MADISON COUNTY
SPECIAL FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025 RM 203
Thursday, October 29, 2025
4:00 PM

Chairman Guy called the special meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

PRESENT: Chris Guy, Mick Madison, Dalton Gray, Bob Meyer, Linda Wolfe, John Janek, Jason Palmero
ABSENT: Linda Ogden
OTHERS: Dave Tanzyus, Annette Schoeberle, Susan Conaway, Arron Weber, John Thomspon, Jennifer Zoelzer, David Michael, Chris Bethel, Andrew Esping, Missy Bickmore, Jenny Wilkinson, Kaleigh Rider, Stacey Pace, Jeff Seaman, Cynthia Ellis, Reece Facendini, Vanessa Jones, Tony Fuhrmann, Chris Doucleff, Chris Threlkeld, Jeff Connor, Nick Novacich, Fred Patterson, Adam Walden, Fred Schulte, Doug King, Chris Slusser, Stephanie Seaman, Tom Haine, Mike Bold, Alison Lamothe, Kurt , Bill Stoutenborough, Corrie Becker, Mike Babcock, Phillip Taylor, Chrissy Wiley, Brian Nottrott, Bianca Jackson, Marcos Pulido, Chris Doucleff, Rob Werden, Jessica Dudley, Deb Humphrey, Jamie Oliver, Patrick McRae, Michael "Doc" Holliday, Linda Andreas, Kevin McKee, Chad Loughrey

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Member Palmero entered the meeting at 4:05 PM

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

1. Discussion and Approval of FY 2026 Budget Summary
2. Discussion and Approval of FY 2026 Real Estate Tax Ordinance
3. Discussion and Approval of FY 2026 Replacement Tax Allocation

   Mr. Janek moved, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, to approve the items as submitted.

County Board Chairman Chris Slusser began the discussion by thanking Dave Tanzyus, David Michael, John Thompson and Jennifer Zoezler for all their work on the budget. He explained the complexity of the budget, involving multiple revenue sources and the need for careful adjustments. The budget is balanced for the 11th year in a row, with no tax levy increase since 2014, and the county is debt-free for over a decade.

Mr. Gray asked about the staffing increase for the detention home. Detention Home Director Kevin McKee explained the need for additional officers is due to new state mandates, such as solitary confinement and the requirements for education and exercise. He detailed the current staffing ratio and the challenges of meeting state mandates with the current staff levels.

Mr. Gray asked about the increase in capital expenditures for the IT Department. Information Technology Director Chris Bethel explained the proposed upgrades include replacing the network core, improving backups, and replacing fiber within county buildings. The upgrades aim to improve efficiency, reduce downtime and better position the county to handle potential disasters.

Mr. Gray asked about the salary increases in the State's Attorney Office. State's Attorney Tom Haine explained the hiring crisis for prosecutors and the need to remain competitive with other public entities. A mid-year salary increase was necessary to retain and attract attorneys, and the increases were due to both inflation and market demands. He is hopeful that the current salary levels are sustainable and competitive with surrounding counties.

Mr. Gray asked about the increased medical costs and unfunded mandates for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Jeff Connor explained the transition to Wellpath for medical services, which has been positive but costly. The department is responsible for all medical costs of inmates, and these costs have increased as the inmate population has grown. The unfunded mandates from the Safe-T-Act, including training requirements and body-worn camera redaction, add significant costs to the department's budget.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Guy, Madison, Gray, Meyer, Wolfe, Janek, Palmero
NAYS: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Janek moved, seconded by Ms. Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 PM. *MOTION CARRIED.*

/crp