

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Don Zillig  
**DATE/TIME:** January 20, 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, Hal Gilpin, Melisa Hammer, Dan Reimer and Katherine Walker

### 1. Minutes Approval

- a) Terry Stoffregen made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2015 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Brad Petersburg. Motion carried.

### 2. Citizens' Comments: None.

### 3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Prevailing Wage Legislation. Prevailing wage legislation was discussed. A new bill regarding Prevailing Wage has introduced by Representative Stewart and has not yet been assigned a number. Ron Smith said he would be attending a Rotary Meeting later in the week and would discuss the prevailing wage issue with Representative Stewart.
- b) Economic Development "But For" Clause. Chairman Zillig expressed his concerns with several businesses that have left East Dubuque and moving to Dubuque, Iowa due to incentive packages being offered by Iowa. Zillig discussed that the Illinois Commerce Commission recently approved two sets of crossing gates at two railroad crossings on Frenress Lake Road for the BNSF Railway Company at a cost of \$794,995. Of this total \$750,595 is being paid for by Illinois Motor Fuel Tax.
- c) Update and discussion on Legal Opinions from the UCCI regarding Hotel/Motel Tax and Utility Taxes - Ron Smith discussed that Hotel/Motel Tax can only be used for tourism related purposes. Ron Smith has yet to receive an opinion as to charging a "fee" rather than a tax on hotel/motel stays and said he would check on this.
- d) Discussion of Hotel/Motel Taxes on various locations – See item 5.c).
- e) Discussion on Utility Bill taxes, both Local and State - The Municipality and State Tax on Utility Bill issue was discussed and Ron Smith advised that he felt that the ruling allowed local municipalities to make exemptions by ordinance. Don Zillig said he forwarded the opinion to the State Attorney's office.
- f) Review concerns about excessive record storage. This was an assignment from the County Board Retreat. Looking for legislative amendment - Discussion about excessive record storage was held as this was one of the items that were brought up at our County Board Retreat. Don Zillig reported that he asked the States Attorney for an opinion.

- g) Discussion of inviting State Senator Tim Bivins to attend Legislative committee Meeting and/or County Board Meeting – The Committee discussed inviting State Senator Bivins to attend a Legislative Committee or a County Board Meeting.
- h) Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAN - The UCCI Legislative Reception will be held on February 16th with a UCCI Education Seminar to be held on February 17th. Both events will be held in Springfield. Those interested in attending should let Ron Smith know in order that reservations can be made. Registrations are requested no later than Wednesday, February 10th.
- i) Update on Regional Economic Development Freight Study - The recent "Update on Regional Economic Development Freight Study" meeting was discussed and those attending have expressed that many good points were addressed. At the meeting, Board Member Steve Rutz inquired as to making Hwy. 20 a four lane highway from Galena to Freeport but this inquiry wasn't met with much encouragement.

**4. New Business:**

- a) Discussion and planning for March Visit by State Representative Brian Stewart - Discussed that we've been advised by Merri Berlage that Representative Stewart would be unable to attend the March Legislative Committee meeting as had previously been announced. Ron Smith said he would be seeing Representative Stewart at a Rotary Club meeting later this week and could discuss some of our more pressing issues with him. Don Zillig advised that he had planned to ask the Legislative Committee to prepare for Stewart's meeting by having various members address specific items of importance to Jo Daviess County. Zillig felt that an organized meeting would result in better results for all concerns. Ron Smith said even though the meeting was cancelled we should still have our priorities in order so that they can be addressed at a future date.

5. Discussion on sending correspondence to the Galena Gazette regarding the access for the public to the Jo Daviess County Board "Looking Glass" website - Discussion was held regarding the Jo Daviess County Board "Looking Glass" website. Don Zillig suggested we send correspondence to the Galena Gazette regarding the access for the public to this website. This suggestion was approved by the Committee and Ron Smith will deliver the press release to the Gazette. Don Zillig and Ron Smith both voiced their appreciation to Hal Gilpin for the work he has put forth in updating this site. There was discussion as to what items should be put on the site. Various bills were discussed.

6. **Legislative Looking Glass:** Various bills were discussed in 4.b) above.

7. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

8. **Board Member Concerns:** Brad Petersburg asked Hal Gilpin his thoughts on increasing any costs on Hotel/Motel tax. Hal Gilpin voiced his concerns and suggested possibly increasing taxes on beverages, etc. in order that everyone helps cover revenue not just hotels/motels and bed and breakfast inns. Don Zillig commented on the possible upcoming Supreme Court ruling on nationwide "right to work" law next summer. At this time 25 states have "right to work" laws. Zillig felt that this ruling may have a huge impact on Illinois "prevailing wage" statutes'. Ron Smith discussed current a 9-1-1 issue and the way

amendments are made, sometimes hidden, on various bills. Brad Petersburg discussed the combining of the two Tourism groups and the progress being made on the letter of intent.

9. **Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. following a motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Brad Petersburg and motion carried.**

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.