

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage
DATE/TIME: February 1, 2016 @ 7:08 pm
PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerald Bennett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RJ Winkelhake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> Randy Jobgen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Zillig
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Behlke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Rutz	

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others: Dan Reimer

1. Minutes Approval

- a) RJ Winkelhake made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed.

2. Citizens' Comments - None

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2015/FY2016 Strategic Goals & Plans – The committee reviewed their strategic goals and plans. Berlage discussed that the standing committees have been doing a good job working on their goals. Several Executive Committee goals are on tonight's agenda for discussion.
- b) Update on US EPA Site Stabilization Work at the Bautsch Gray Site on Blackjack Road – Nothing new to report.
- c) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA requests – An updated FOIA request report was reviewed.
- d) Discussion and possible action regarding Title 1 – Administration, Chapter 5 of the Jo Daviess County Code County Board Organization and Operation Meetings; Rules of Order and Procedure – Merri Berlage discussed that we will bypass this item this month.
- e) Update on creating deadlines for submitting items for committee and board meeting agendas. – Merri Berlage discussed that we will bypass this item this month.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding the State's non-payment of salary reimbursements
Dan Reimer reported that one of the discussion topics at the January 26th County Board Chairs meeting was the State budget and the lack of any salary reimbursements to Illinois Counties since the beginning of the State fiscal year for salaries associated with the State's Attorney, Public Defender, and Supervisor of Assessments. On January 25th Carroll County joined several other counties in filing a complaint against the State for payment. One of the concerns is, if the State does not pass a FY2016 budget and time goes on into the new fiscal year (FY2017) there may be no obligation for the State to pay any of the FY2016 salary reimbursements. For Jo Daviess County, salary reimbursements for the three positions total approximately \$170,000. St Clair County was the first county to file in November. This lawsuit is currently being appealed. **Don Zillig made a motion to file a complaint or lawsuit in Circuit Court against the Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Comptroller of the State of Illinois for the payment of local salary reimbursements for the State's Attorney, Public Defenders and Supervisor of Assessments. Seconded by Steve Rutz and motion passed.**
- b) Discussion and possible action regarding an amendment to the Jo Daviess County Employee Handbook Section 6.03 Insurance Benefits H. & I. Merri Berlage discussed that Section 6.03

Insurance Benefits H. of the employee handbook states, a vested employee retiring under the Illinois Municipal Retirement System (IMRF) or the Sheriffs Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) retirement system or the retiree's surviving spouse will be allowed to continue under the Employer's group health insurance program at the same premium rate as for active employees. Such retired employee or surviving spouse shall pay the entire premium cost of such group health insurance coverage. Upon retirement, if a vested employee chooses not to continue coverage under the Employer's group health insurance program, or decides to terminate coverage at a later date, the retired employee will not be allowed to re-enroll or be reinstated at a future date. The County received a request to create an exception to this policy in regard to health insurance coverage of two married vested employees. The proposed amendment would allow in the event one or both of the married vested employees retires; upon retirement the retiring employee or employees can choose one of the following options: Spousal coverage under the Employer's health insurance of the working vested employee/spouse, or Single coverage under the Employer's group health insurance program and shall pay the entire cost of such group health insurance coverage at same premium rate as for active employees without any contribution by the County. In the event the working vested employee/spouse can not cover the retired vested spouse, the retired vested spouse has the option of enrolling in single coverage under the Employer's group health insurance program and shall pay the entire cost of such group health insurance coverage at same premium rate as for active employees without any contribution by the County. **Don Zillig made a motion not to amend the Jo Daviess County Employee Handbook Section 6.03 Insurance Benefits H. & I. Seconded by RJ Winkelhake and motion passed.**

- c) Discussion and possible action on contents of Media Packet sent to the newspapers prior to Jo Daviess County Board meetings – Merri Berlage discussed that the County Administrator's office prepares a media packet that is sent out to the media prior to each County Board meeting. Berlage would like input from the Committee on items to include. Dan Reimer reviewed the most recent media packet. In general minutes and support documents that have been discussed by the Committee and moved forward to the County Board are included in the media packet unless they relate to personnel matters. There is significant staff time involved in preparing a packet for the media. The open meetings act only requires public bodies to post and send the agenda to newspapers who annually request notification. The City of Galena posts their meeting packet on the website. Dan Reimer recommended that the same procedure be followed for another month, evaluate it and bring it back to this committee next month. RJ Winkelhake suggested a meeting with the media to see what items they are interested in receiving. We will report back on this next month.
- d) Discussion on touring the Housing Authority of the County of Jo Daviess facility, 347 Franklin Street, Galena, IL – Ron Smith received a call from a member of the Jo Daviess Housing Authority Board asking if the Jo Daviess County Board would be interested in touring the Housing Authority facility on Franklin Street in Galena. Merri Berlage will obtain more information and report back on this next month.

5. **Summary of Committee Activities** – Don Zillig reported that Representative Stewart will not be able to attend the March Legislative Committee meeting. Ron Smith is working with UCCI on a couple of items submitted for legal opinion. The Legislative Committee prepared a press release letter to the Galena Gazette to let people know about the Legislative Looking Glass. RJ Winkelhake reported that the Law & Courts Committee is working on updating projects for the five year capital plan. Winkelhake discussed concerns with certain communities who are cutting back on law enforcement and we could see more of that in the future. The Sheriff's Department is expected to cover those areas and there is additional expense as a result. Winkelhake suggested that we review the requirements for services and see if the County can require compensation for providing additional law enforcement services.

6. The Committee discussed additional space in the Courthouse for the IT department to expand. Steve Rutz reported that the Finance Committee discussed a draft for the Township Assessor Intergovernmental Agreement and it will be reviewed again next month. A resolution was approved and moved forward to the County Board to make two installment payments in FY2016 on the debt certificate for the Public Safety Radio Communication System. Ron Smith reported that the Community Development Fund of Galena held a legislative day. Representative Stewart reported that in 2015, 6,400 bills were introduced and there might not be any grant funding for not-for-profits in 2016. Stewart is going to reintroduce the prevailing wage bill and Edge Tax Credit bill which would eliminate the but for clause. For SFY 2016 the State is projecting \$38 billion in expenditures and only \$32 billion in revenue. Smith attended an Economic Development meeting sponsored by Cheri Bustos on January 14th and the Galena Rotary Roundtable on January 13th. Merri Berlage reported that the Development & Planning Committee has scheduled a special meeting to discuss agriculture in Jo Daviess County on February 3rd. Resolutions and Ordinances for two Enterprise Zone projects in Stephenson County were moved forward to the County Board.
7. **Citizens Comments** - None
8. **Board Member Concerns** – Don Zillig reported that last week Gerry Bennett helped deliver the first baby in his 25 years of law enforcement. Ron Smith reminded the committee that there is a UCCI event coming up. Merri Berlage commented that the Illinois Counties Association has a legislative meeting this coming Friday. They will look at all of the new bills proposed. They will be emailed to her and she will share them with the committee. Berlage also commented that she attended a recent public meeting and was disappointed at some of the inappropriate comments made to other participants.
9. **Closed Session** – **RJ Winkelhake made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of personnel section 2(c)1 “The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.” Topic of discussion: review exceptional ratings per Jo Daviess County Merit Pay Policy. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed. A roll call vote followed resulting in all ayes. At 9:06 p.m. Steve Rutz made a motion to reconvene to open session. Seconded by Gerald Bennett and motion passed.**
10. **Possible action as a result of closed session** - There was no action as a result of closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. following a motion made by Steve Rutz. Seconded by Gerald Bennett and motion passed.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.