

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 5:00 PM

The Budget Committee of the Rock Island County Board met on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 on the second floor of the County Office Building in room 210 of the County Administration Office. Minutes as follow:

Chairman Moreno called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

A roll call was taken;

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** CHAIR L. MORENO, ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** SIMMER

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

J. GRAFTON, G. BUSTOS, R. BERGER, D. VILLARREAL, H. KHOURY, E. HUGHES, K. DAVIS, B. EDGEWORTH, C. PRZYBYLA

**Public Comment**

Chairman Moreno made three calls for public comment. There were no requests for public comment.

**Review of the FY23 Budget**

Mr. Grafton walked through the 2022 budget noting that trends were used from the previous 5 years actual expenses. He stated any irregularities and expectations were researched and a consensus was agreed on. When starting out there were 59 open positions in the budget accounted for about 2 million funds to be set aside and positions not filled. He stated there was realistic position budgeting and a process was implemented for new staff or wage change procedures. That process included the needs, cost of the request and funding so the board would be more informed.

He stated Rock Island County had close to 50 million in fund balances related to revenues. 35 Million being between the general fund and liability funds. He stated the budget would pay off all internal debts related to the nursing home and next year's levy, the nursing home levy would be removed at 2.44 million and continue to make scheduled payments. He stated this levy could be paid off early but a penalty would be issued. He stated a new purchase policy was also in place. To help the board make decisions, agenda briefings would be implemented.

He quoted from an email to Mr. Berger that "this is the first time the budget has balanced since before I can look in the system."

He continued that the budget was balanced and a realistic and conservative levy was being submitted for 2022 that would reduce the tax rate by 9.135 percent. The Rock Island County portion (currently at 12.3%) would come down to 10.84 % of the total tax bill.

On a \$90,000 home as an owner, the tax bill would be reduced by \$59. He continued the website was being updated, and one would be access to the budget by a button. He thanked Mr. Berger's hard work and persistence.

Mr. Berger went over budget worksheets and went over the adopted budget from 2020 and onward. Net totals were in the red in in the past, the biggest reason being the way in which the County was budgeting. He stated the last year 11 million in the red was not accurate due to ARPA funds. He stated there was not a way to identify that revenue source in the budget and in previous years, bigger projects,

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 5:00 PM

or court probation was by the nature of the fund. The expenses were shown without an associated revenue.

He continued being in a good position looking at 3.5 million in the green. 2.4 million was due to the nursing home levy and an plan was in place for internal debts. He stated it was not a revenue source. A table was presented with balances fund by fund. The general fund was showing a negative balance of \$988,404.00, and explained this was due to the ARPA budget but salaries were not paid from the fund, being reimbursed with a zero balance. Payroll systems were currently being transitioned.

Highway had negative \$5000 that would be shifted to ARPA funds with new ARPA projects to help the balances. Bridge Fund were in the negative and tap into the fund balances, planning for the future. Associated with those were FY23 use of funds; he stated this was budget amendments discussed on the previous reports.

Chairman Brunk noted that since there was no mechanism for the unencumbered funds being used, the mechanism with the amendments being passed as the same time as the budget was being utilized by a number of other local governments to reflect a balanced budget.

Mr. Berger stated budget amendments would be passed upfront rather than as needed, strategically. He stated many elected officials went out of their way to make sure things were balanced.

Mr. Swanson was worried about the bond, and wanted to making sure every single liability was accounted for. He asked if the County had paid the bond off that quickly.

Mr. Berger stated on the hope creek there were two pieces; Internal debt and the bond. He stated the budget would pay off the internal debt and the bond payment would be paid out of the fund balance general fund at about \$19 million.

Chairman Brunk stated it would not eliminate the levy and the plan would be to eliminate the levy in the following year.

Mr. Berger stated the biggest piece was to pay off the internal debt for the general fund. The levy documents reflected reductions; the biggest being in liability insurance, and an associated budget amendment to pay for specific line items.

Sheriff Busto asked about position budgeting for FY 23 and if it was advocating for cutting open positions. Chairman Brunk stated no.

Chairman Moreno stated seeing reductions and minor increases in the levees and asked if Mr. Berger would explain 482% increase in Veteran's Affairs.

Mr. Berger stated the legislature passed an amendment to the the PACT act and would require the County to meet either at .02% rate or whatever deemed fair. Budget was passed as state statute and other parts limit how salaries are set.

Mr. Berger stated that Mr. Harlow had addressed administrative costs were up while relief was going down and stated the extra people would help veterans receive federal assistance as well as local relief.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 5:00 PM

The drop in IMRF was due to rate levels went down and certain plans were contributing at 100% and went down to about 84%. He noted the use of fund balance for about \$4 million.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The committee went into closed session at 5:23 PM per 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) – The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Motion for closed session J. Deppe. Second L BURNS

A roll call was taken as follows:

ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS – YES

The committee entered open session at 5:46 PM

Motion ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS

**CONSIDER ACTION AS NECESSARY BASED ON CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to accept the salaries as recommended by the County Administrator K. SWANSON

Second L. Burns

ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS—YES

Motion carried

Motion to approve the levy and budget materials and forward to the County Board as presented by the Finance Director and the County Administrator K. SWANSON

Second D. ADAMS

A roll call was taken

ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS—YES

Motion carried

**COMMITTEE MEMBER OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF COMMENT (no decisions will be made)**

Ms. Beck asked about the \$160 increase in the Children’s Advocacy Fund. Mr. Berger stated it was due to interest earned.

Chairman Moreno thanked Mr. Berger and Mr. Grafton for their excellent work on the budget and making the budget committee’s job easier. He also thanked the elected officials and the committee.

**ADJOURN**

No further business, the committee adjourned at 5:50 PM with motion J. DEPPE Second D. ADAMS

Roll call: ADAMS, BECK, DEPPE, SWANSON, BURNS—YES

Motion carried.