

BUDGET CAUCUS MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD
NOVEMBER 27, 2017

After the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark A. Kern. Mr. Thomas Holbrook, County Clerk, called roll and determined a quorum was present.

Chairman Kern stated this was the 2018 Budget Caucus Meeting and that although this was a Public Hearing, no action could be taken or debated. This meeting was for information and discussion only on the Budget.

Chairman Kern called for questions from the public on any Budget issues and there were none.

Chairman Kern called for questions or comments from the County Board Members on any Budget issues.

At this time, discussion ensued with questions and responses from the following individuals:

Mr. Frank Heiligenstein stated he had no notions of changes to the document as it is now, but asked that everyone review the proposed Budget because there are serious financial decisions to be made regarding revenues. Mr. Heiligenstein stated that maybe we just have to go after the State of Illinois with regard to our Probation expenses. Chairman Kern responded stating belts were tightened in this Budget and that he agreed with Mr. Heiligenstein regarding amounts owed by the State of Illinois for Probation. Chairman Kern stated the State of Illinois currently owes St. Clair County \$6,000,000. In addition, Chairman Kern stated many of the TIF Districts will be expiring over the next several years and when that happens, the revenue will go up in the General Fund. Chairman Kern thanked Elected Officials and Department Heads for working so hard on this Budget and especially Mrs. Jackie Krummrich, Chief Deputy of the Auditor's Office, and Mrs. Sue Schmidt, Financial Analyst for St. Clair County, for their long hours.

Mr. Fred Boch commended Chairman Kern and staff for noticeable changes and cuts made in the Budget. Mr. Boch stated he would like to see a few more cuts. Chairman Kern responded stating that whether the State comes through or not we still need to have Probation. Chairman Kern stated that outer County Probation employees who are now on our payroll will be shifted next year.

Mr. C. David Tiedemann regarding if the debt in 2017 of \$112,000,000 included Public Building Commission bonds with Dr. Debra Moore, Director of Administration, Chairman Kern, and Mrs. Sue Schmidt responding.

Mr. Steven Gomric inquired if there is anything we can do about the State not paying for Probation with Chairman Kern and Mr. Tiedemann responding in the negative.

Mr. Tiedemann stated he appreciated how the Sheriff's Department is being funded this year. Mr. Tiedemann further noted that salaries being split between departments are now in the Budget and is appreciated.

Mr. John West stated this is a tough cut for employees but what we have done on medical costs with having employees pick up a greater percentage. Mr. West stated he would like to have more money for public safety, health department, and mental health to address the many problems in St. Clair County which would help business in St. Clair County.

Mr. Frank Heiligenstein regarding Senate Bill 851 being brought up after the first of the year which will increase the homestead exemption and it will erase \$300,000,000 of equalized assessed valuation from St. Clair County books. Chairman Kern responded stating we are also supporting a bill that is being prepared to halve the amount being taken from us to collect sales tax and hopefully that will add revenue. The State also not only cut motor fuel tax in half but now is keeping a percentage of all sales tax and we hope to change that as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Frank Heiligenstein, seconded by Mr. Jerry Dinges to close the Budget Caucus and adjourn. Motion Carried unanimously.

THOMAS HOLBROOK, COUNTYCLERK AND EX-OFFICIO
CLERK OF THE COUNTYBOARD

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE