

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Don Zillig  
**DATE/TIME:** May 18, 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 Deidrick, Sherriff Kevin Turner and Dan Reimer

### 1. Minutes Approval

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

### 2. Citizens' Comments: None.

### 3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Economic Development - Chairman Zillig reported that he hadn't received any updates from Lisa McCarthy regarding any progress on Bill HB4636. Merri Berlage advised that she thought the main substance of getting the bill passed was that any company looking for assistance would have to be a viable company. Chairman Zillig expressed his frustration with just the companies from East Dubuque, mentioning Hirschbach & Rockfarm that have moved to Dubuque due to the state of Iowa & the City of Dubuque offering huge incentive packages to entice their relocation to Dubuque.
- b) Update on Municipal Tax on Utilities - Chairman Zillig reported that he had sent an e-mail to John Hay and Dan Gilbert advising them of our meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and asked if they have had a chance to look into the Municipal Utility Tax. Dan Gilbert replied that he and John Hay have been busy with recent felony cases but felt that ultimately they would look into this Municipal tax issue.
- c) Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAC – Ron Smith is a big promoter of the Illinois Association of County Board Members (IACBM) website which gives legislative updates. We continue following our priorities submitted to IAC. We are also following the bills that are of interest to us via our "Looking Glass" posting. Merri Berlage expressed the opinion that the main concern at this time was to pass the budget and the representatives and senators hoped to have it done by Memorial Day. Dan Reimer advised that we should be aware and alert of negotiations whereby certain aspects are buried in bills. In the past we found that the Enterprise Zone item was buried in a multipage bill.

### 4. New Business:

- a) Discussion and planning for visit on June 15<sup>th</sup> by Senator Bivins and Representative Stewart at our Legislative Committee meeting – Merri Berlage asked if we were going to have "bullet points" to bring up for discussion and have both be accountable

for their actions or non-action. Chairman Zillig advised that he would seek input from all Board Members regarding concerns that we have. Berlage will arrange lunch once we can give her an approximate count of attendees. All Board Members will be invited as will Department Heads. As this is a regular scheduled meeting the public is also welcome to attend. Steve McIntyre advised that Brian Stewart said that he would attend our June 15th Legislative Committee Meeting. It was on his schedule but not on his secretary's schedule. Smith will contact Stewart's office to make sure they are aware of the meeting.

- b) Discussion concerning the NG-911 program - There was some discussion on the "Next Generation 911" upcoming mandates. There was discussion regarding how soon the "Next Generation" would be outdated. Steve McIntyre advised that by the time "Next Gen" goes into effect it will probably be outdated. Sheriff Turner gave us a brief overview of the "Next Generation 911". Sheriff advised that Counties were looking to combine on this project in order to achieve better results at a less costly price. The discussion was whether this bill was a federal or state mandate and it was told that it was a federal mandate. Steve McIntyre thought this "Next Gen" mandate should definitely be addressed with Representative Stewart and Senator Bivins as this is a typical "unfunded" mandate, whereas monies are swept away from the Counties the legislators make an attempt to reimburse the counties for various bills that they enact. Steve McIntyre brought up that the Legislators are busy working on the budget not on local issues. Merri Berlage voiced her frustration with the constant demands on mandated items that are outdated by the time they're installed. McIntyre also brought up the fact that Illinois does not tax retirement income therefore many retirees from other states come to Illinois upon retiring. He also brought up the need for more infrastructure using existing systems rather than going with new procedures. There was discussion whether to have a Legislative Meeting prior to the County Board Meeting. Berlage suggested that we discuss our Legislative Meeting plans prior to our June 14th County Board Meeting.
- c) Putting out information to the public regarding our Legislative Links websites, under our "Looking Glass" site...Illinois General Assembly website and Submit a Legislative Issue Proposal form

5. **Legislative Looking Glass** – Sheriff Turner brought up the legislation regarding juveniles. Dan Reimer brought up the information that the Illinois Department of Labor required that numerous information had to be provided regarding "Prevailing Wages." This is another item that was suggested to be brought up at our June 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None

7. **Board Member Concerns:** FOIA requests were brought up and it was pointed out that some requests may be regarded as "harassing" requests.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. following a motion made by Terry Stoffregen seconded by Steve McIntyre and motion carried.