

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig
DATE/TIME: March 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, Craig Ketelsen, Dan Reimer and Kevin Turner

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Terry Stoffregen made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Brad Petersburg. Motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Prevailing Wage Legislation - Ron Smith advised that he had talked to Brian Stewart. Due to the primary elections, the House is not in session during March. They should be back in session April 1st thru May. During this period all the bills will be looked at. Our Prevailing Wage Bill was introduced on February 6th, 2015 and has been pending in the House Rules Committee. Stewart will keep us informed of any progress. He told Ron the rumor has it that the 2017 Budget will not be taken up until November of this year. At the same time the budget for 2016 has not been approved. No agreement between Madigan and Governor Rauner. Madigan has been in office for 40 years and pretty much has a solid control on bills, etc. Smith also advised that Stewart has accepted our invitation and will attend our June 15th Legislative Meeting.
- b) Update on Economic Development Edge tax credit House Bill 4636 - Don Zillig passed out an e-mail he received from Lisa McCarthy advising that she received two competing bills from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, SB2748 & SB3009. She forwarded the bills to Rep. Stewart but had not heard anything back.
- c) Update on State tax on utilities - Ron Smith advised that he pursued this matter with the Illinois Dept. of Revenue and, after talking to a number of people, was advise that they refer to it as an Electricity Excise Tax rather than a State Tax. Smith gave Don Zillig two reports on the Electricity Excise Tax (a total of 32 pages). Smith checked on his electric bill and it came out to the figure she had given him. There evidently are some exemptions to the tax and our Transportation Department System may quality. Also some businesses in the "Enterprise Zones" qualify to receive sales tax benefits. Smith will be following through on these issues and will work with Jason of the UCCI Legal Staff as Smith has done much of the exploratory work on the issue.
- d) Discussion on Legal Opinion regarding State Utility Tax – Don Zillig explained that the meeting with John Hay and/or Dan Gilbert has been postponed as Dan was off while having surgery done and the meeting will be held at a later date.

- e) Review concerns about excessive record storage – Don Zillig advised that he sent an e-mail to John Hay telling him that this agenda item would be removed as no response had been received from Hay’s office regarding this issue.
- f) Letters sent by Ron Smith to State Senator Tim Bivins & State Representative Brian Stewart inviting both to attend a Legislative Committee Meeting – Discussed invitations that Ron Smith had sent to Representative Stewart and Senator Bivins to attend one of our Legislative Meetings. Representative Stewart said he would attend our June 15th Meeting. We haven’t heard form Senator Bivins and Smith will give him a call.
- g) Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAC – Merri Berlage was not able to attend today’s meeting but forwarded the IACBMC position on various Senate and House Bills (a total of 14 bills). Ron Smith reminded us that Rep. Stewart advised that no action would be taken on any bills until April. Smith will stay in touch with Berlage on the status of the various bills.
- h) Discussion on House Bill 4300, pages 467 & 468 calling for no new enterprise zones - Covered under our “Legislative Looking Glass”, on 2/24/16, the status of the bill was “To Sales & other Tax Subcommittees.”

4. **New Business:**

- a) Discussion of Sheriff’s Department responsibilities in providing law enforcement in various situations - Don Zillig brought up the issue of responsibility of the Sheriff’s Department to provide law enforcement for communities, towns, cities, etc. that do not supply their own law enforcement. A number of Committee Members and Sheriff Kevin Turner and Chief Deputy Craig Ketelsen commented on this topic. Turner advised that thousands of dollars are spent covering other communities, etc.. Examples were given. Ketelsen brought up the liability concerns that are incurred. Brad Petersburg questioned how taxes could be raised to offset these possible costs. Dan Reimer brought up the PTEL factor regarding tax increase to fund Law Enforcement. It was decided that this issue would be a topic for the Law & Courts Committee.
- b) Discussion on Consent Agenda Ruling - We had received a legal opinion advising that we should not use a “Consent Agenda”. Brad Petersburg asked concerning the various items that are and are not brought to the County Board. Dan Reimer & Ron Smith advised that many items are mandated by statutes. Per Reimer if we adopted this “No Consent Agenda” we would have to change our Board Rules.
- c) Sheriff’s Association Legislation that is being monitored - Don Zillig passed out the various bills that Sheriff’s Association is monitoring. This report was forwarded by Sheriff Turner to Chairman Zillig.

5. **Legislative Looking Glass** - Discussed the various bills. Also discussed the “Legislative Links” that appears on our Jo Daviess County website. It was decided that Don Zillig would discuss the “Sign up for Legislative Email Alerts” link with Joe Kratcha and discuss dropping the link due to lack of interest and workload put on the Information Technology Department.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** Gary Diedrick asked if the Consent Agenda is recorded in the minutes of the Board Meeting. Dan Reimer advised that the Consent Agenda is always recorded on the last page on the minutes.

7. **Board Member Concerns:** None.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. following a motion made by Terry Stoffregen, seconded by Steve McIntyre and motion carried.