

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig
DATE/TIME: November 16, 2016 @ 11:00 am
PRESENT:

Don Zillig Merri Berlage Brad Petersburg Steve McIntyre
 Terry Stoffregen Ron Smith Randy Jobgen

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None

Others: Gary Diedrick

1. Minutes Approval -

- a) Brad Petersburg made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Terry Stoffregen. Motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business:

- a) **Update on Economic Development** - Chairman Zillig passed out an e-mail from Lisa McCarthy advising us that the Edge Tax Credit with the "But For" clause will be sunseting on December 31, 2016 and the Legislature currently has no plan to replace it which means there will be no tax credits for training dollars for expanding or assisting new businesses. In her e-mail she advised that TCEDA's Political Advocacy Committee welcomes our participation to form a coalition to address this issue. She advised that she has two other Economic Development Directors from downstate signed up to assist in letter writing and phone calls. She is looking for help from our committee if anyone is interested. Zillig advised that Merri Berlage, Randy Jobgen, Terry Stoffregen and Brad Petersburg will all be leaving the committee and will look for interest from some of the new Committee Members to support the Tax Edge Credit. Brad Petersburg suggested that possibly a letter from the Board supporting McCarthy would be beneficial and she would probably assist in drafting the letter. Zillig expressed his frustration with ending the Edge Tax Credit as we, Illinois, has a tough enough time already competing against neighboring states to keep current businesses and attracting new businesses. Petersburg inquired as to what various incentives surrounding states offered in comparison to those offered by surrounding states.
- b) **Update on Municipal Tax on Utilities** - Chairman Zillig advised that this issue was brought up with John Hay and Dan Gilbert months and months ago. Due to various issues, they haven't been able to address this issue but will try to look at it as their schedules allow.
- c) **Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAC** – Merri Berlage had handled the 2016 Legislative priorities that were submitted to the IAC during the past year. We all agreed that a new set of our 2017 Legislative County Priorities will have to be looked at and submitted. Steve McIntyre brought up the fact that last night's Budget Hearing showed that in Jo Daviess County the Equalized Asset Value rose from \$4,000,00.00 in 2006 to \$ 6,000,000.00 in 2016 (a 41% increase) and at this rate the value would have to increase to \$8,000,000.00 in ten more years (2026). This

increase was caused by additional County responsibilities. Don Zillig & Brad Petersburg inquired if McIntyre thought this was caused by the decrease in real estate/home sales and home building. McIntyre felt that some of this problem was also caused by a decrease in commercial building/business development. McIntyre commented that if it wasn't "Main Street Galena" it didn't get much news play. He pointed out that just the opening of a new business, for instance the Dollar Store in Elizabeth, was a big deal for that community, also in a TIF district. McIntyre said how many small communities needed this type of business development. Ron Smith brought up the new Subway in Galena and the new apartments near the hospital. Per McIntyre 75% of the budget goes for salaries, etc. He also brought up the Hwy. 20 underdevelopment and the need for further action to attract the larger businesses. The Hwy. 20 proposal has been ongoing for at least 40 years with no completion. McIntyre brought up the fact that studies etc. have been ongoing for years with no results. Per Smith, Cheri Bustos is supporting the Hwy. 20 project. Smith will contact Cheri Bustos and John Cox to get an update. He added that he has had contact with the head of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Randy Blankenhorn, and would contact him concerning the Hwy. 20 project. Smith brought up the fact that we are a PTEL county and can't increase taxes. As a result of all these issues we will continue to lose businesses and residents. In summation the Legislative Committee will make proposals that will benefit Jo Daviess County

4. **New Business:** None.
5. **Legislative Looking Glass:** Chairman Zillig passed out the updated "Looking Glass" sheets. There was some discussion regarding House Bill #6614 – This bill will require the designated fraction of the net revenue realized from these collections go directly into the Downstate Public Transportation Fund. This bill was introduced on November 2nd, has ten sponsors and is currently assigned to the Rules Committee. House Bill #1525 was briefly discussed and the Committee pretty much agreed that bill, even with the \$ 20,000 limit was probably a dead issue as it was first introduced in March, 2015 and has never gotten out of the Rules Committee. Steve McIntyre advised that TIF programs are not necessarily under the Prevailing Wage restrictions. In other words TIF grants aren't restricted because they don't involve government monies.
6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
7. **Board Member Concerns:** Chairman Zillig would like to see the County Board Members make the public more aware of issues facing Jo Daviess County either by websites, newspaper columns or as Brad Petersburg said, "Team up with other Counties." Zillig expressed his concern of municipalities that do not currently have their own law enforcement. This obligation falls to the Sheriff's Department with additional costs to Jo Daviess County. Steve McIntyre commented we are putting too much emphasis on "possible" rather than real concerns. Terry Stoffregen suggested that down the road the Board should consider cutting down the size of the Board. This appeared to be the consensus opinion of the committee. Zillig would like to see the Legislative Meeting dates be set at the next Legislative Committee Meeting.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. (tentative upon approval of the FY2017 schedule).

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. following a motion made by Steve McIntyre, seconded by Brad Petersburg and motion carried.