



Finance Committee (Budget)

McKenzie Bldg., 3rd Floor Jury Room

Monday, September 14, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Mike Harris, Eric Schmidgall, Kim Joesting, Russ Crawford, Nancy Proehl, Joe Woodrow, Deene Milam, Eric Stahl, Eugene Glueck

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chairman Max Schneider, Dave Mingus

Others Attending: Administrator Mindy Darcy, Finance Director Jared Holloman, Nick Graff, Jon Hopkins, Cathryn Stump

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER STAHL, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW to open for review the FY27 General Fund.

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER STAHL, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW to review and recommend the IMRF budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER GLUECK to review and recommend the Social Security budget

Member Stahl questioned the significant increase in personnel costs. Administrator Darcy explained that salaries are expected to increase in FY27 due to anticipated salary adjustments, as well as increases in Social Security costs across the County.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER STAHL, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW to review and recommend the Health Internal Services budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL to review and recommend the Township Bridge budget

Member Stahl questioned if the reimbursement 808 is part of the bridge project. Administrator Darcy stated that is hard for her to answer, however, she believes it is numerous projects.

Member Glueck questioned what the charge of services includes. Administrator Darcy stated revenues will be received for township projects from either the township or the state.

Treasurer Clark stated that on Page 15 of the budget book, there is a breakdown of the highway projects.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER PHILLIPS, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to review and recommend the County Highway Township Bridge budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW** to review and recommend the County Highway budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL** to amend the County Bridge line 214-400-5999 (Contingency) for an decrease in fund balance of \$14,200

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER PROEHL, SECOND BY MEMBER JOESTING** to review and recommend the County Motor Fuel Tax budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER PROEHL** to review and recommend the Township Road Fuel Tax budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER JOESTING, SECOND BY MEMBER MILAM** to review and recommend the County Bridge budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER WOODROW, SECOND BY MEMBER JOESTING** to review and recommend the Matching Tax budget

Member Stahl questioned the reason for the increase in the miscellaneous income line. Administrator Darcy stated that she will request this information from Highway Engineer Dan Parr and get back to the committee.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER PROEHL** to review and recommend the County Health budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to make the several proposed budget amendments to the County Bridge budget with a total decrease in fund balance of \$287,542.

Health Department Administrator Fox stated that there are several line adjustments to the time of year. He stated that there are 48 grants that have a start date of July and they are asked to turn in their budget in June. She stated that they have anticipated some of the changes potentially for CBIZ and insurance.

Member Crawford stated that Administrator Fox is on top of financial issues as much as she is in health issues and we are very lucky to have her.

Member Hopkins questioned the dental salaries. Administrator Fox stated that the dental salaries were included in the budget again this year, but this will be the final year they are included. She explained that if the matter is not resolved this year, the dental salaries will be removed from the budget in anticipation of a new Administrator taking over, as Administrator Fox will be retiring.

Member Stahl questioned the decrease in the 21st Century School program. Administrator Fox stated that two schools closed and stated that 14 schools are still enrolled.

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER PROEHL, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to review and recommend the Solid Waste budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW** to review and recommend the SIPA grant budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL** to make several proposed budget amendments to the SIPA budget for a decrease in fund balance of \$6,594

Administrator Fox stated that there were remaining ARPA funds available and that this expenditure will use the remaining balance, bringing the ARPA funds to \$0.

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER MILAM, SECOND BY MEMBER GLUECK** to review and recommend the Veteran's Assistance budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to amend the Veteran's Assistance lines 230-550-5082 (medical insurance) and 230-550-5999 (contingency) for a decrease in fund balance of \$21,975

Member Graff questioned the reduction of the emergency assistance line and questioned if this is what the board wants to do for the veterans of Tazewell County. Veteran's Assistance Superintendent CJ Pulcher stated that, for the last 15–20 years, the program has operated more as a subsidy program rather than an emergency assistance program. He stated that they are transitioning toward providing not only emergency financial assistance, but also discretionary support services to veterans and their families, as well as representing veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Member Graff questioned the reduction from \$88,000 to \$30,000 and how that will improve emergency assistance. Superintendent Pulcher stated that he is looking to save taxpayers dollars from fraud, waste, and abuse and applying the emergency assistance as they see it forecasted going forward.

Member Graff stated that he would feel more comfortable leaving that fund alone and next year it could be reevaluated.

Administrator Darcy stated that Superintendent Pulcher has worked to rewrite the requirements and parameters in which a veteran can receive this type of assistance. She stated that in the past, we had people using this emergency assistance as how they paid their bills.

Superintendent Pulcher stated that they intend to give them a hand up versus a handout. He stated they are looking at alternate resources that are already there and available from the federal side and being able to guide them toward those assets.

Member Crawford stated that he understands Member Graff's hesitation, however, he has faith in the new Administrator and would support their request.

Member Proehl stated that she believes the issue is with the interpretation of the term. She stated that if a veteran needs emergency assistance and the budget for that assistance is being reduced, there may be no assistance available. However, she is hopeful that there are other alternatives available to assist veterans in need.

Member Stump agreed with Member Graff's concerns and questioned if the funds are being distributed somewhere else in the Veteran's Assistance budget. She stated that once you take it away, it is hard to get it back.

Superintendent Pulcher stated that there are 10 veterans who have been on emergency rental assistance for over a decade. He stated that is not the spirit and intent of the 330 ILCS 45. He stated that the intent is to help those that are in arrears and default due to no fault of their own to get them to the resources that will assist them long term.

Member Stahl questioned the increase in the legal services line. Superintendent Pulcher stated that the \$2,000 increase will barely cover the legal review of the bylaws that were recently produced. He stated that, in the coming year, they will be producing a Guide of Services and Eligibility Standards, which will be an 81-page document that the Commission has never had. He stated that it will take an attorney some time to review the document to ensure that they are in compliance.

Member Glueck questioned whether, if Superintendent Pulcher were to encounter a situation before the next budget year in which the emergency funds were exhausted, he would come before the committee to request a transfer from another fund so that emergency services could continue to be provided.

Administrator Darcy stated that there are contingency funds available of almost \$34,000 that is unallotted.

Member Graff questioned what the projected fund balance and Administrator Darcy stated \$378,273 after the proposed adjustments.

Member Graff stated that several members are up for reelection and that he learned a long time ago not to "mess with the veterans" for good reason. He stated that the committee is considering a budget that reflects a 1,400% increase in legal fees and a 65% decrease in emergency assistance. He requested that the budget remain as presented and be reevaluated next year.

Member Crawford questioned if they have reached out to the State's Attorney for assistance. Superintendent Pulcher stated that he has reached out to a Veteran attorney who speaks MBA very fluently.

Member Hopkins stated that there are Veteran's who have received emergency assistance for 26 years and it is ridiculous.

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED**

Member Proehl voted nay.

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER WOODROW
to review and recommend the Animal Control budget

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL to
amend the Animal Control lines 231-530-5649 (adjustments) and 231-530-5999
(contingency) for an decrease in fund balance of \$15,751

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER JOESTING, SECOND BY MEMBER CRAWFORD to
review and recommend the GIS budget

Community Development Administrator Jaclynn Workman stated that 4531 has
to do with their flyovers, their aerials. She stated that they entered into the
contract and offer other municipalities the ability to also utilize the imagery. She
stated that some municipalities pay at once and some pay over the three year
period.

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL to
amend the GIS (adjustments) lines 232-622-5049 for an decrease in fund
balance of \$10,000

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER PROEHL to
review and recommend the Persons with Developmental Disabilities budget

Member Hopkins questioned where the funds are spent and requested a
breakdown.

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION MOTION BY MEMBER WOODROW, SECOND BY MEMBER MILAM to
review and recommend the National Opioid Settlement budget

Member Stahl questioned how many years this goes on and Administrator Darcy
stated that she is unsure how many years this goes on and it will partly depend
on funds.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER GLUECK** to review and recommend the LACTF budget

Member Milam questioned what LACTF stands for. Administrator Darcy stated Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund grant.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER PROEHL, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to review and recommend the Energy Transition Community Grant budget

Member Stahl questioned whether the funds would be forfeited if they are not used by the end of the year. Administrator Darcy confirmed that is true.

EMA Director Dawn Cook stated that they are still waiting on funds for year three and they have not sent out the application for year four. She stated that the grant is supposed to go for 10 years based on the closure of the power plant. She stated that the closure of the Powerton plan was just extended for one year.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER JOESTING, SECOND BY MEMBER GLUECK** to review and recommend the Sheriff Grant Fund budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER MILAM** to review and recommend the Treasurer's Automation budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER PROEHL** to review and recommend the Probation Upgrade budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER STAHL, SECOND BY MEMBER CRAWFORD** to review and recommend the Risk/Management Liability budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER CRAWFORD, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to amend the Risk Management/Liability lines 252-610-5649 (adjustments) and 252-610-5999 (contingency) for a decrease in fund balance of \$5,251

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER MILAM** to review and recommend the Drug Court Fund budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER CRAWFORD** to review and recommend the Capital Improvement Plan budget

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER JOESTING, SECOND BY MEMBER CRAWFORD** to review and recommend the Recorder's Special Document Storage budget

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER HARRIS, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL** to amend the Recorder's Special Document Storage to reduce the revenues by \$100,000 and amend budget lines 320-603 (commodities) in the amount of \$4,500 and 302-603 (contractual) in the amount of \$83,935 for a decrease of \$88,435

Chairman Harris stated that a Bellwether study went through a there was a loan made to cover media conversion documents. He stated that that is up in March of 2027. He stated that it was recommended that they pay it off early to save interest and that recommendation was turned down. He stated that if this is amendment is approved, it will reduce the fee funds from \$8.30 to \$1.35 per unit. He stated that this was recommended by Bellwether.

Member Crawford stated that this has previously been discussed. He stated that he agreed with County Clerk Ackerman regarding the need for program, however, he did not agree with the County Clerk's decision to stretch out the payments which resulted in the County paying more money.

Chairman Harris stated that there is \$593,000 in the fund balance and they owe \$96,000 to be paid off by March.

Member Crawford requested an explanation from County Clerk Ackerman as to why he did not pay off the loan when Bellwether recommended it.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that fees cannot be reduced until a new fee study is conducted and he has not been authorized to have a new fee study performed. He stated the committee does not have the authority to earmark cuts, you just approve the revenue that is spent from the account. He stated that he will take a look at the payment of loan and get back to the committee. He stated that if there are cuts to contractual, the Fidler contract will have to be paid from the general fund as opposed to the fee fund.

Member Crawford stated that he would not recommend paying Fidler from the general fund and it would need to be paid from the special revenue fund for obvious reasons.

County Clerk Ackerman did state that the last payment is getting ready to be sent out and the loan will be paid off.

Chief Deputy Dan Sullivan stated that by the time of the end of FY26, the loan will be paid off. He stated that if someone would have asked that question, he could have provided that information.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that without a fee study, reducing the revenue will just retain money into that account as it does not automatically move. He stated that after the fee study, a new fee schedule will need to be approved by the board.

Member Crawford stated that it would be make sense to do a countywide fee study as opposed to each department.

Member Crawford questioned if there is a timeline for a fee study. Administrator Darcy stated that this recommendation is based off the last Bellwether fee study which was done in September of 2023. She stated that in the study it said “at the completion of all payments for the scanning project, the document storage portion of the fee could be reduced by \$8.40”.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that since then, new fees have been added to the office so things are not considered in the 2023 study.

Chairman Harris stated that the fee increase was just to cover that one project.

Administratory Darcy stated that the Recorder’s fee fund, fund 320, has under contractual enough money to pay Fidler. She stated that the amount reduced is solely the amount that is attributable to the payments that are made quarterly for media conversion.

Member Graff stated that he was highly involved in the establishment of these funds and simply reducing the revenue line by \$100,000 is not going to stop the revenue. He stated that we would need to reevaluate the fees and take action to readjust those fees. He questioned if this was the plan. Chairman Harris confirmed that the plan is to reevaluate the fees.

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

F-26-15 MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER STAHL to recommend to decline Property Tax Recapture

Administrator Mindy Darcy stated that this Resolution is passed every year. She stated that as there becomes corrections to property tax bills, that can decrease the amount of the levy which is available to be disbursed. She stated that this Resolution states that we pass on having that made up in the next year.

Member Graff stated that this came up about five years ago by Governor Pritzker. He stated that if we do not approve this, we double tax our citizens to make up for the certificate or errors.

Treasurer Clark stated that it is not an error on the tax bill for her office or the Assessment office, it is after people come in and apply for exemptions that they are qualified for which reduces their tax bill which withholds the money from the levy.

Administrator Darcy stated that she misspoke for Fund 235 – opioid fund. She stated that fund receives money from class action lawsuits that are related to opioids and pharmaceutical companies and pharmacys pay into that. She stated that the funds are used for drug treatment or mitigation of some sort. She stated that they are currently expecting \$1,900,000 through 2038.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Harris stated that the meeting on September 21, 2026 will not be needed. He stated that the tentative budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2026.

RECESS

Chairman Harris recessed the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)