

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Finance, Tax & Budgets  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Steve Rutz  
**DATE/TIME:** January 30, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**  John O'Boyle       Rick Dittmar       Randy Jobgen  
                   Steve Rutz             RJ Winkelhake       Ron Smith

Other Board members:

Others: Dan Reimer, Donna Berlage, Claire Bersbach and Gary Diedrick

**1. Review and approve minutes** – The committee discussed a correction in the minutes from December 19, 2013. Item 4g of the December 19, 2013 draft Finance, Tax and Budget Committee minutes should read " The committee discussed that Chief County Assessor Berlage is working with State's Attorney Hay on drafting a letter to be sent to the townships and County Board members, prior to the February 5th public hearing, which would explain the process and options per the tax code for re-districting of multi-townships assessment district." RJ Winkelhake made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2013 as corrected. Seconded by Randy Jobgen and motion passed.

**2. Citizens Comments**

**3. Staff Reports**

a) **Chief County Assessment Office** – Chief County Assessment Officer, Donna Berlage, reported that all the 2013 property assessments have been published. Dunleith, East Galena, Hanover, Menominee, Rawlins, Rice, Vinegar Hill and West Galena Townships were published on January 1, 2014 in the Galena Gazette. The deadline to file a complaint in this area is January 31, 2014. Elizabeth, Stockton and Woodbine Townships were published in the Scoop on January 8, 2014 and their deadline to file a complaint is February 7, 2014. Apple River, Berreman, Council Hill, Derinda, Guilford and Nora Townships were published in the Flash on December 30, 2013 and the deadline for complaints is January 29, 2014. Pleasant Valley, Rush, Scales Mound, Thompson, Wards Grove and Warren Townships were sent to the Flash at the same time as all the other townships to be published on December 30th but the editor was not able to place all of the townships in the December 30th issue so those townships were published a week later. Because of the publication date change a public notice had to be published stating that the deadline for just those townships would be extended to February 7, 2014. Berlage reported that to date, 75 complaints have been filed in the County Assessor's office. Berlage reported that the Board of Review met on January 28, 2014 and reviewed and made tentative decisions on 25 complaints, they will be meeting again next week. Berlage reported that she is currently working on 5 PTAB cases and the information is due to the Department of Revenue the first part of February. Letters and proposed maps regarding the multi-township assessment districts were sent to the township officials notifying them of the public hearing on February 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Berlage reported that her office has mailed out 2762

tax deferral letters and 2762 Senior Citizens Homestead Assessment Freeze applications. Steve Rutz asked Berlage if she could prepare a color coded calendar for the 2014 - 2015 schedule of assessments and have it available for the next meeting.

- b) **Treasurer's Office** – County Treasurer, Carol Soat, was not able to attend the meeting. Financial reports from the Treasurer's Office were provided in the committee packet for review.
- c) **County Administrator** - Dan Reimer, County Administrator, reviewed some of the updated 2013 economic statistics for Jo Daviess County. Reimer noted that there were 787 deed transfers in 2013, which is up 7.1% from prior year. There were 37 new home permits in unincorporated Jo Daviess County in 2013; this is a decrease of 12.2% from the 42 new home permits issued in 2012. Unaudited FY2013 revenue for all budgets is \$18,284,791 and unaudited expenses for FY2013 stand at \$17,825,038. These totals are unofficial until the 2013 audit is complete. The field portion of the audit is scheduled to begin on February 24, 2014. Reimer reported that the State is almost caught up on state income tax payments. Jo Daviess County received 14 months of payments in fiscal year 2013. Ron Smith announced that the \$100,000 Capital Assistance grant that former County Board Chairman, Marvin Schultz, and Representative Jim Sacia worked on had been processed. The grant was being administered by with DCEO (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) and was designated for the Jo Daviess County Radio Communication Project. Smith was notified that the County should receive the check in the near future.

#### **4. Unfinished Business**

- a) Jo Daviess County strategic goals – Nothing new to report.
- b) Township Assessor Pilot Program – Nothing new to report.
- c) Township Assessor Program Intergovernmental Agreement – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) Update on PTAB (Property Tax Appeal Board) cases – See above. The committee discussed that this item should be included with the monthly staff report.
- e) Update on options to fund the Public Safety Radio Communications System- Rutz stated that as previously discussed in the County Administrator's report Jo Daviess County will be receiving a \$100,000 grant from DCEO for the Radio Communications System Project.
- f) Update on five year capital improvement plan from standing committees – Rutz reported that he has not received anything new from the committees. Ron Smith reported that the Blackhawk Hills CEDS survey and infrastructure projects list for Jo Daviess County has been completed and submitted to Blackhawk Hills. Ron Smith also reported that he spoke with a representative from the Landmark Preservation Historic Fund program to see if any grants were available and was told that grant funds are not available for 2014

- g) Update on re-districting options per tax code for multi-township assessment districts – see staff report above.

## 5. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding quit claim to Dennis P. Hagerty for parcel number 21-001-480-00 common address of 204 W. Water Street, Warren, IL - The committee reviewed a map of for parcel number 21-001-480-00. Berlage reported on the process used by the County Trustee Joseph Meyer to advertise and sell the parcels. Berlage noted that these parcels are sold because of delinquent taxes and by selling them they will be placed back on the tax roll. **RJ Winkelhake made a motion to approve a quit claim to Dennis P. Hagerty for parcel number 21-001-480-00 common address of 204 W. Water Street, Warren, IL. Seconded by Randy Jobgen and motion passed.**
6. **Board Member concerns** – RJ Winkelhake discussed that there is an issue with water flowing off of Meeker Street and leaking into the Board of Review room and the Public Safety Building basement. Sheriff Turner met with City of Galena Public Works Director, Jim Rigdon to discuss the issue. The committee agreed that this item should be investigated further and visited again in the spring of the year.
7. **Citizens' comments** - Claire Bersbach asked about property records cards and that each year townships are given a list of tax exempt properties and two years ago there were two cemeteries on the Guilford Township list. Bersbach stated that to the knowledge of the Township these cemeteries are not township property and was wondering if she could look at the original property records card to see if there would be a history of ownership. Bersbach stated that Guilford Township has concerns which potential liability if the Township is listed as the owner. Berlage stated that she would help Bersbach find property records in the recorders office so she could start a search for ownership.

Next committee meeting is on Thursday, February 27, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.

Randy Jobgen made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Seconded by RJ Winkelhake and motion passed.