

## Finance Committee

### Minutes

August 28, 2020

The Finance Committee of the Piatt County Board met on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 8:37 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Spencer. Attending: Robert Murrell, Dale Lattz, Randy Shumard, Renee Freundt. Also, Bruce Delashmit, Doug Johnson, Dustin Harmon of Bellwether, and Keri Nusbaum.

Harmon asked for guidance from the board. What is the desired levy? Do they wish to do Truth in Taxation hearing?

Lattz said there has been a draw down over the last years, and the general fund has not been positive for 2-3 years. He would like to have a balanced budget this year. Shumard said that maintenance costs have added to the deficit. He would like a true and accurate budget. Lattz would like to see a 5-6 year plan to recoup some reserves. There are union negotiations coming up, and Spencer noted that negotiation legal fees were not budgeted. Harmon said they will bring a rough draft to the September finance meeting, and after that they will bring a budget for vote in October. Lattz asked for guidance on department size, or other areas that could be adjusted based upon counties of similar size. Bellwether will provide a quarterly report of the budget status next year.

Eric Seibring discussed the highway department budget. The only thing paid out of the county budget is IMRF and insurance for 3 employees. He would like to have all of the highway funds separate from the general fund.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion:** Murrell made motion, seconded by Lattz to adjourn at 9:11 a.m.

**Motion:** Murrell withdrew his motion to adjourn. Lattz seconded. Roll was called, all in favor. The committee remained in open session at 9:16 a.m.

Murrell exited the meeting.

Treasurer Debbie Marshall presented her budget request. She has added back funds for travel, training and dues, a 3% increase for her staff, and a portion of the office supply funds that were cut last year. She would like to create a tort liability fund.

County Clerk Harper presented her budget request. She is requesting the part time position be reinstated. She got a grant for new equipment last year and didn't have to use those funds last year.

Assessor Jennifer Bryant presented her budget request. There were no increases. Harmon suggested the assessor use the fax machine in the zoning/board office and save the \$600 per year. Bryant requests a wage increase for her staff to increase at the same rate that minimum wage increased. Harmon shared some strategies for dealing with compression caused by the minimum wage increase.

Director Scott Porter reviewed the nursing home budget. They will request the maximum for the levy. They will attempt to have a full budget ready for September 7 committee meeting, to approve and be able to be included on the draft budget. Porter will send his budget to Bellwether and they will include what is needed.

**Motion:** Shumard made motion, seconded by Fruendt, to go into recess. On voice vote the motion passed and the committee went into recess at 10:54 a.m.

**Motion:** Fruendt made motion, seconded by Shumard to resume the meeting. On voice vote the motion carried, and the committee returned to open session at 12:28 p.m. Spencer, Shumard, Lattz and Fruendt were in attendance.

Harmon reviewed the budget process with the EMA director, Mike Holmes who was in attendance. Holmes provided a spreadsheet, and description of equipment and services. He requests a salary increase, increase in dues and trainings, office supplies request is doubled. Fuel is doubled. Harmon asked the board to weigh in on salary. The board has made no decisions regarding raises for staff. The budget requests represent a large increase from General funds. Harmon asked about grant revenue funds which may be available.

Judge Finson brought the court budget. There was no new equipment budgeted for 2020, but new computers are needed for 2021, along with a copier. He requests a raise in salary for the public defender.

**Motion:** Shumard made motion, seconded by Fruendt to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Nusbaum  
Piatt County Zoning Officer