

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

April 13, 2022

Present: Venise McWard, Chairman, Ken Franklin, Linda Curtin, Vicki McMahon, Tim Carlson
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Dale Livingston, Betty Asmussen, Jacque Willison, Bruce Kettelkamp, Vince Harris, Jeff Stoner, Courtney Sharp, Mary Rhodes, Michelle Brown, Kim Jones and Elizabeth Hile.

The Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee met on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

EMA ARPA FUND REQUEST

EMA Director, Jeff Stoner, reviewed costs for communication improvements that he is asking authorization for use of ARPA Funds. He indicated the problem with the current communication situation is that the majority of the departments in the County are not digital. The estimated \$276,572.00 costs are for equipment and related fees for the next 4 years. After 4 years, the departments in the County would have the responsibility of maintaining the related fees or they could opt out at that time.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to approve the claims presented for April. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADDITIONAL JAILER

Sheriff Kettelkamp noted during the FY2022 budget hearings, Jail Administrator Cecil Polley had originally asked for 2 additional jailers but thought he could get by with 1 for this fiscal year and ask for the 2nd additional jailer next year. However, after looking at staffing and how he wants the staff supervised, he would like approval to hire the 2nd additional jailer now. Sheriff Kettelkamp advised they had received \$62,000 from IDOC. He also noted the starting salary for a correctional officer is \$39,640.00 with the salary increase to \$54,439.00 at the end of 4 years. Chairman Wells also reminded the Committee that a consultant recently advised hiring additional correctional staff was the best way to reduce liability at the jail.

IMRF ACCELERATED RATE

County Clerk Chief Deputy, Courtney Sharp, provided information regarding IMRF accelerated rates as a result of increases of 6% or more which occur in the retirement calculation period. When this happens the Employer basically has not provided enough pension funding. Even when the increases are a result of a qualifying exemption, the employer still pays but pays in the form of increased employer rates for a few years. In situations where there is not a qualifying exemption, the employer must pay those costs plus any interest.

The County has 2 prior accelerated rate denials that were completed by the prior Chief Deputy Clerk whereby they were not carefully reviewed. In one of those denials, we have

requested a hearing because there should have been a partial qualifying exemption that would reduce the amount owed. That particular claim is approximately \$16,500.00. If we are successful in the hearing, the amount owed will be reduced. There were no qualifying exemptions for the other previously denied claim totaling approximately \$6,400.00.

The County recently received another accelerated rate notice of which part of that claim totaling \$9,400.00 should be approved for a qualifying exemption which would reduce the total cost owed.

Courtney noted that the Treasurer Asmussen advised there is plenty of IMRF reserve funds available and she would recommend paying the full cost to avoid additional interest expenses. IMRF confirmed that if the full amounts are paid and a hearing results in a decrease in funds owed, that portion would be refunded.

Motion by Vickie McMahon and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to pay, from the IMRF reserve fund, up to \$32,300 plus interest for IMRF accelerated rate claims with any reimbursements going back into the IMRF reserve fund. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

WINDOWS COURT HOUSE

Chairman Wells advised that Bill Kennedy is working on this.

CAT ROOM BIDS

Vince Harris advised that the project is \$34,000.00 short on funds to build this room and would like to request the use of ARPA funds to complete this project.

SURVEY RECORDS

Chairman Wells advised that the DeLay family would give the County an opportunity to buy their father's survey records before they left the County. A member of the DeLay family reached out by letter advising the family wanted to donate Dappert's original surveying instruments used to survey the county and also advised \$120,000.00 would purchase all the survey records. While the family also included information on whether or not these records could be subject to FOIA, that still remains a big concern.

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to provide the quote for the survey records to the full Board for review. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Treasurer Asmussen reviewed the language in the U.S. Treasury's final rule as well as a spread sheet she developed that was tailored from the specifications recently passed by the City of Taylorville. The criteria used to determine eligibility was employees who worked during the period of March 2020 through December 31, 2020, who were full time employees and who are currently employed. The Executive/Personnel Committee also asked her to do another spreadsheet to include part time staff.

Treasurer Asmussen advised that the majority of counties have changed their position on premium pay and are now paying it. She asked the Committee to keep an open mind on providing premium pay to the County employees.

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to review ARPA as a whole and bring back a list of projects to the Committee in June. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

SALARY RANGE FOR EDUCATOR – SOLID WASTE

Vince Harris advised that his recommendation for the salary range for a full time educator would be \$36,000 to \$38,000. This position is vacant as a result of a retirement. The Committee discussed the need for a job description.

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to recommend to the full Board to refer the matter of developing a job description to the Personnel Committee. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

None

Motion by Tim Carlson and seconded by Vicki McMahon to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Venise McWard
Finance/Audit/Purchasing/Budget
Committee Chairwoman
04/13/2022