

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Don Zillig  
**DATE/TIME:** August 19, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.

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

Other Board members:

Others: Katherine Walker and Gary Dedrich.

1. **Call to Order** – Don Zillig called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. **Roll call and establishment of a quorum** – Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – **Brad Petersburg made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Terry Stoffregen, and motion passed.**
4. **Citizens' Comments** - None
5. **Unfinished Business**
  - a) Update on Sunset Clauses for Referendum questions – The bill was never introduced by Representative Stewart. It will not be introduced again until next spring. We will remove this item from future agendas for the time being.
  - b) Update on prevailing wage legislation by Merri Berlage and discussion of current prevailing wages – Don Zillig handed out the United States Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division Dollar Threshold Amount chart which shows what states have prevailing wage and what the amount is. Eighteen states do not have prevailing wage laws. Zillig also handed out statistics for Jo Daviess County prevailing wage for July, 2015.
  - c) Update on 9-1-1 funding – The Governor has signed SB-96 and the surcharge on cell phones has been increased.
  - d) Update on Economic Development/But For Clause – Don Zillig handed out information on the Complexities of the “But For” Test. The “but for” test is the requirement that developers be able to show that a deal could not be done without TIF, sales tax financing, enterprise zone status or similar types of assistance. “But for” such assistance, the deal couldn’t transpire.
  - e) Update on UCCI lobbyist – We have access to a lobbyist through UCCI and the Illinois County Board Association. They have lobbyists hired that will help us through our membership.
  - f) Update regarding possibility of increasing Hotel/Motel tax to help cover other County Expenditures – Don Zillig drafted a memo which Ron Smith sent to UCCI with

questions regarding Hotel/Motel tax. UCCI responded that they have forwarded the email to their legal department for review and written opinion.

6. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on committee assignments from the 2015 County Board retreat – The committee reviewed and commented on the assignments from the Board retreat. They are in the process of investigating increase in service fees from hotel/motel tax. They will continue to meet with state legislators and are waiting to hear on a meeting date and time with Representative Stewart. The committee also discussed raising motor fuel tax for roads, pursuing legislative efforts to give prevailing wage relief to smaller cities and propose legislation for record storage issues.
- b) Discussion on inquiries made to the UCCI regarding opinions on Utility Taxations, Hotel/Motel Taxation & Fee – Discussed above.
- c) Invitation to State Senator Tim Bivins & State Representative Brian Stewart to attend Legislative Committee meeting and/or County Board meeting – Discussed above.
- d) Discussion regarding submission of legislative items and/or resolutions to be considered for the 2016 Legislative Agenda – Merri Berlage will be proposing legislation for the enterprise zone. The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Development has halted approval of tax incentives for nearly 50 enterprise zone economic development districts statewide as a result of the state budget deadlock. Prevailing wage, economic development and 9-1-1 funding are among the top five topics for us.
- e) Discussion of a budget item to cover the cost of a lobbyist – Discussed above.

7. Legislative Looking Glass - Don Zillig remarked that UCCI emails provide a synopsis of pending bills. Other committee members also receive these emails. Merri Berlage commented that the Independent Map Amendment is coming down the pipe. It would establish a non-partisan, independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public. It would end the current redistricting process controlled by legislators with little public involvement. Berlage handed out information from the Farm Bureau regarding this amendment.

8. Citizens' Comments - None

9. Board Member Concerns – Ron Smith shared an email from Donna Berlage. She just found out that public act 99-0375 for disabled veterans were signed by the governor. This new law which goes into effect for 2015 changes the exemptions to 30% to less than 50% disability a \$2,500 exemption, 50% to less than 75% disability a \$5,000 exemption and over 70% disabilities a 100% exemption. The EAV on the veteran's property must be less than \$250,000. We have 13 parcels in Jo Daviess County that are receiving the over 70% disability exemption. Merri Berlage commented that Sheriff wants to see change in incorporated areas with a limited safety patrol.

10. Next regular meeting - Wednesday, September 16, 2015 @ 11:00 am

11. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. following a motion by Merri Berlage, seconded by Terry Stoffregen, and motion passed.