

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig
DATE/TIME: October 21, 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, Hal Gilpin, Gary Diedrick, and John Freitag

1. **Call to Order** – Don Zillig called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.
2. **Roll call and establishment of a quorum** – Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Steve McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2015 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Terry Stoffregen, and motion passed.
4. **Citizens' Comments** - John Freitag asked to address the Committee regarding an upcoming Prevailing Wage Seminar. Chairperson Zillig advised John that this matter was on the agenda under New Business and asked John if he would save his comments until then which John agreed to do so.
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - a) Update on prevailing wage legislation and discussion of current prevailing wages – Merri Berlage was to advise concerning prevailing wage legislation and was asked by Chairperson Zillig to address this matter under New Business, item a.) and b.)
 - b) Update on Economic Development/But for Clause – Don Zillig advised that prior to our next Legislative Committee Meeting in November, Lisa McCarthy from TCEDA would be advising regarding TIF District & State Incentives.
 - c) Update on UCCI lobbyist – Don Zillig advised that of the 5 questions that Ron Smith forwarded to the UCCI on August 9th, only one opinion has been received, that being that the Hotel/Motel Tax could only be used for tourism. Don advised that was, in his opinion, a fairly easy opinion to render. Ron will continue to pursue the other 4 questions with Connie at the UCCI.
 - d) Update regarding possibility of increasing Hotel/Motel tax to help cover other County Expenditures – Discussion under Assignments from the 2015 County Retreat regarding record issues. Awaiting advisement from State's Attorney.
 - e) Discussion under Assignments from the 2015 County Retreat regarding record issues. Awaiting advisement from State's Attorney - Discussed inviting State Senator Tim Bivins and State Representative Brian Stewart to attend Legislative Meeting and/or County Board Meeting. This item was discussed under New Business, item b.)

- f) Discussion of inviting State Senator Tim Bivins and State Representative Brian Stewart to attend Legislative Committee Meeting and/or County Board Meeting - Merri Berlage advised that she had submitted legislative items and /or resolutions to be considered for the 2016 Legislative Committee. Items submitted will be discussed at our November Legislative Committee.
- g) Update regarding submission of legislative items and/or resolutions to be considered for the 2016 Legislative Committee. Report from Merri Berlage regarding items to be submitted - Legislative "Looking Glass" Ron Smith distributed 16 pages of various House and Senate Bills that would be of interest to Jo Daviess County. This "Looking Glass" procedure started years ago and has not been updated since that time. Board Members will have access to view various bills that are received via the internet. Hal Gilpin volunteered to help re-establish the "Looking Glass". His gesture to do so was greatly appreciated by the Committee Members and procedures will be put in place to assist Gilpin in this challenge.
- h) Legislative Looking Glass...Review of any Bills that may relate to Jo Daviess County - Ron Smith distributed 16 pages of various House and Senate Bills that would be of interest to Jo Daviess County. Board Members would have access to view various bills that are received via the internet.

6. New Business

- a) Free Prevailing Wage Seminar, Thursday, October 22nd, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., At the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas St., Freeport, IL. 61032 - John Freitag, Supervisor for the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation Contracting, addressed the Committee regarding the e-mail he had forwarded to all Board Members on October 19th regarding a Free Prevailing Wage Seminar, Sponsored by his employer the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting (FFC). Don Zillig inquired if this Seminar was for Prevailing Wage Legislation or against Prevailing wage and if this Seminar was a "neutral" venue. John advised that it was sponsored by the FFC and would probably be looked upon as being "Pro" Prevailing Wage. Discussion continued as Committee Members pointed out various problems presented to the County because of the Prevailing Wage factors. Dan Reimer gave an example regarding the "Striping" of the parking lot. Don Zillig advised that the "Prevailing Wage" factor increased the proposed building of a City Hall in East Dubuque. It increased the cost between \$75,000.00 and \$100,000.00. A few of the committee board members will attempt to attend the seminar.
- b) Discussion of sending correspondence to State Representative Brian Stewart regarding his commitment to Jo Daviess County concerns - Merri Berlage advised that prior to attending this meeting, she had spoken to State Representative Brian Stewart and he would be looking at his schedule to find a date to meet with this Committee and possibly attend a County Board Meeting.
- c) Discussion of Tax on Utilities, request made to UCCI Legal Team on August 9th - Don Zillig advised that as of today, we had not received a Legal Opinion from the UCCI Legal Team regarding Tax on Utilities. The original request was made August 9th. Ron Smith will check with UCCI on this.

7. **Legislative Looking Glass** - Ron Smith distributed 16 pages of various House and Senate Bills that would be of interest to Jo Daviess County. This "Looking Glass" procedure started years ago and has not been updated since that time. Board Members will have access to view various bills that are received via the internet. Hal Gilpin volunteered to help re-establish the "Looking Glass". His gesture to do so was greatly appreciated by the Committee Members and procedures will be put in place to assist Gilpin in this challenge.
8. **Citizens' Comments** - None
9. **Board Member Concerns** – Don Zillig advised that he has made repeated attempts to contact the Alliance of Illinois Taxpayers to get information regarding any possible studies regarding "Prevailing Wages". Such a study was done by the Alliance of Wisconsin Taxpayers. Don has sent three e-mails without receiving a reply and a fourth e-mail asking for a phone number to reach them and did not receive a reply.
10. **Next regular meeting** - Wednesday, November 18, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.
11. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 a.m. following a motion by Steve McIntyre, seconded by Terry Stoffregen, and motion passed.