

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: October 3, 2023 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT:

☒ John Lang
☒ LaDon Trost
☒ Dianne Allendorf

☐ John Creighton
☒ Diane Gallagher
☒ Don Zillig Zoom

☒ Steve McIntyre
☒ John Schultz

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Chris Allendorf, Mike Dittmar, Nicole Hermesen, Kathy Phillips, Scott Toot and Kristina Tranel.

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Minutes of the September 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting – **John Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting as presented. Seconded by Diane Gallagher and motion carried.**

2. Citizens' Comments – Mike Dittmar spoke about being bullied in the hallway before the meeting.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee reviewed their strategic goals and plans. There was nothing more to add at this time.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA requests – The committee reviewed the updated FOIA request report.
- c) Courthouse Project Update and possible action – Scott Toot reported that the engineers were here all day. The Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee met earlier this month and they approved the schematic design options less the Sheriff's fascia and soffit project. That will be on the County Board agenda for approval. The engineers did not find any significant or alarming issues. They even managed to locate where the original cupola was. There is a possibility that we will need to do more scanning. We were provided with an updated schematic design this morning from the suggestions that were made from our schematic design meeting. Toot will distribute that.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding transportation of employees to Hanover facility – Issues were raised with Toot from the State's Attorney and Circuit Clerk regarding employees moving down to the Hanover facility and them having to drive down there. They felt it would be an additional burden on them cost wise. Kathy Phillips reported that from the Courthouse parking lot to the Hanover facility it is 18.1 miles one way; 36.2 miles per day that they will be adding on to their drive. We both have different employees that reside in different places. It is hard to tell employees for the County to save \$390,000 for us to move out of the courthouse but they are going to have to take on the burden. They should not have to pay the additional gas to be able to keep their jobs. When we hired them they were hired to work in Galena. Us as employers are moving them and Phillips feels they should be reimbursed for their mileage. For Galena people it would

be 180 miles per week. For the Scales Mound people it would be 93 miles per week additional. When you multiply that by the mileage rate it would come down to \$365 a week. Chris Allendorf added that his office will be an almost identical breakdown to Kathy's. If you add in Allendorf and Phillips that is an additional \$117 a week. LaDon Trost commented that he has a solution to offer. Transit has agreed to bus people to Hanover that wouldn't cost the County a dime. The bus will be available to anyone who wants a ride there and they will get a stipend of one-half hour a day. Angie Kaiser informed the committee that we would have to tax this reimbursement. Phillips asked if there are any other buildings in the City of Galena, such as the First Community Bank Building, that they could possibly move into. Nicole Hermesen added that there is a designated Hanover route every day Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. They do have flexibility, upon request because they are demand response, if someone needed them to pick up at their house it would be no different than picking anyone else up in the county at their house and going to day care or the school and then taking them to work. There was much excellent discussion. **John Lang made a motion to not pay employees mileage for the purpose of relocation to Hanover and to provide Transit transportation. Seconded by John Schultz and motion failed following a roll call vote resulting in 3 ayes and 4 nays. Ayes – 3: Lang, Schultz and Zillig. Nays – 4: Allendorf, Gallagher, McIntyre and Trost.**

LaDon Trost made a motion that County Transit will have transportation available, to and from Hanover and the employees who wish to drive their vehicles will be paid mileage from the office holders' and Courthouse Renovation Funds at the applicable County Mileage rate. Seconded by Steve McIntyre and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in 6 ayes and 1 nay. Ayes – 6: Allendorf, Gallagher, McIntyre, Schultz, Trost and Zillig. Nay – 1: Lang. Allendorf expressed his sincere appreciation to the committee that listened to him and supported compromise on this. His employees will appreciate it greatly. Phillips echoed Allendorf.

- b) Discussion and possible action regarding the renewal of FY2024 Property & Casualty Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT), total annual premium \$451,501.00 – **Diane Gallagher made a motion to approve the renewal of FY2024 Property & Casualty Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT), total annual premium \$451,501.00. Seconded by John Schultz and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**
- c) Policy Review – Scott Toot directed the committee to page 70 in the packet which lists the Appendix of Policies. We need to review the Certificate of Insurance Policy because the way it is currently set up it is a deterrent to many businesses. When the insurance limits were increased several businesses declined to continue to do business with the County. Motor Vehicle Record Check Policy needs to be reviewed to add the process for using the County pool car. The Travel & Business Expense Policy came out of the Department Heads meeting that some folks felt that the \$50 per diem per day for food was not enough given inflationary times. We aren't going to look at these tonight. This is just an update on policies we will need to look at in the future. The Courthouse Parking Policy will need review pending the Courthouse construction. The JDC Plan for COVID19 Exposure, Prevention, Preparedness, Response Policy either needs to be updated or dissolved. Prioritized Options for Reducing Expenses and/or Increasing Revenue Policy will be after the budget process. John Lang requested that these revised policies be included on the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.

5. Closed Session

Don Zillig made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:48 p.m. for the Closed session minutes section 2(c)21 "Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes of semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section

2.06.” Topic of discussion: The review of closed session minutes and Purchase/lease property section 2(c)5 *"The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."* Topic of discussion: Purchase of Property Galena, Illinois

Seconded by John Schultz. Voice vote resulted in all ayes and motion carried.

At 8:06 p.m., John Schultz made a motion to reconvene to open session. Seconded by Diane Gallagher. Roll call vote resulted in all ayes and motion carried.

6. Possible action as a result of closed session –

- a) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the County Board Closed Session minutes from May 11, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- b) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the County Board Closed Session minutes from June 8, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- c) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to remain closed the Special County Board Closed Session minutes from June 24, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- d) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to remain closed the Executive Committee Closed Session minutes from September 7, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- e) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to remain closed the County Board Closed Session minutes from September 14, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- f) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the County Board Closed Session minutes from November 16, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- g) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the Executive Committee Closed Session minutes from December 7, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- h) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the County Board Closed Session minutes from December 14, 2021. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- i) **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to open the Executive Committee Closed Session minutes from January 4, 2022. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**

7. Staff Reports

- a) **County Clerk/Recorder – Angela Kaiser, County Clerk & Recorder, was not in attendance.**
- b) **County Administrator – Scott Toot, County Administrator, had nothing more to add at this time.**

8. Summary of Committee Activities

- a) Diane Gallagher: Development & Planning Committee and Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee – Gallagher reported that Development & Planning was interested in a grant option to look at storm water and our possible study of the issue.
- b) John Schultz: Finance Committee – Schultz commented that he has no real concerns other than when we have people here with comments that they remain civil and we remain civil.
- c) Steve McIntyre: Information & Communications Technology Committee – McIntyre reported that we have some good understanding of the redundancy issue. We got a report from Sand Prairie that the fiber to Galena from Elizabeth was going to be completed by the end of the year. There is only one easement that needs to be procured so that looks to be a go. The other issue from the Board Retreat was videoing the court hearings. They have been working on that. There is a grant through the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) that they are working with. It looks like we will be able to get that completed as well by next year. There are also a couple of things that they discussed about a software defined wide area network. That basically means we are going to be able to save a lot of money.
- d) Don Zillig: Law Enforcement & Courts Committee – Zillig reported they did not have a meeting this month. It makes no sense to have a meeting just for the sake of having a meeting if there is no new business to act on. Scott Toot added that we did have something come up for the Circuit Clerk so we will be having a special Law & Courts Committee meeting before the County Board meeting.
- e) John Lang: Legislative Committee – Lang commented that the state report shows there is \$5.2 billion in unemployment overpayments. \$46 million of these payments went to people who were incarcerated or deceased. The Illinois Inspector has found that 177 Illinois State employees committed \$4.5 billion in payroll protection fraud. That money was supposed to go to employers to help cover employees. Non-citizens in Illinois do get health care. The State has got about \$1 billion. People over 65 get 100% of it paid. The Governor had to put the brakes on some of it because they don't have enough money and put a \$250 copayment on for people between 42 and 64. A state employee has gotten a 19.29% increase in their salary over four years plus they got a \$1,200 stipend for agreeing to the contract. The state is going to allocate \$30 million to Peacekeepers to curb violence in Chicago.
- f) Dianne Allendorf: Social & Environmental Committee – Allendorf reported that they did not meet in September.

9. Citizens' Comments – Mike Dittmar commented that he is totally against the County Courthouse building. The discussion on Chris Allendorf' and Kathy Phillips issue was interesting. Diane Gallagher's argument about the sick kids was the nail on the coffin. That was a really good argument. When it comes down to it you are saving \$400,000 by moving out of the building so the cost to give them some money and the time is a no brainer. John Schultz commented that the problem is less the money than what it is going to do to the other people that aren't being compensated that haven't been in the past.

10. Board Member Concerns – Diane Gallagher commented on the Leadership Forum schedule that is starting up again in January. Be sure and share the information with other people. It is great opportunity to learn from people that you would not necessarily meet from other communities. This is an excellent program that we should encourage others within our districts to apply for the program. There is a cost to it. Many times there are scholarship monies available. Scott Toot added that Tessa Moore in the Administration office will be attending.

11. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by Don Zillig and the motion carried by voice vote.