

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig
DATE/TIME: February 24, 2016 @ 4:00 pm
PRESENT:

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

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None

Others: Dan Reimer

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Steve McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Terry Stoffregen. Motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Prevailing Wage Legislation. Merri Berlage advised that the bill on this was HB 1525. The bill is currently in the House Rules Committee which usually indicates the bill isn't going anywhere. Merri indicated her frustration with the failure of Brian Stewart to post this bill and/or have Committee Members testify for this bill back on February 10th and have them submit Witness Slips.
- b) Update on Economic Development. Lisa McCarthy sent out information on the EDGE tax credit, HB 4636. She also sent information regarding the creation of a witness slip for this House Bill. This information was forwarded by Ron Smith.
- c) Update and discussion on Legal Opinions from the UCCI regarding Hotel/Motel Fee and State Utility Tax - Ron Smith advised that he had recently talked to Jason Brokaw, an attorney with the firm that UCCI uses for legal opinions (Giffin, Winning, Cowen & Bodewes, P.C.), and Jason advised that he was looking into the issue of state taxes on Utilities and would get back to Ron.
- d) Discussion of Hotel/Motel Taxes on various locations – Don Zillig advised that he had not gone thru the information that Katherine Walker had provided regarding Hotel/Motel Taxes on various locations. Don advised that he felt the discrepancies were due to PTEL vs. Home Rule.
- e) Discussion on Legal Opinion regarding State Utility Tax - Don Zillig advised that he had sent an e-mail to John Hay & Dan Gilbert asking for a brief, in layman's term, what are the options for Jo Daviess County concerning the ruling we received from UCCI's legal team concerning Municipality taxes on our Utilities. Ron Smith had previously advised that he felt the ruling allowed local municipalities to make exemptions. John Hay requested a meeting with Don to discuss the issue and Don is waiting for a date from John for the meeting.
- f) Review concerns about excessive record storage. This was an assignment from the County Board Retreat. Looking for legislative amendment – Once again there was

discussion regarding excessive record storage, looking for legislative amendment. Don Zillig will contact John Hay concerning this.

- g) Discussion of inviting State Senator Tim Bivins to attend Legislative Committee Meeting and/or County Board Meeting – Discussed sending an invitation to both Senator Bivins and Representative Stewart to attend a Legislative Committee and/or a County Board Meeting. Brian Stewart was scheduled to attend our March 16th Legislative Meeting but had to cancel. Don Zillig will compose a letter asking that they attend together or separately and the letter will be forwarded thru Ron Smith. Ron advised that he had recently met briefly with both and both were tied up with election issues.
- h) Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAN – Merri Berlage discussed 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAC, these bills were: Senate Bills 2211, 2254, 2256, 2395, 2503, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2412, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2470, 2503. House Bills 4300, 4473, 4557, 5742, 4379, 4583, 4958, 4967, 4968, 4975, 4979, 4980, 4501, 5019, 5712, 5759, 5575. Merri gave a brief synopsis of each of these bills.
- i) Update on Regional Economic Development Freight Study - Nothing new to report on the Regional Economic Development Freight Study.

4. **New Business:**

- a) Various Pending Bills...Submitting Witness Slips - Don Zillig passed out information regarding the "How to" of registering on the IGA Website and submitting witness slips electronically by going to "<http://www.ilga.gov/>". He also passed out information charts showing how bills become laws
- b) HB4300 – page 468 – No new e-zones - This is an over 900 page bill, included (hidden) in this bill on pages 467 & 468, calls for no new Enterprise Zones. Board Members are encouraged to submit Witness Slips advising they do not want this bill to pass. Ron Smith called this bill to the attention of Representative Stewart. Representative Stewart was not aware of this inclusion in the bill. He advised Ron that the bill is assigned to the Revenue Committee of which he is a member. He advised they are not back in session until March 1st and would keep Ron advised.
- c) Right to Work Update - Don Zillig advised that West Virginia became the 26th state to enact the "Right to Work" legislation and repealed the Prevailing Wage requirements for public construction projects effective July 1st. This legislation overrode a veto by the West Virginia governor.

- 5. **Legislative Looking Glass - Various bills:** Don Zillig advised he thought it would be best if the Legislative Committee take over the "Looking Glass" project that had been undertaken by Hal Gilpin. He felt that this endeavor should be handled by the Committee rather than asking a private citizen and business man to devote numerous hours in keeping the website updated and deciding which bills should be listed. Don discussed this with Hal and thanked Hal for his work in revising this project. The members were in agreement with this suggestion. Don said he would initially take over the project but would probably ask other Committee Members to step forward in helping on this project.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
7. **Board Member Concerns:** Ron Smith passed out copies of an article concerning Illinois politics that appeared in recent Chicago Sun Times & Chicago Tribune newspapers.
8. The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.
9. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. following a motion made by Steve McIntyre, seconded by Terry Stoffregen and motion carried.