

**Minutes approve 05-22-12**



**Finance Committee**

Justice Center Community Room

April 17, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Tim Neuhauser, Jim Carius, Russ Crawford, Dean Grimm, Mike Harris, Linc Hobson, Carroll Imig, Darrell Meisinger, Jerry Vanderheydt, Terry VonBoeckman

Absent Committee Members: Jim Donahue

**MOTION**                    **MOTION BY MEISINGER, SECOND BY VON BOECKMAN** to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting.

**On voice vote, motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Neuhauser invited County Clerk, Christie Webb, to speak to the Committee regarding a fee increase for death certificates.

**MOTION**                    **MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY GRIMM** to discuss the fees for death certificates.

Webb reported to the Committee they are mandated by the State to add an additional \$2.00 to the fee for certified death certificates. Webb reported that would mean as of July 1, 2012, the fee for the first copy of a death certificate would go from \$16.00 to \$18.00. The fee for additional copies would increase to \$15.00.

Chairman Neuhauser asked Webb what affect this would have. Webb stated it would generate between \$16,000.00 and \$20,000.00 to the State. She stated the County will derive nothing from the increase.

Chairman Neuhauser stated the question was whether the County pass along the mandatory fee increase or absorb it. Grimm stated he would not be in favor of absorbing it. Harris stated it is a fee increase and he is against it even though it is a State mandate.

Webb advised the Committee that effective July 01 the fee will be increased to citizens.

**MOTION**                    **MOTION BY HARRIS, SECOND BY CRAWFORD** to discuss retroactive payment to E.D.C.

Chairman Neuhauser stated he was not able to attend the Special Call Board meeting on April 12 when there was substantial discussion on this item. Neuhauser recognized Vickie Clark, President of E.D.C. in the audience. He opened the floor for questions or recommendations.

Harris stated there were two issues he wanted to understand. How was the contract with E.D.C. terminated and what work was done by them after the contract termination. He stated he has seen a list, but would still vote to not pay.

Chairman Neuhauser asked Clark to address the issues.

Clark addressed the contract situation. She stated that Tazewell County has been a continual investor since before 1998. She stated the County contacted them for Regional and Tazewell County specific efforts. The contract situation had been discussed since last fall. EDC was asked to wait to finalize until January or February primarily because there was no administrator. She stated they have been representing the County as they would with a contract due to an ongoing working relationship. She stated they continue to fulfill the contract obligations that continued from last year.

She also stated that they did increase business outreach because they did hear an interest from Board Members regarding this. She provided the Committee with a draft of the Business Outreach Services report. She also provided the Committee with an Economic Development Handbook.

Clark stated that she has heard insinuation that the Frank Knott study was to be an assessment of E.D.C. specifically. Knott gave the Board of Directors a presentation last week. Knott was adamant about the rating score card being a collaboration as economic development as a whole. She stated they have achieved great things for this region in the last five years. She asked for consideration of the continued relationship and hopes to work with the County as this evolves.

Imig stated that last week at the meeting, at least three Board members asked what E.D. C. had done during the time of no contract. He stated that they assisted rural Hopedale. For smaller communities there is no way to put a value on their services. It was greatly appreciated.

Chairman Neuhauser asked if anyone had further questions for Clark or suggestions as to what the Committee would like to have done in the form of an action.

Carius asked Clark if there was a representative from Tazewell County on the Board. Clark stated that David Zimmerman serves on that Board.

Hobson stated he was reviewing the minutes of the 02-21-12 Finance meeting and the discussion of retroactive payment. The minutes indicate it was passed at the Committee. He asked what happened between that meeting and now.

Chairman Neuhauser stated his recollection was discussions were on the shape of the contract for the interim which would include measurable items. At that time there was no lengthy debate on retroactivity. The discussion and what was approved was the future six month contract. It was his understanding that the discussion regarding retroactivity was brought forward at the Special Call Board Meeting and returned to Finance to resolve.

Crawford stated the Finance Committee unanimously voted for the contract without any retroactivity. There were robust discussions and questions, but not about retro-pay. At the 02-21-12 meeting an amendment was made to link our payments to Woodford and Peoria County. This was done to hopefully provide a regional collaboration on the process and the funding for E.D.C. in the interim period awaiting the Economic Development Assessment outcome. Crawford stated that at this time it is unknown what Woodford County will do. Peoria passed the contract with E.D.C. on 04-12-12.

Hobson stated that the fact that the quarterly agreement was approved in Committee was super-ceded by the six month contract. Crawford said it was tabled. It was returned to Finance Committee.

Chairman Neuhauser stated again, the retroactive payment must be decided upon. He asked for a consensus or recommendation from the Committee. If a payment is recommended, what the payment is for.

Imig asked where Peoria County stands on the EDC contract. Crawford stated Peoria County approved an extension to their contract that is different than the contract Tazewell County approved. Chairman Neuhauser stated that Peoria County approved their old contract including retroactive payment. Clark stated the Peoria

contract goes through June and any changes would be made for July.

Chairman Neuhauser asked for other questions or comments. He stated the consensus of the Committee was the contract that was passed is what the County wanted and we will pay our agreed upon amount. Our contract was customized for our needs.

## Reports and Communications

Chairman Neuhauser stated the Treasurer's Report and the Public Safety Sales Tax Report were distributed. The PSST revenue continues to pace very well.

Chairman Neuhauser recognized Treasurer Burress who presented a Tax Cycle Informational report to the Committee. Neuhauser thanked Burress for continuing transparency and also helping the tax payer understand the way we do business in Tazewell County.

Burress provided the Committee with handouts that she will use at a presentation at the Pekin Library on May 10, 2012 at 1:00. A flow chart was created to show the tax cycle and what steps are taken to put the tax bills together.

Burress reported there are 263 parcels in which no taxes are generated due to the low value of the property and tax exemptions. She reported that the tax bills were printed in-house and are being prepared for mailing at this time. The bills will not be sent to Springfield and that will save approximately \$4,000.00. They will be mailed from the Pekin Post Office and will go out on 04-27-12. The first installment will be due June 04 and the second installment will be September 04.

She reported that there will be a tax sale on October 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Justice Center. She stated there will be approximately 1200 parcels that will be up for sale.

Neuhauser stated that Burress would be willing to make her presentation in other communities if requested.

## MOTION

**MOTION BY VON BOECKMAN, SECOND BY IMIG** to recommend to County Board to approve the bills as presented.

**On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Neuhauser recessed the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Beeney)