T. Fennell, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Steven Rieker, District 15
Brad Harding, District 16
Thomas H. O'Neill, III, District 17
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602
Voice: (309) 672-6056 • Fax: (309) 672-6054 • TDD: (309) 672-6073
www.peoriacounty.org/countyboard

**CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Adamson, Baietto, Dillon, Elsasser, Fennell, Mayer, Morris, O'Neill, Parker, Pastucha, Rand, Rieker, Robinson, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins and Williams, with Harding absent.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of September 14, 2017 County Board Meeting Minutes

Robinson moved for approval of the minutes, Mayer seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A proclamation recognizing the 2017 Peoria City/County Citizen's Leadership Academy Graduates
- A proclamation recognizing September as National Preparedness Month

The proclamation was not given.

- A proclamation recognizing November as Pets for Vets Month

III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

There were no citizens' remarks.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of August 2017 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of July 2017.
- C2.** The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is



accessible at www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency.

- C3.** A resolution (item 1 surrender; item 2 reconveyance; items 3 - 56 conveyances) from the Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deed of said property to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from October 12, 2017 and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.

- C4.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of FFY17 State Court Improvement Program Grant Award for the Child Protection Courts Project in the amount of \$17,500.00 and FY2017 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$3,000.00 to cover anticipated revenues and expenditures for the remainder of the County's fiscal year.

- C5.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of FFY18 IDOT DUI Court Grant Award in the amount of \$369,841.72 and FY 2017 Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,188.00 to cover anticipated expenditures for two laptop computers.

- C6.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of the FY 2018 Annual Probation Plan.

- C7.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of an appropriation of \$184,342.00 from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts to Juvenile Detention Center budget for additional reimbursement of Probation and Juvenile Detention salaries.
(Poll Vote per Rules of Order, Article V, Section 18C)

C8. Chairman Appointments

Mayer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Fennell seconded. Chairman Rand noted that there is a change to the appointments list for the Elmwood Fire District. The Consent Agenda was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

- 1.** Case 042-17-M, Masters Enterprises, LLC. A Modification to Special Use #046-84-U, which was previously modified under case #029-85-M to reduce the number of required parking spaces from 140 to 49. The petitioner also proposes to modify the uses allowed as part of the existing private outdoor recreation area to include a dog park, a sand volleyball court, and a bags/horseshoe pit. The parcel is located in Chillicothe Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval with restrictions. The Land Use Committee concurs.

Dillon moved to approve the ordinance and Rosenbohm seconded. Fennell thanked Ms. Urban for her work. He said it will allow putting the property back on the tax rolls and maybe have a



restaurant and ball diamond back in Chillicothe. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

- 2.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Peoria County, Peoria City/County Health Department and AFSCME Council 31 Local #3586. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

O'Neill moved to approve the resolution and Rosenbohm seconded. O'Neill thanked Ms. Musselman, noting that it was a successful negotiation and it was unanimous in committee. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

- 3.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Peoria County and Police Benevolent Labor Committee-Deputies. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

O'Neill moved to approve the resolution and Rosenbohm seconded.

O'Neill stated that it was approved unanimously [in committee], Ms. Musselman did a grand job getting it together, and there will be one more coming to the Board before long.

Chairman Rand recognized Ms. Musselman and Mr. Sorrel for their work.

The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

- 4.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval to assign and transfer all grants funding the Rural Peoria County Public Transit program to the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District on a pass-thru basis subject the negotiation of mutually acceptable agreement prior to transition. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

Salzer moved to approve the resolution and Williams seconded.

Mr. Sorrel explained that there is a transition plan in place to transfer all of the rural transit services to the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District effective July 1, 2018. He informed that this resolution is required by IDOT and tells them the County's intent to not apply for the Federal and State grant administered by them, but the mass transit district will be applying. He detailed that the transit district will have before its board a similar resolution that will show its intent to apply for the grant.

Baietto asked if there is a guarantee that there will be no reduction in services for the people. Mr. Sorrel confirmed that at a minimum they would be keeping service levels the same as today and they are considering an expansion of service.

Elsasser inquired if there would be someone to answer to the Board as far as the fees. Mr. Sorrel identified that on July 1, 2018 the County would no longer be in the business and all the decisions would be made by the mass transit district. Elsasser stated that it is a little unsettling because he wouldn't want to find out that those in the farther distances would be charged two or three times more just because they live further away. He asked if there is anything that could be done. Mr. Sorrel stated that it could be looked at and explained that the district is larger than the City of Peoria, including other urbanized areas, and detailed that they will be providing mass transit and para-transit services in the rural area. Elsasser inquired if the areas that have moved



into the mass transit district have found that the fees and services are reasonable. Mr. Sorrel reported that he is not aware of complaints about service levels or fees related to services. He said that there have not been any complaints about the fees charged to ridership or from the contracts for direct services since the transition to the current model.

Baietto inquired if the services for the seniors that could not afford it would be affected by the transfer. Mr. Sorrel explained that the rate structure has been in place for about 4 years and there are contracts with several social service agencies that are planned to be maintained by the mass transit district. Baietto said that he hopes the service to those who cannot pay would not be affected by the change in provider. Mr. Sorrel expressed that if there isn't a fee charged today, the plan is to not change it in the future and if there is a fee today, it will continue.

Morris asked if this is a grant that does not pay for itself. Mr. Sorrel stated that it is two grants that for a number of years did not pay for itself, but the service has been right-sized and it is no longer being subsidized by general fund dollars. Morris inquired if those that use the service live within an area that has a tax for mass transit. Mr. Sorrel said that a trip can generate or terminate within the district, but one part of the trip must be outside of the district. Morris highlighted that he is in support of the resolution and he would have supported it years ago, if available to the Board. He brought up that many people chose to live in an area that has a tax for mass transit, and many of the people that use the service chose to live in an area that does not have that tax. He detailed that he has a problem with subsidizing the use of a service when these folks could live in a mass transit district, and he hopes the Board supports getting out of the business.

Dillon described that the service was not historically provided by the County, and it stepped in when the service was falling apart. He said that the mass transit district should be the one handling the service and that has always been the committee's goal. He thanked staff for getting it to where it is now. He mentioned that Rosenbohm's district is a large user and he has been a great support for the service. He specified that the hope is to have service levels remain the same and possibly get better.

Baietto asserted that his question was not if the County should provide the service, but a matter of the fees being charged to the people.

Chairman Rand conveyed that CityLift, within its service area, is charging \$2 per way for its para-transit services, and by contrast the County charges \$6 each way. He said that the underwriting attached to the grants would pass through \$700,000 to the district. He noted that the County's fee is already 3 times as much.

Baietto described that the other issue was the incorporated versus the unincorporated, because they were being treated differently. He stated that he is not sure if that has been resolved.

Rosenbohm inquired if the County would have to be doing the record keeping after next year. Mr. Sorrel explained that there would be grant close out and auditing ending June 30, 2018 and beyond that, it would be the responsibility of the mass transit district.

Adamson noted a metric of 1.46 riders per hour is what the service is providing. He identified that he appreciates everyone's input, but it is not like Manhattan, New York City.

The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.



5. A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a bid award for repairs and partial replacement of the Peoria County Jail ring road. (*Pending Committee Approval*)

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Robinson seconded.

Salzer expressed that great local contractors submitted bids, all are responsible, the bid is reasonable, and the Sheriff has made sacrifices on a gate. He brought up that anyone who has traveled the road knows how badly the repair is needed.

Chairman Rand recognized Sheriff Asbell for finding within the 2017 appropriation the funds to complete the project.

Rosenbohm asked for the age of the road and the average length of lifespan for the road. Mr. Sorrel stated that the jail and the vast majority of the road was built in 1985 and the addition was built in 1997-1998 with small portions of the road built at that time. He discussed that there has been rehabilitation done a couple years ago, but this bid includes 27 portions that will be reconstructed.

The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

Chairman Rand announced that Mr. Sorrel and Mr. Dubrowski would be giving an overview on the 2018 business plan.

Mr. Sorrel presented a high-level overview of the 2018 budget in total. He described that there have been meetings with the departments and committees about revenues and expenses and all have worked diligently to come to the recommended budget. He explained that the revenue for all funds is \$122,564,277 with a use of \$126,677,192, which is more than the sources due to some targeted use of reserves in funds that are exceeding the fund balance policy. He summarized that the largest spend is on people, which is roughly \$70 million and presented the sources and uses by function for the funds. He described that there is an estimation of property tax assessment growth of 1% in payable 2018 and 0% growth thereafter for the next two years, and laid out the valuation of property based on their property type; with the commercial and industrial properties showing some growth. He detailed that the recommended rate for the levy is 82.410¢ per \$100 of assessed value, which is exactly the same as the current year, and the recommended levy is approximately 9% of the total tax bill. He listed the revenue sources available to home rule municipalities compared to what is available to the County, which shows that the municipality has 16 sources compared to the County's 6. He identified that there are limitations to the fund sources available and there is not a lot that can be done to affect the revenue. He highlighted that the Board can take action on the licenses and permits, but can only recover the cost of providing the service. He expressed that an \$100 online sale produces only 0.3¢ of sales tax revenue to the County compared to 75¢ if the same purchase was made locally; making it more difficult to deliver services when there is that much of a disparity. He emphasized that there has been a population decline since 2012 as well as spending less per capita during that period. He discussed that budgeted full time positions would be set at 834, which is down from 878 in the current year, and there is an average of about 80 vacant positions month-to-month. He noted that the current budget allowed for replenishment of reserves in the General Fund through \$2.25 Million in personnel cuts, including the VRI and layoffs, and \$0.25 Million in non-personnel cuts. He said the belt tightening resulted in a surplus of about \$1.9 Million in the adopted budget, and the policy directive for FY18 was not to present a balanced budget, but to remain at or



above reserve policy through 2021. He stated that the recommended budget does stay in line with the policy directive, however it has only bought some time because projections show exhaustion of reserve funds by mid-year 2025. He mentioned that 70% of the spend in the General Fund is on Judicial, Public Safety, and Corrections. He informed that there is a compounding effect where a cut in spending has a larger effect on the reserve levels as well an increase in spending has a compounding effect on the spend of reserves. He emphasized that absent of a change in the economy, improved fiscal performance by the State, reduced attacks on revenues by the State, or a fundamental change in the delivery of services, the County will be going through the same issues in the fall of 2021. He summarized that the Heddington Oaks proposed budget is balanced before depreciation, and assumes average daily census of 180 residents with collaboration with local health institutions. He explained that he is looking forward to the committee meetings now that it has been turned over to the Board.

Chairman Rand thanked everyone for getting it to this point.

Adamson commented that the depreciation is not a cash cost, but it is a dollar cost of doing business. He said that it seems strange that the dollar cost of business is not in the number.

Chairman Rand asked if it is a fund balance comparison that has been presented.

Mr. Dubrowski reported that it was the fund financial. He identified that the FICA and IMRF would be in different funds and the depreciation is a portion that is non-cash. He explained that he has seen communities that have budgeted depreciation and some that don't, but the key is how capital is replaced. He discussed that if capital replacement is budgeted for, then there is no depreciation, and traditionally, the County has not budgeted for the depreciation.

Adamson inquired if there has been a place for capital re-allotment used by the County. Mr. Dubrowski stated that capital replacement has been done as a pay-as-you-go on capital items, where when there is a need for an item, it is included in that year's budget. Adamson clarified that it is a dollar cost of doing business, and it is real and must be paid back. Mr. Dubrowski confirmed that it will have an effect on the bottom line.

Chairman Rand noted that because the presentation is only showing sources and uses and it is showing debt service, depreciation cannot be included; as it would be counted twice.

Mayer noted that the Board does not appropriate depreciation, and it is accounted for through the general ledger.

Chairman Rand conveyed that it is accounted for through a modified income statement and the building is being used up at some rate.

Mayer brought up that the schedule for depreciation is used in the same manor that any other medical institutions uses.

Rieker recognized Mr. Sorrel, Mr. Dubrowski, and the team for putting together the details of the cash flow in and out, and for highlighting the difference in revenue growth and higher growth in spending. He said that unless there is a change in philosophy there will be further erosion, creating challenges for the Board.

Mr. Sorrel summarized that there will be communication with the committee chairs about meeting



times, and currently the Special County Board meeting is scheduled for November 16th, but that will be rescheduled as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will not be available.

Elsasser expressed that Illinois has the greatest natural resources and people, but the census and EAV is a large concern because people are leaving. He described that the State is not doing its job, and the County Board should be proactive by doing whatever it can to keep people and businesses here by cutting spending and quit raising taxes.

Chairman Rand remarked that there still seems to be some holes in the plan, but it is not known if revenue is going to get better or worse. He identified that there was a very large structural challenge that has been reduced, but the Board still has to be disciplined for the General Fund to be copasetic through 2021. He stated that absent of good economic growth, the Board is going to struggle to make all the numbers work, and absent of an unforeseen event, the first year of the plan will return a substantial surplus in the General Fund balance. He proposed that the Board take the deliberations seriously and to not rush to get them through committee, as well as helping the newer members through the process. He said that he has some questions, but the effort must be communicated to the public. He recognized Mr. Gaa for the security he provides to the Board and the Courthouse.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morris asked Mr. Sorrel to give an overview of the Auditor discussion.

Mr. Sorrel reported that only counties between 75,000 and 3,000,000 have an elected Auditor, and out of the qualifying 20, only 3 have eliminated the Auditor. He informed that there are a total of 11 statutory functions that the Auditor must do, and the duties are currently split among the Finance Department, the Auditor staff, and the Administrator's office. He proposed that there is an option where the office is eliminated and folded it into the Finance Department, which eliminates some checks and balances. He stated that another option would be to create a separate department, much like the Supervisor of Assessments, with a term that is greater than the Board's term. He conveyed that a third option could be hiring a third party to provide the services. He explained that there is no ballot language in the statute and the deadline to file for the Primary Election is January 2, 2018 or August 20, 2018 for the General Election. He identified that the Board has flexibility on whether to have the effective date either at the end of the current term or at the end of the next 4-year term. He proposed that he would prepare a report on the functions of the office, draft a ballot question, and provide options for an ordinance on the new functions.

Elsasser inquired if there is still a strong layer of checks and balances in the counties that have eliminated the position. Mr. Sorrel said that each of the counties have professional management and he intends on finding the answers from them. He expressed that there is not likely a chance to save money, but there will be an opportunity to professionalize the office. Elsasser stated that he was hesitant to mention the saving of money because of the importance in checks and balances.

Fennell brought up that the qualifications of an appointed position are different than that of an elected official. Mr. Sorrel confirmed that the elected person be a registered voter, be a resident of Peoria County, and win the election; whereas an appointed official would include being a CPA or a certified government auditor.

Baietto declared that the County Board is the most functional board in politics because it is transparent, gets the job done, and does not hold personal grudges. He mentioned that the Board



must look at cutting services before cutting more staff.

Pastucha announced that Build Peoria is holding a chili cook-off on Sunday, October 22nd to raise money for a dog park.

Robinson detailed that he is very proud to be working with the Board Members and they can work through the challenges as long as they stay focused. He thanked Chairman Rand, Elsasser, Adamson, and Pastucha for attending his pastoral installation.

Baietto said that D's and R's do not make a difference and that is the key; the Board works together to get the job done as the Board represents the people.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.