

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 4:44 PM.

Members Present: John Galloway, Tom Poole, John Almer, Ralph Wagner, Dave Boggs, Frank Halpin

Member Absent: John Roth

Also Present: Ron Severson, Chris Balkema, Dick Joyce, Shawn Hamilton, Sandy Pommier, Lana Phillips, Denise Kasper, Dave Henderson, Heidi Miller, Susan Bates

GEDC-Nancy Ammer, Missy Durkin

A motion to approve the claims was made by Almer, seconded by Halpin. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2012 meeting was made by Almer, seconded by Wagner. Motion carried.

A discussion was held in regards to the electric bill for the 911 Facility and if the ETSB vs the County should be responsible for paying ComEd. Susan Bates suggested reviewing the ETSB Budget; Hamilton added that he had it and would forward it to all committee members.

No Public Comment.

Nancy Ammer and Missy Durkin, GEDC, attended the meeting to discuss a tax abatement request from U.S. Cold Storage. The company is proposing a 100,000 SF expansion to their existing distribution facility at 601 Twin Rail Drive, Minooka with a total investment of \$13 million and a three year abatement at 75%, 50%, 25%. Taxes would increase by \$265,800.00 annually and the expansion would create 48 new positions to the existing 157 employees. A motion was made by Almer, seconded by Boggs to recommend the request to the County Board for approval. Motion carried.

Heidi Miller, Land Use Director Miller stated that she had been directed by both the Environmental and Planning and Zoning Committees to request direction from the committee in how much they feel that the County should financially support the operations of the Environmental and Resource Conservation Office (ERCO). The office is funded by Solid Waste fees, Clean Energy Funding and Misc. The position of the Environmental Technician's salary is partially funded through the City of Morris through a host agreement made with Envirotech Landfill that allows for the County to receive 30% of the tipping fees at the landfill, which is scheduled to close in 2014. The funding projection from Envirotech for FY2013 is decreased leaving the County's subsidy at \$4,731.00 and FY2014 at \$33,000.00. Miller presented two FY2013 budgets; one to include funding for the full-time position, the other part-time. A discussion was held in regards to the accuracy of the job description in respect to the current duties and work load of the position to justify the full-time status and salary including benefits. Also questioned was the need for the part-time ERCO secretary. Miller proposed that the Technician position be part-time and continue the position of the part-time secretary. Halpin made a motion for the County to subsidize the \$4,731.00 for FY2013, Poole seconded the motion. Upon roll call, three ayes (Poole, Halpin, Galloway), three nays (Boggs, Wagner, Almer). Motion died. Galloway stated that the Technician position was created upon the funding from Envirotech and directed Miller to take the matter back to the Environmental and P&Z Committees.

Assessor Dave Henderson discussed the estimated 2012 taxable valuation (\$1,833,739,940) He stated that based on his calculation he is estimating a net decrease of -1.68% for 2012. The overall change in the assessed value, excluding industrial property, farmland, and farm buildings, is estimated to be -6.77%. Henderson told the committee that his office is in the process of gathering further data and will have more definite calculations within the month.

No executive session was held.

A motion to adjourn was made by Almer, seconded by Almer. Motion carried.