

Finance Committee

Minutes

January 8, 2020

The Finance Committee of the Piatt County Board met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 104 of the Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Spencer. Attending were members: Robert Murrell, Dale Lattz, Randy Shumard, Shannon Carroll. Renee Fruendt was absent.

Motion: Shumard made motion, seconded by Murrell to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2019 meeting as written. On voice vote, all in favor and the motion carried.

Motion: Murrell made motion, seconded by Carroll to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting. On voice vote, all in favor and the motion carried.

Bruce Delashmit and Dustin Harmon from Bellwether gave a presentation about their services. They work with 75 counties in Illinois. Budget problems include unreliable state money, and the minimum wage increase. If they are hired the process would begin in March when they would gather information. In June, they would have the first conversations with department heads, a strategy for levy, and begin budget. They provide support for Truth in Taxation and town hall meetings. They can run different scenarios mid-year as needed and give a report in June as to the claims vs. budget. Their services can be charged to tort liability funds. Murrell asked if fees are graduated. Their fees are \$12,000 per year. Spencer asked if recommendations are made for staffing. They do offer that service, but it is not included in the budget process. Bellwether uses subcontractors of retired sheriffs, assessors, etc. Initial invoice in March and final in October. They will review the By-laws. Hunt asked if there are fees being charged by other counties that Piatt does not would they inform? The answer was yes. Mr. Delashmit gave references of Fayette, Monroe, Hamilton and Vermillion counties. Bellwether will assist with audit bids. Lattz asked if the fees change in succeeding years, and if the other departments would be included. (Nursing home, Mental Health, etc.) Their budgets would be prepared separately.

Spencer asked for explanation of the letter of agreement. It is their format for a contract. The agreement could be cancelled prior to work beginning in March. The draft budget would be ready in October and when the final draft is accepted the final payment is due.

Bellwether has helped the Sheriff's department and the Clerk's office with cost studies in the past.

Motion: Shumard made motion, seconded by Carroll to recommend approval of the contract with Bellwether for services to begin soon to the full county board. Roll was called, all in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion regarding funding followed. Lattz suggested the contingent fund, and Shumard agreed, saying it would save the county in the long run. Murrell agreed that the county could use their guidance.

Lattz asked that the States Attorney review the letter of agreement. It will be on the February County Board agenda.

Public Comment: None

There was no need for an executive session.

Motion: Lattz made motion, seconded by Murrell to adjourn. All in favor, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Nusbaum
Piatt County Zoning Officer