

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

August 27, 2013

The Public Service Committee met on Thursday, August 27, 2013, at the Kane County Government Center, Building A, Geneva, Illinois.

Present: Chairman Allan, Members Kojzarek (arrives 3:22 p.m.), Gillam, Haimann, Schefflow, Vazquez. Absent: Davoust. Also present: County Bd. member Smith; Treasurer Rickert, Sup. of Assessments Armstrong, Auditor Hunt; County Clerk Elections Dpty. S. Fahnestock.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Allan called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Addressing the committee, Chairman Allan pointed out that the budgets were now being vetted by Chairman Lauzen, Finance Dir. Onzick, Treasurer Rickert, Supv. of Assessments Armstrong, Auditor Hunt, and Dir. Fahnestock in order to come up with the best plan for the county, but some items were being considered separately as capital fund requests. It was also mentioned by Allan that the current policy stated that any surplus of funds not used automatically went into the capital fund. One member suggested revising the policy to return those monies back into operations and to give certain departments raises. A general dialog followed regarding certain departments receiving raises, better review of employees' health care, and finding additional savings in the postage budget from Buildings & Grounds. Elections Dpty. Fahnestock spoke and said that she would have appreciated some of the money remaining in the Clerk's budget for postage because if or when voter cards were returned, the Clerk's office had come up with the funds to resend those cards, along with a letter. Armstrong and Rickert could not understand why there was a separate line item in the Clerk's budget regarding that issue.

### **PERFUNCTORY REVIEW OF FY2014 BUDGETS**

#### **RECORDER**

Allan reviewed the line items under the Recorder's Automation Fund, pointing out that Recorder Wegman (Kojzarek arrives) holds just the money she needs to run her office. Questions followed regarding the increase in health care and training budgets. Auditor Hunt reminded the committee that the department heads were asked to budget at the highest rate in the event there was an unknown that existed and, where possible, to use special revenue funds versus general funds for training because it saved taxpayers' money. But Chairman Allan commented that some of the elected officials would not spend money on training and, instead, would spend it somewhere else, pointing out that within their automation fund, their money was moved around.

#### **COLLECTOR**

Turning to his budget, Treasurer Rickert clarified that the interest, penalty and fees collected by his office were over \$2M annually which currently was listed as "miscellaneous" revenue to the general fund. He preferred that the revenue collected be recognized for his office, which funds, he said, offset the cost of the office. Rickert indicated he would like to speak to Finance Dir. Onzick and Chairman Lauzen on this matter and be credited accordingly for a better understanding of what his office costs versus what funds are brought in to run the operations. Per a question on the fees collected, Rickert explained they were set by state statute. Rickert proceeded to explain how his budget is broken into two sections -- Automation Fund and a General fund and what funds come out of where. Other questions followed regarding the fees collected from the Automation Fund, the line item for part-time/seasonal workers, whether \$10,000 was needed or not for the consultant services, and year-end accruals. Rickert reiterated that his budget was flat.

### **REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION (ROE)**

Chairman Allan summarized that the ROE's budget was mostly funded by the State of Illinois but that the county currently pays a stipend to the ROE superintendent and the assistant superintendent. The ROE provides the teachers to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) but it is budgeted under the JJC and then reimbursed by the ROE because the funds are coming from the state to educate the students. Allan said that eventually she will have to ask the superintendent what utility bills are associated with the ROE's building, and whether some of those bills could come out of ROE budget, other

than from the general fund. Allan said she believes this will be an ongoing process. A question arose of where the \$12,000 was coming from.

#### SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

Supv. of Assessments Armstrong clarified how his salary was paid 50% by the state as long as he met certain state targets. Details followed. He is projecting flat revenues on assessors fees but explained that many of the prior fees his office charged under FOIA were now being requested for free. Armstrong proceeded to explain other revenue line items. Under expenses, Armstrong reported that the only number that changed under Salaries was the year-end accrual. Further details followed regarding the figures under the Board of Review, the healthcare contribution, appraisal services, the increase of P-tab cases, and the costs associated with P-tab refunds. With the increase in P-tab cases, Armstrong stated he is requesting \$30K to hire some outside help but feels the decision may still be premature. He explained the \$30K that was set aside for new office furniture (capital item). Allan reminded the committee on how the new chairman was trying to create a new protocol to address capital funds.

#### COUNTY CLERK

Chairman Allan stated that this budget had not been vetted yet and she was asking the committee if it wanted to move the budget to Finance knowing that it would be reviewed again. She summarized that the Clerk was asking \$1.8 M in his budget and zeroing out his automation fund. She noted that the clerk's revenue covered his office except for the elections portion and that the larger expenses appeared to be in the voting systems and accessories.

**The following four (4) budgets were moved to the Finance Committee: Recorder, Collector, Regional Office of Education and Supervisor of Assessments, on motion by Haimann, seconded by Scheflow. Motion carried unanimously.**

Members were then asked to provide what items they thought stood out in the Clerk's budget, which was the \$20,000 for security services (to provide an officer at the schools on voting day). Chair Allan asked if the committee was comfortable enough to move this budget forward to Finance knowing that the budget would be reviewed and vetted again.

**The budget for the County Clerk was moved to the Finance Committee on motion by Haimann, seconded by Kojzarek. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on motion by Kojzarek, seconded by Scheflow. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Celeste K. Weilandt  
Recording Secretary