

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Don Zillig  
**DATE/TIME:** January 21, 2015 @ 11:00 am

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Merri Berlage                      Randy Jobgen  
Ron Smith                         Terry Stoffregen

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Don Zillig                         Steve McIntyre  
Brad Petersburg

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dan Reimer

1. Call to Order – Merri Berlage called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and read the third floor evacuation policy.
2. Approval of Minutes – **Terry Stoffregen made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2014 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Ron Smith, and motion passed.**

**Randy Jobgen made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Terry Stoffregen, and motion passed.**

3. Citizens' Comments - None
4. Unfinished Business
  - a) Update on Sunset Clause: Ron Smith reported that he has not heard anything more, but tomorrow Bivens and Stuart are going to be at the community development meeting. Dan Reimer questioned specifically what we are looking for. There are referendum questions right now that by statute that does have a sunset on them. There is a transportation statute that we could go to referendum right now, it would be short term and there is a maximum amount we could go to, but there is a sunset on it. Is it because we are a PTELL county and the way the wording is? Reimer would rather see the wording changed under PTELL because PTELL wouldn't even allow us to put down what our project was when we wanted to do the radio communication project. Because we are a PTELL county we can only ask certain PTELL questions and they are limited in what we can state in that question.
  - b) Update on prevailing wage: Merri Berlage called Sally at Stuart's office and she said she really didn't know anything or if he was doing anything other than he had done with us before which was to cosponsor the bill. Ron Smith commented that we should write something up that states a project can't be divided up. IDOT is even interested in partnering in this. It was the consensus of the committee to continue working on the prevailing wage bill.
  - c) Update on 9-1-1 funding: Merri Berlage commented that this will be coming to a close soon. It needs to be renewed or increased by July 1, 2015. Land line usage has

dropped considerably over the last ten years which has decreased the 9-1-1 funding drastically. Ron Smith will check with Mike Moser to see if he has contacted the association regarding the 9-1-1 funding.

- d) Update on Economic Development/But For Clause: Merri Berlage commented that this has been drafted by Brian Stuart. Currently new businesses have to submit a proposal that they have looked at another state and gotten an offer that they are a viable business that is looking for a place to settle.

## 5. New Business

a) Discussion and possible action on proposed legislation: Merri Berlage commented that she can talk this afternoon about prevailing wage and tell them that we want to address that multi projects so that it can't be for multiple projects on one bid. The project can't be divided up.

b) Discussion on UCCI lobbyists: Terry Stoffregen has tried to get a hold of them but doesn't seem to have the correct phone number. Merri Berlage proceeded to call UCCI regarding the possibility of a lobbyist being available for County assistance. Berlage asked if we could use Mr. McCreary or someone else in the UCCI office as a lobbyist. If there are bills that Counties are interested in or something that we think UCCI should take a position on one way or another, we can let them know and they will look into it. Berlage left her telephone number with the secretary for Mr. McCreary to call her.

c) Discussion on Illinois Policy Institute: Merri Berlage commented that when we were talking prevailing wage she talked to Brian Costen from Illinois Policy Institute and gave him a bunch of our information. Prevailing wage is still ongoing. He is really hopeful with the new governor that they will do something. It is a good website to look at. You can find some really interesting information there such as the different bills. The Illinois Tax Foundation is another website you should look at. There is a lot of good information on bills that are coming up.

d) Discussion on any other legislation: Merri Berlage commented that the Des Moines Register had an article about watersheds and there is a lawsuit with the USEPA. It has to do with the clean water act letter we sent. A binding referendum will be on the April ballot regarding minimum wage.

e) Discussion and possible action regarding a nomination for IACBMC Committee: We joined several years ago and we get information on legislation from them. They have opened it up to a committee to oversee it via conference calls and have your input into it. There are two meetings a year which would be attended and a monthly conference call each month.

**Randy Jobgen made a motion to approve the nomination of Merri Berlage to apply for the nomination to the IACBMC committee, seconded by Terry Stoffregen and motion passed.**

6. Legislative Looking Glass: We need to clean out the one that is on the website and start fresh. When there is something that you are watching or something that is going to be voted on we can send an alert out through the GIS department to call the representative or senator. We had people that were interested and had submitted their email address that they wanted to receive notices. In the meantime be looking for bills that could be affecting the County.

7. Citizens' Comments: None

8. Board Member Concerns: None

9. Next regular meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Sheriff's Conference Room. The location has been changed due to the auditor's using the County Board Room. We can meet at the Hanover facility or the Elizabeth Municipal Building if we don't want to use the Sheriff's Conference Room. The Law Library may also be a possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m. following a motion made by Randy Jobgen and seconded by Ron Smith. Motion carried.