

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, July 15, 2021

Call to Order – Committee Chair Matt Kellogg called the Budget and Finance Committee to order at 5:00p.m.

Roll Call

Attendee	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Amy Cesich	ABSENT		
Brian DeBolt	Present		
Scott Gengler	Here		
Scott Gryder	ABSENT		
Matt Kellogg	Yes		

Others Present – Latreese Caldwell, Vicki Chuffo, Scott Koeppel, Judge Robert Pilmer, Eric Weis

Approval of Agenda - Member DeBolt made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Gengler. **With three members present voting aye, the motion carried.**

Approval of Claims – Member DeBolt made a motion to forward the claims to the County Board for approval, second by Member Gengler. **With three members present voting aye, the motion carried.**

Items of Business

- ***Discussion of Public Defender’s Office Staffing*** – Public Defender Vicki Chuffo briefed the committee on the current staff in her office, and announced that one Assistant Public Defender, and the First Assistant Public Defender have both resigned due to the excessive workload, creating an even greater staffing need.

Ms. Chuffo reviewed the number of cases that each of her staff are required to process, and offered comparisons with surrounding Counties of similar size and office structure, citing that Kane County Assistant Public Defenders carry a markedly smaller number of cases when compared to Kendall County.

Ms. Chuffo stated that her staff of five attorneys has remained the same since 2014, and yet the number of cases continues to grow substantially each year, causing extreme stress and the potential for burn-out among her staff. Ms. Chuffo said that she is requesting approval to hire two additional attorneys to assist with juvenile court cases specifically, and in other areas as available/needed.

- ***Discussion of State's Attorney's Office Staffing*** – Mr. Eric stressed that his office continued working throughout the pandemic by splitting staff into two areas of his office space to allow for social distancing and to avoid the potential for his complete staff to suffer from Covid-19 at the same time.

During the pandemic, the court had to postpone and/or limit the number of cases heard each day, and the number of jury trials held each month. Mr. Weis stated that when fully staffed, his office is involved in at least three jury trials per month, but during the quarantine, they had one jury trial per month, creating a backlog of jury trials.

Weis briefed the committee on the increase of legal review in the Civil Division, only staffed by three attorneys, and stated that pursuant to the County Board's recent request, the Civil Division will be assisting the County with different legal tasks associated with the American Rescue Plan funds for the next 3-5 years. Mr. Weis said that there has already been more than a 500% increase in the amount of mental health related calls and requests for involuntary admissions in the past 3 years. Weis assigned one Criminal Division ASA to assist in the new Kendall County Mental Health Court in addition to performing their other Criminal Division duties. In addition to the Mental Health Court, one ASA is assigned to Specialty Courts including Drug Court, and Veterans Court.

Their Juvenile Abuse and Neglect cases have more than doubled from pre-pandemic numbers due in part to increased referrals from DCFS. And the Juvenile Division continues to receive an increase number of requests for assistance from these agencies, as they address their backlog of cases following the pandemic.

The number of Domestic Violence related cases have substantially increased in the Criminal Division. Weis recently assigned one Criminal Division ASA to the new Domestic Violence Response (DVR) Team, who meets with the DVR Team on a daily bases in addition to their other Criminal Division responsibilities. Weis said that due to the DVR Team, lives are being changed in a positive direction due in part to the Team's efforts.

Mr. Weis stated that the pandemic created a substantial backlog of cases for his office, and that he is asking for approval to immediately hire one new full-time Assistant State's Attorney, and one full time Paralegal to assist with the backlog. The ASA will be assigned to assist with the Juvenile Division, the Traffic/Misdemeanor Division, the Specialty Courts, the Domestic Violence Response (DVR) Team, and the Civil Division. The paralegal will be assigned to assist with the American Rescue Plan tasks, Labor matters, the Civil Division and the Juvenile Division.

Discussion on the proposed salaries, and the capital requests associated with new offices to accommodate the new staff.

- ***Discussion and Approval of County Credit Card for EMA Director Bonuchi*** – Mr. Koeppel stated that the previous EMA Director worked full-time with the Sheriff's

Office and was able to purchase equipment and supplies through that office. Mr. Koepfel is requesting the Board's approval of a credit card for the current EMA Director Roger Bonuchi with a \$5000 credit limit.

Member DeBolt made a motion to forward the request for approval of the credit card to the County Board, second by Member Gengler. **With three members present voting yes, the motion carried by a vote of 3-0.**

- ***Discussion and Approval of an update to the Kendall County Procurement Ordinance*** – Mr. Koepfel reviewed the update with the committee. Member Gengler made a motion to forward the request for approval of the update to the County Board, second by Member DeBolt. **With three members present voting aye, the motion carried by a 3-0 vote.**
- ***Discussion of a Cost Shared Appraisal by Taxing Districts in Minooka*** – Mr. Koepfel reported of recent meetings with the Gas Plant, Schools and other taxing bodies in Minooka concerning a cost shared appraisal. **Mr. Koepfel was pleased with the meeting, and said he will continue to update the committee on any progress or action.**
- ***Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*** – Mr. Kellogg said that the guidelines are coming on a daily basis from the Treasury and that Administration staff continues to review to get a comprehensive understanding of them.

Mr. Koepfel said that the ARP application portal should be ready for review by the committee at the July 29th Finance meeting.

Department Head and Elected Official Reports – None

Items from Other Committees – None

Public Comment – None

Questions from the Media – Jim Wyman, WSPY News asked about the timeframe for implementation of the ARP application fund portal.

Items for the July 20, 2021 County Board Meeting

Approval of Claims

Approval of County Credit Card for EMA Director Bonuchi with a credit limit of \$5000

Approval of an update to the Kendall County Procurement Ordinance

Items for the July 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting - None

Executive Session – Member DeBolt made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the review of discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06, 5ILCS 120-2/21, second by Member Gengler.

Roll Call

Attendee	Status
Amy Cesich	ABSENT
Brian DeBolt	Yes
Scott Gengler	Yes
Scott Gryder	ABSENT
Matt Kellogg	Yes

With three members present voting aye, the committee entered into Executive Session at 6:30p.m.

Others Present: None

Date of Executive Session	Retained	Released
March 29, 2012	X	
October 25, 2012	X	
October 24, 2019 Minutes Review		X

With three members in agreement, the committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:35p.m.

Adjournment – Member DeBolt made a motion to adjourn the Budget and Finance Committee meeting, Member Gengler seconded the motion. **With three members present voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36p.m. by a vote of 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie McClain
Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary