



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 9:00 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E Second St, Dixon, IL 61021

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7rj6eUnDco>

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jim Schielein.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jim Schielein, Vice Chair Tim Bivins, Tom Kitson, Mike Book, Nancy Naylor, Jennifer Dallas

Jim Schielein, Tim Bivins, Tom Kitson, and Nancy Naylor (9:00-9:54) all attended in person. Mike Book and Jennifer Dallas were absent.

Also present: Dean Freil, Keane Hudson, and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Reid Mitchell (Financial Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Paul Rudolphi (Treasurer), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

III. Public Visitors

Mike Mudge (Rock River Energy Services, Co.) attended via Zoom to address any questions the committee had regarding the Electrical Aggregation Contract topic on the agenda.

Discussion during the meeting that was not on the agenda:

- The Treasurer's Office is preparing for upcoming staffing changes due to an employee maternity leave and the potential relocation of another employee. To ensure smooth operations during the busy property tax season and to provide ongoing support, the office will be hiring a permanent part-time employee. The new position, with hours ranging from 25 to 32 per week, will help manage the workload and cover absences.
- Reid Mitchell prepared and provided Wipfli with the County's financial statements for the current audit, demonstrating an in-house expertise rare within County government. Typically, the auditors prepare the statements and bill the County for their services.
- Amy Johnson reported that she received an update on the Court Technology Grant application. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) has informed her that the application is in the final review stages, and a decision is expected by the end of the week. Once the status is known, she will get in touch with all the different parties, including Tyler Technologies, to schedule a project start date.

- Jeremy Englund reported that Susan Gillespie was hired as the new Human Resource Coordinator and will be starting on Monday, March 31st.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s)

A. *Finance Committee Meeting (February 13, 2025)*

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting. **Moved** by Tim Bivins. **Second** by Nancy Naylor. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

A. *Monthly Financials*

This information was covered during the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report.

VI. Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report – Presented every December, March, June, September

Reid Mitchell walked the committee through the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report: Below are highlights:

- Overall, revenues and expenses are tracking as expected.
- The decrease in use tax in January boiled down to the reclassification of what is considered use tax and what is considered sales tax by a major retailer. The reclassification adjusted the percentage of revenue distributed to counties and municipalities. The adjustment was for the state's entire fiscal year (July to January), corrected in a single month to the county. Sales tax is county specific whereas use tax is viewed statewide and then distributed based on population. Since the adjustment, revenue has leveled out because sales tax revenue is trending higher.
- PPRT is trending roughly 50% lower than last year.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Report. **Moved** by Nancy Naylor. **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Insurance Committee and GREDCO Reports

There were no reports given by the Insurance Committee or GREDCO.

VIII. Administrator Report

Jeremy Englund explained that the County is looking to restructure the Zoning Department due to increased workload and the recent resignation of the Deputy Zoning Administrator. Instead of replacing the deputy, they are interested in adding a Building Administrator position. This new role will handle building permits, inspections, and related tasks, while the Zoning Administrator will focus on zoning hearings, land management, and flood plain management. The estimated restructuring cost would be an additional \$10,000 annually, deemed necessary to improve efficiency and service delivery.

IX. ARPA Report

A. *Reports Presented in February, May, August, and November*

The next report from ARPA will be presented in May of 2025.

X. Approval of Monthly Joseph E. Meyer Resolution(s)

There were no Joseph E. Meyer resolutions on the agenda for approval.

XI. Monthly Sheriff's Office Report Detailing Events Within the Department - Information Only

Clay Whelan asked that his report from Public Safety be added to the Finance Committee agenda so Board Members would be up to speed on the events happening at the Sheriff's Office.

XII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIII. New Business

A. *Lee County Electrical Aggregation Contract*

Lee County is facing a challenging decision regarding its electrical aggregation program due to a volatile energy market. Consultant Mike Mudge explained that recent PJM auction results have led to an 800% increase in capacity rates, which will significantly raise electricity costs. This surge is driven by increased demand from data centers and electric vehicles, outpacing new power generation. The committee discussed several options, including renewing with MC Squared at a fixed rate, opting for their price match guarantee (where residents pay the ComEd rate. This option would potentially include a grant for the County) or returning residents to ComEd. Concerns were raised about locking residents into high rates, and the board discussed the possibility of allowing the contract to expire. Ultimately, the goal is to provide residents with a clear price comparison and ensure they have the ability to make informed choices.

B. *Opioid Funding - PHLC (Partnership for a Healthy Lee County/Connected Communities)*

Jeremy Englund explained that the County has received roughly \$160,000 to \$180,000 from an opioid settlement that can be allocated to programs combatting substance abuse. Two options being considered: a long-term investment with Sinnissippi Centers for a recovery home project, and a smaller, immediate funding request of \$26,462 from the Partnership for a Healthy Lee County (PHLC) for instructor training, supplies, marketing, recovery campaigns, and anti-stigma training. PHLC has the opportunity to send two (2) individuals to anti-stigma training in April. The training would be a one-time expenditure of \$26,462.

Motion to approve the expenditure of \$26,462 for the PHLC stigma training and move to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board

agenda. **Moved** by Tom Kitson. **Second** by Nancy Naylor. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

Before the meeting adjourned, Jeremy Englund and Charley Boonstra explained that due to changes brought about by the Safety Act, Judge Ackert has requested the purchase of a fingerprinting scanner for the New Courts Building at a cost of \$14,500. There is also an annual maintenance fee of \$2,500. Previously, individuals that were arrested were fingerprinted at the jail. Now that the process has changed, some individuals are required to get fingerprinted prior to an appearance, which in many cases is not being done, prolonging the process and hindering tracking and identification. Because this topic was not on the agenda, the Finance Committee Members reached a consensus in favor of the purchase and requested that the topic be discussed in Executive Committee and passed to the March County Board agenda.

XIV. **Executive Session:**

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XV. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:59 a.m. **Moved** by Tim Bivins **Second** by Tom Kitson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for
9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary