

CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE FORUM (CALF)
McHenry County Government – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koehler at 10 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Koehler; Sue Draffkorn; Tina Hill; Marc Munaretto; Lyn Orphal; Dan Shea; Barbara Wheeler; and Mary Lou Zierer. John Hammerand; Virginia Peschke; and Nick Provenzano were absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator, John W. Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh Associate County Administrator-Finance; Pat McNulty, Health Department; Cathy Link, Purchasing; Kathie Schultz, County Clerk; Pam Palmer, Auditor; Barry Valentine, EMA; Bob Ivetic, Human Resources; Rich Weinhandl and Gene Lowery, Sheriff's Department; Tom Carroll, State's Attorney; James Kennedy, County Board Member; interested public; and the press

Sue Draffkorn	John Hammerand
Tina Hill	Marc Munaretto
Lyn Orphal	Virginia Peschke
Nick Provenzano	Dan Shea
Barbara Wheeler	Mary Lou Zierer
Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman	

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Orphal, to approve the July 17, 2007 CALF meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2007/2008 Supplemental Budget Requests: Mr. Austin stated that today's meeting is being held to review staff recommendations for FY 07/08 supplement budget requests. Requests have been reviewed with various department heads and elected officials and although not all supplemental requests can be awarded, all are taken into consideration. He stated that the requests have been prioritized by using numbers 1-3, with number 1 being highest recommendation for approval. Items appearing with a ranking of "10" are still being discussed and negotiated with the department. He stated that some items being recommended for approval are out of our control, such as the new judge and 8 new staff members to assist that position. He also pointed out that the majority of salary adjustments should be addressed once the salary study is completed, although there are a handful of such adjustments included in the supplemental recommendations.

Mr. Shea asked for an explanation of the "red" 3 and the "black 3." Mr. Sarbaugh responded that the supplemental requests appearing as "red" 3 reflect funds that have been set aside as Election Contingency funds for the County Clerk. These items are built into the County Clerk's Election budget every even number year, which is why they appear on the supplemental requests. These funds for election expenses are mandatory and appear elsewhere. Ms. Hill questioned the grant funding for the Health Department on Page 2 of the supplemental requests and Mr. Sarbaugh responded that there was an error that will be corrected.

Mr. Austin stated that after a review of the requests, staff would like consensus to move these requests forward to the Finance and Audit Committee and then to the County Board for public display. He pointed out that the documents are not final at this time, noting that some requests need additional attention and discussion, such as the radio dispatcher request and the artwork sub-committee. He noted that several items for Animal Control are due to the costs associated with the new larger facility. It was also noted that the supplemental requests reflect the decrease in revenue and many projects have been scaled back.

Ms. Zierer questioned why security services for Valley-Hi were ranked 3. Mr. Sarbaugh stated that this item had not been included in Valley-Hi's FY 06/07 budget as it was requested after the budget had been approved. Therefore this appears as a supplemental request, but it has been included in the FY 07/08 budget for Valley-Hi.

Mr. Austin reviewed high points to supplemental requests which included two new network engineer positions in the I.T. Department. These positions will focus on the County Clerk's office to address the County Board's Strategic Plan goal of implementing a system to search for resolutions and ordinances.

Mr. Shea raised concern with the new position for special counsel for the Department of Transportation, the cost of which will be split 50/50 with the DOT and State's Attorney. Mr. Austin responded that DOT had voiced concern that when legal counsel was requested it is not always the same person and had noted a desire to identify an attorney that would be devoted to the DOT. This supplemental request under special revenue funds would allow for such a new special counsel position. Mr. Shea asked if other departments that need services from the State's Attorney were also being charged for such services. Mr. Austin responded "no" and went on to note that the DOT had proposed hiring an outside attorney to meet their needs. It was decided that those needs could best be served by hiring an attorney to serve both the State's Attorney and DOT on a 50/50 split. Mr. Shea stated he understood the concept but did not fully agree. Mr. Sarbaugh pointed out that this position will be truly dedicated 50% to DOT and it would guarantee the same person each time services are needed.

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Mr. Shea also voiced concern with the ranking of 10 for some Valley-Hi services such as garbage disposal. Mr. Sarbaugh stated the reason these appear as a 10 is due to the need for additional information as to why costs have increased since the facility has two compactors which should need only one weekly pick-up. The ranking of 10 indicates this item is still under review.

In response to concerns raised relative to the ranking of 3 for the Sheriff's video visitation booths, UnderSheriff Lowery noted that the visitation booths provide for a secure method for visitations and additional booths would allow for an increase in visitors. Video visitation prevents visitors from having to enter secure areas to visit with detainees. Mr. Austin stated that staff is still working on these issues. Ms. Draffkorn asked when was the last time the number of deputies were increased. UnderSheriff Lowery stated supervisory staff was increased during the last budget. Mr. Austin stated that the Sheriff currently has 5 vacant deputy positions. UnderSheriff Lowery pointed out a key issue is response time, which can be improved. He noted that only two deputies cover the entire western half of the County.

Ms. Hill stated she would like to see the purchase of more energy efficient hybrid vehicles for use by the County. Chairman Koehler pointed out that such vehicles are not always energy efficient. Mr. Austin stated this issue does warrant consideration and perhaps the Health Department would provide a good pilot program for the use of such vehicles. UnderSheriff Lowery stated that currently Sheriff vehicles are geared toward GM products, but research on more energy efficient vehicles continues to be conducted noting that more viable options will be available in the next few years. Chairman Koehler noted that the Department of Transportation is also looking at fuel efficient vehicles, but they have found many problems with current energy efficient vehicles especially in colder weather.

Ms. Schultz pointed out that election judges are not paid an hourly wage. They are currently paid a flat amount of \$90 per day which she has requested be raised to \$120.00 per day, not the \$8.00 per hour as indicated. She also noted that costs related to the Election are not one time issues.

Chairman Koehler stated that the supplemental requests will be sent to the Finance and Audit Committee for further consideration.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Wheeler motioned, seconded by Ms. Orphal, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

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