



Rock Island County
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 558-3605

Mission Statement: Build the Future and Improve the Quality of Life For Our Community

Committee of the Whole Minutes
January 11th, 2023 5:30 PM

The Committee of the Whole of the Rock Island County Board met at the above date and time in the Board Chambers on the third floor of the County Building, 1504 Third Ave, Rock Island, IL. Vice Chairman Brian Vyncke called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Meeting Minutes as follows:

Call to order and Roll Call

Members Present: R. Morthland, M. M-Baker, L. Burns, L. Moreno, B. Vyncke, P. McNeil, C. Enburg, D. Mielke, D. Adams, R. Brunk, T. Foster, E. Sowards, B. Perkins, E. Dewith, K. Swanson, R. Simmer, J. Woods, C. Layer, B. Westpfahl

Members Absent: None

Others Present: A. Palmer, N. Camlin, D. Hart, K. Davis, C. Przybyla, J. Grafton, J. Mahon– Bray Architects

Public Comment

Vice Chairman Vyncke made three calls for public comment; There were no requests for public comment.

Approval of the minutes from the Dec 14, 2022

Motion to approve as presented Adams, Second Foster, Woods, Simmer

A roll call was established: R. Morthland, M. M-Baker, L. Burns, L. Moreno, B. Vyncke, P. McNeil, C. Enburg, D. Mielke, D. Adams, R. Brunk, T. Foster, E. Sowards, B. Perkins – YES

Motion carried

Condition of Funds Report

Auditor Ms. Palmer gave her standard condition of funds report. She stated she sent out old fiscal year documentation (Dec 1, 2021- Nov 30, 2022 to the board members via email. She stated most activity in December is able to be backdated due to the accrual method of accounting in Rock Island County. Goods and services can be backdated the revenues and expenses for the prior fiscal year. Other monthly reports included trial balances with prior year comparisons, and general fund departments budgetary.

Treasurer disbursements and payroll amounts were presented as well with other funds for comparisons. Schedule C included fund balances in 2021, audited; She mentioned that the 2022 audit in the spring and stated the county no longer had an external auditor. She stated due to the CPA- RSM LLP firm normally used had an extreme shortage of staff and caused significant delay in the finalized audit presentation last year. She continued that she was looking to go out for RFP and hire an external auditor and noted that she had been reaching out to other counties in the area, but also noted that costs had doubled for auditing services. She suggested a small financial office-working group to turn the situation around faster, and wanted to discuss that further with Mr. Grafton, Chairman Brunk and Mr. Berger.

She stated cash balances did not stop and no old year report was presented due to cash being ever flowing. Budget by organization noted through November 2022 to be compared with Schedule C. She stated seeing revenues being over budget, which was a positive sign.

She noted schedule H; all revenues received from the State of Illinois in December were backdated to October- December for goods and services through local distributors being backdated.

Schedule I were all transfers, claims and treasurer disbursements for the two split years. She welcomed any questions or concerns via her office

Dr. Simmer asked if there were special qualifications in hiring external auditors for the County. Ms. Palmer noted they had to be a licensed CPA firm in the state of Illinois and have governmental staff familiar with auditing for government.

Dr. Simmer noted on schedule G, budget by organization if any of the funds were using ARPA funds; Ms. Palmer noted those revenues were specific to particular departments and continued schedule H was reflective of at least a million dollars more the prior month than the prior year. She also noted fees are up in several departments. Bracketed amounts showed revenue was exceeding what was expected at budget time.

Vice-Chairman Vyncke noted the old year reports may be harder for new members to interpret, but Ms. Palmer was available to explain any of the presented information.

Mr. Dewith is present.

Staff Reports

Treasurer Mr. Camlin presented his report to the committee and noted the tax sale was successful and the office was working on the final distribution—payments to all the other taxing bodies based off their levy and he was optimistic it would be completed before January 26th and would keep the committee informed.

Sheriff Hart briefed the committee that on December 1st, the Sheriff's office had received notice from the jail medical provider MEnD Correctional Care, contracted out of Minnesota, had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and were terminating all contracts in various states within 90 days. He continued his staff was working diligently to continue to have medical care in the jail facility, but stated 75% of the state was using only three providers for services. He had already mentioned being in contact with the health department and a few other vendors to try to keep continuum of care. He stated there was delay of payment of staff, and noted his new statutory duties as sheriff of the care and custody of the current 230 inmates. He stated \$650,000 was budgeted for the year and proposals were coming in at double that number. He stated wanting to work through the issue as quickly as they could.

Mr. Westpfahl asked the staff or for the inmates. Sheriff Hart stated it was all for inmate care and the costs for the RNs, LPNs, medical technicians, nurse practitioners etc. and noted the line item for medical care in the Sheriff's budget was about 1.2 million with pharmacy care and Robert Young services, but mentioned about \$600,000 that was going to MEnD Correctional Care. With the notice of 90 day termination of services, Sheriff Hart noted it was currently 41 days in and he was looking to secure other care as quickly as they could.

Dr. Simmer asked if any inmates had Medicare or Medicaid insurance to assist with costs; Sheriff Hart stated all claims for Medicare or Medicaid were sent to the State of Illinois and many claims were reduced or offset, but was separate from medical staff costs.

Dr. Simmer also asked if anything was collected from the inmates themselves for medical care; Sheriff Hart noted if they have money, yes and charges were collected for any inmates housed in Rock Island County for other Counties and noted it was almost \$750,000 in revenue. Some costs were recouped, with about 25 inmates from other counties being reimbursed for any costs from the State.

Dr. Simmer asked what major care was offered. Sheriff Hart stated dental and eye care, and general medical care, medications as required by law when in the care and custody of Rock Island County. He stated having about 26 murder suspects and the office was required to provide medical care and have a deputy sheriff on site if an inmate was transferred to another facility. Dr. Simmer also asked if any costs could be subsidized with ARPA funds; Sheriff Hart stated no.

He also noted that he had discussions with the Health Department, but stated doctors were “somewhat skittish” to take over medical care at a correctional facility in the sense of medical licenses and malpractice, and the Health Department was uninterested.

Ms. Woods asked if mental health services were included; Sheriff Hart stated part of the \$1.2 million was for mental health. He stated it was a large operation and his intent was to retain individuals who had worked for MeND Medical; the concern was staff being paid. Sheriff Hart wanted to work through the issue as quickly as possible.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report

Presented by Chairman Moreno

Governance, Health and Administration Committee Report

Presented by Chairwoman Enburg

Public Works and Facilities Committee Report

Presented by Chairman Burns

Chairman Brunk noted several months ago, a working group was assembled to review concepts for Chamber renovations with BRAY Architects. He stated things like physical access to the room, technology to address hearing needs, Grafton, Davis, Erickson, Vice Chair Vyncke, Adams, Burns and himself. He stated it looked like a modest approach.

He then introduced Mr. John Mahon with Bray Architects. Mr. Mahon thanked the committee and presented on the project noting the committee had invested a lot of time. He noted the current chambers had existed in the manner for some time with changes every several decades.

He noted, currently the room was designed for a different style of government with all participants facing forward to a single point, noted inaccessibly as it was multiple tiered, not conducive for board members or presented with

He remarked the aesthetic was dated as well as technology and equipment was antiquated, with some safety concerns as well; one being visitors on the tiered seating, no railings, and no permanent seating, as well as inaccessibility for the public.

The public officials being seated as they were currently posed a safety risk as well. He stated the design of the space needed to be able to have exit plans and strategies should the need arise. The Sheriff’s department was consulted for certain safety aspects.

Mr. Mahon noted that the layout would be changed from multiple tiered desks and walls to having members be seated around one another to see each other and presented the layout. Table space for extra seating and handouts would be provided. The seating would be at floor level for the public and the 19 members would be seated around a table with a center table for the clerk and secretary. There would be a table for security and be one step up from the floor level. A ramp would be provided; the desk would be spread out with a screen and microphone for the voting system. The

screen would be raised with a bullet resistant panel. There would be a desk in the corner for the administrative assistant.

The other side of the room would have a coffee bar refrigerator with water and soft drinks and then a staff table with 6 spots with the same tech as the board members. A table with two chairs would be provided for security personnel with a moveable table for presentations or other uses.

30 moveable seats and collapsible tables would be able to be stored and the room would be functional for other departments within the county such as training sessions, or special events. The flexible seating would be able to accommodate large meetings as well.

He presented a visual concept of the room with woodwork paneling and the back wall would have chair storage. The windows would be left as is. New ventilation and lighting would be updated with the ceiling would not extend wall to wall and see the historic plaster detailing.

The audio visual system would include two large drop down screens with wider image quality and electronic monitors on the walls for easier visibility. Input outlets would be in the floor.

Mr. Mahon continued a budget was presented including all technology being around \$760,000 with technology being at about \$300,000 with 20 percent being contingency factor as supply changes were. The millwork cabinetry and some tech pieces were a concern. The county was also enrolled in a TIPS program to buy materials at a reduced pre-negotiated rate.

Mr. Swanson asked where public comment would occur; Mr. Mahon stated there would be a mobile podium, noting that a physical barrier would be there to separate the public from the floor.

Mr. Mielke stated it was an excellent point, as currently, the body was not facing the public. HE noted the ADA accessibility as a great step.

Chairman Brunk clarified the podium for public comment and presentation being adjustable height for anyone in a wheelchair.

Mr. McNeil asked for an estimate time line for the project; Mr. Mahon stated the consideration was about an 8-week window for materials with 3 weeks of bidding. He stated another way was to hire a contractor, but the room would be inaccessible. He noted wanting to have the room available as long as possible for business.

Dr. Simmer asked for when it would be able to start. Chairman Brunk noted Mr. Grafton wanted to be able to have documents in a position to vote on the proposal in the February meeting. He also noted the working group looked at several different layouts for the room and one presented was the most function for multipurpose use.

Mr. Morthland asked where the public comment would occur, as he was not in the chambers. Mr. Mahon stated the podium would be at the center of the room near the spectator gallery. He also noted a sample of the technology component was in the front of the room for the members to look at with a 10 inch screen, built in speakers, and microphone, and earbuds.

Approval of the County Board Agenda

Motion to approve as presented L. Moreno Second T. Foster, E. Sowards
a new roll call was established as followed:

R. Morthland, M. M-Baker, L. Burns, L. Moreno, B. Vyncke, P. McNeil, C. Enburg, D. Mielke, D. Adams,

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R. Brunk, T. Foster, E. Sowards, B. Perkins, E. Dewith, K. Swanson, R. Simmer, J. Woods, C. Layer, B. Westpfahl – Yes
Motion carried

Closed Session

There were no items for closed session; no action necessary.

Committee Member Opportunity for Brief Comment (no decisions will be made)

Vice-Chair Vyncke welcomed member Mielke back as he had a successful surgery. Mr. Mielke stated he was glad to be back and urged if anyone has any symptoms, to get them checked.

Ms. Sowards stated there was a dueling pianos event for the youth services bureau on Saturday, January 21st at Bally Casino from 6-10 PM with an individual ticket being \$50 and a table of 10 at \$450. A VIP table of 10 was available for \$500.

Vice Chairman Vyncke reminded the members to please check their mailboxes. Ms. Przybyla noted the members' boxes may have moved from their original place due to the new redistricting.

Adjourn

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 6:37 PM with motion by Swanson Second McNeil
Motion carried