

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

July 13, 2022

Present: Venise McWard, Chairman, Linda Curtin, Vicki McMahon,
Tim Carlson, Ken Franklin
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Jim Baker, Cecil Polley, Jeff Stoner, Chad Coady, Rebecca
Hile, Brandon Rarick, Dylan Cook, Lucas Domonowsky and Elizabeth
Hile.

The Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee met on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Tim Carlson to recommend to the full Board to approve the claims presented for July. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rebecca Hile, a long time former volunteer at Animal Control spoke about being approached by a Board member who made comments about the content of her public comments at Monday and Tuesday night's committee meetings. Rebecca noted that her only motive in speaking is on behalf of the animals, her previous public comments were similar but contained different information and she has not sought the assistance of anyone nor is she here on anyone's behalf.

She further provided information on how the current Pet Fund originated as she was a volunteer at Animal Control at that time. In 2009, an animal named "Pal" needed surgery and the County didn't want to spend money on the pet. Joelynda Conrad, the former Animal Control Warden went to the Breeze Courier about this particular pet's situation, they ran an article which stimulated donations for the care of this animal. Pal had surgery and was adopted out to a family. The excess funds from the donations were made available for pet use under the new name of Pet Fund. The Pet Fund has been used for food, treats and supplies, veterinarian services and for other needs of the animals. It was started because the County didn't want to spend money for some animal services. The Animal Control budget has not contained a "food" line item for several years. This fund has never been in the County's general fund. Meeting minutes verify this fund has been audited by Richard Hooper under both former Animal Control Directors Joelynda Conrad and Vince Harris, the Treasurer has had access to view the account.

Over the years the Pet Fund has grown as a result of donations and memorials given to be used for the animals. She stated this fund needs to remain for the sole use by Animal Control and not for standard operating expenses, to be used at the discretion of the Treasurer, Finance Committee or County Board or placed in the general fund where departments can request it. Require accurate book keeping with detailed reports but leave the spending of those funds to Animal Control as the donors intended.

ACT INTERNET

Brandon Rarick, owner of ACT Internet provided maps showing areas for rural fiber access covering most of the County with the exception of about 3% of the County in the South Fork area. The cost to provide coverage for each map was provided. Map #1 is a \$2.4 million dollar project; map #2 a \$2.7 million dollar project; and both projects (map #1 and #2) a total

cost of \$3.4 million. Cost share for the project would be up to the County but if not provided 100%, ACT will apply for grants for cost share. A question was asked about who owns the fiber once installed. ACT replied that it depends on the agreed contract but most counties own with ACT maintaining the line. An inquiry about cost to the homeowner was also made. ACT offers several different plans depending on speed. Monthly costs start as low as \$20 per month up to \$150 per month for 2G. ACT has been in business for 3 years and currently provide services to rural homes in Shelby County, Moweaqua and east side of 51 in Christian County.

BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

The Committee will meet on their regular meeting night of Wednesday, August 10th starting at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 11th at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. to begin the budget hearing process.

WC AUDIT

Administrative Assistant/HR Liz Hile was asked to update the committee on the WC audit. She explained the WC audit process, how this year's audit process went to include the areas of concern. While the County did receive a refund of \$998.00, due to the concerns of how the audit was conducted, on behalf of the County an appeal was requested. Dimond Brothers was contacted, they felt requesting an appeal was a good call and advised the auditor would be contacted. To date we have received no reply from the auditor. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

REFERRALS

Additional Jailer

The Executive/Personnel Committee referred an amount not to exceed \$19,000.00 from ARPA funds for salary and related benefit costs for an additional jailer for the remaining FY2022 budget year.

Motion by Linda Curtin and seconded by Ken Franklin to recommend to the full Board that the salary costs and related benefits up to \$19,000.00 for an additional jailer for the remainder of the FY2022 budget year be taken from contingency fund instead of ARPA funds. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

EMA ARPA Request

The Executive/Personnel Committee referred an amount not to exceed \$65,500.00 from ARPA funds for purchase of 10 radios and updates to the communication and video capabilities at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

Jeff Stoner highlighted that since the Executive/Personnel Committee meeting, as a result of discussion and additional research, he feels he can go to a different radio model and still accomplish the overall goal. This reduces the cost of each radio from \$5000.00 to \$1,000.00 whereby he can purchase all 34 radios and stay within the \$65,000.00 recommended by the committee.

Motion by Vickie McMahon and seconded by Linda Curtin to amend the motion from Executive/Personnel for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 of ARPA funds for the purchase of 34 radios and updates to the communication and video capabilities/training at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vickie McMahon and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to approve Ordinance O2022CB028 for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 from ARPA funds for the purchase of 34 radios and updates to the communication and video capabilities/training at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Sheriff Department ARPA Request

The Executive/Personnel Committee referred an amount not to exceed \$64,500.00 from ARPA funds for the purpose of updating the camera recording systems at the courthouse and Sheriff's Department, replacement of 12 car radar units and a new hand held unit.

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to approve Ordinance O2022CB029 for an amount not to exceed \$64,500.00 from ARPA funds for the purpose of updating the camera recording systems at the courthouse and Sheriff's Department, replacement of 12 car radar units and a new hand held unit. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy

The Executive/Personnel Committee referred the matter of Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy to this committee for a GIS Coordinator position at the Supervisor of Assessment office. The Executive/Personnel reviewed the job description and because it's an exempt non-bargaining position noted the need for amending the Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy.

The committee reviewed the job description provided and noted salary comments. More than 1 committee member expressed concern of this position being paid more than a Chief Deputy position and felt it may be time to review the Chief Deputy salaries. Chad Coody noted that the base salary is the minimum per FLSA for an exempt position and the \$1000.00 additional was something a plat officer in the past had received.

Motion by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahon to recommend to the full Board to amend the Non-Bargaining Salary Policy adding a GIS Coordinator position with a starting salary of \$35,568.00. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Wells wanted the committee to be aware at the Executive/Personnel meeting on Monday, a recommendation will be coming before the Board to remove the 911 Director position from the Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy. At the last Board meeting a question about who determines the salary for the 911 Director was addressed by the States Attorney. He advised it is the decision of the 911 Board. The choices discussed at the Executive/Personnel committee were to do nothing, remove the position from the policy or vote to provide notice to terminate the bi-county 911 agreement.

Motion by Tim Carlson and seconded by Vicki McMahon to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Venise McWard
Finance/Audit/Purchasing/Budget Committee
Chairwoman
07/13/2022