

# COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Health Environment & Law Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Larry Lyons, Chair; Sally Toepfer, Co-chair  
**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, February 18, 2003. 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexander	<input type="checkbox"/> Hasken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> Sisler
<input type="checkbox"/> Bielenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lyons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stoffregen
<input type="checkbox"/> Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montelius	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toepfer
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zillig
<input type="checkbox"/> Creighton	<input type="checkbox"/> Schubert	

Others: Duane Olivier, County Administrator; Diane Williams, COA Secretary; Sheriff Steve Allendorf; Peg Murphy, Health Dept.; Sharon Wand, Circuit Clerk; Chief Deputy Brian Melton; Rich Machala, Jo Daviess Transit

**SUBJECT OF MEETING: Regular meeting  
MINUTES**

**1. Minutes**

Dane Jackson made a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2003. Margie Montelius seconded and the motion passed.

**2. Staff Reports**

- a) **Health Dept.** Peg Murphy submitted a written report (attached). The committee questioned how the state of Illinois is doing with paying the grant funds owed. She stated that they are hoping for some reallocation of funds. Following the economic downturn after September 11, there are more people throughout the state eligible for medical assistance from the Dept. of Human Services, straining the state's budget.

Carroll and Stephenson Counties are still discussing a multi-county Health Dept., but no one has yet approached Jo Daviess County or the Board of Health. There is a high need for services in Carroll County, because of their low population numbers, low assessed values and high number of residents under the poverty level. Their County Board is split on the issue. Peg noted that a community assessment should be conducted by the citizens, and not by a hospital or Board of Health.

Peg noted that the urban counties are pushing to have the bioterrorism grant moneys redistributed on a per capita basis, which would reduce the amount of money received by smaller, rural counties. She also distributed handouts on Family Case Management and the current list of videos at the Health Dept. on Bioterrorism and Terrorists Attacks.

- b) **Jo Daviess Transit.** Rich Machala informed the committee that the Federal transportation funds earmark for 2003 are the same as 2002. DeKalb & Kankakee Counties have been re-designated from rural to urban, freeing up approximately \$700,000 in funds. The state has acknowledged that insurance funding has gone up 15%, while JDWI has had their insurance increase 50% in the last year. Rich estimates that the funding level will stay the same for this year, or possibly go up 5%.

Rich is requesting the second installment payment from the County a month early to cover a \$400 deficit in the County medical transit program. Demand is lower than at this point last year, but DHHS is slower paying than before and owes \$2000.

Margie Montelius made a motion to authorize release of the second installment of \$2850 for the Jo Daviess Transit services. Dick Alexander seconded and the motion passed.

3. **Review and Discussion of Facilities Space Needs Assessment.** Duane Olivier distributed a Discussion Outline for reviewing the draft of the Maximus Facilities Space Needs Assessment, an aerial photo of the Courthouse, a Courthouse site plan, and floor plans for all floors of the Courthouse (attached). Duane made general comments about the report; reviewed the findings of the report relative to the Courthouse, individual departments, and the CVB; and reviewed the reports general conclusions and recommendations. Committee members expressed a number of concerns about the report that will be conveyed to the consultant in a written comment on the draft.

The Committee discussed the statutory language regarding the location of the Recorder's Office. Because the Committee felt that the statutory language could be interpreted in different ways, it asked to have the State's Attorney provide the Committee with a written opinion on the requirements of ILCS 5/3-5016.

The Committee discussed the appointment of a special ad hoc committee consisting of Health, Environment & Law Committee members, the County Administrator, and other staff to review the draft and respond to the draft report and subsequently to make recommendations on the implementation of the findings of the report. No specific action was taken regarding the establishment of this ad hoc committee.

The idea of a full County Board workshop on the Facilities Space Needs Assessment report was discussed and it was agreed that such a workshop would be beneficial. The consultant will be invited to present the report and answer questions.

The Committee discussed the need to give the River Ridge School District an indication of the County's interest in acquiring the River Ridge School facilities

in Elizabeth. Following considerable discussion, Dick Alexander made a motion to recommend that the County Board tell the River Ridge School District that the County is not interested in the buildings at this time. Yerda Potter seconded and the motion passed with Merri Berlage, Jack Zillig, Sally Toepfer and Larry Lyons voting no.

### **3. Other Reports**

- a) Brian Melton reported for the Sheriff that the new Drug Interdiction Program is working well. \$13,500 received from the Blackhawk Area Task Force will go toward a new squad with the remainder coming from the drug fund and possibly a trade-in value from a confiscated vehicle. Sheriff Allendorf made a trip to Washington DC and during the trip met with Congressman Manzullo, Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald regarding the 4-lane project. He will report to the County on further meetings. At the March County Board meeting, the Sheriff intends to present their first Annual Report.

In response to a question, Brian stated that the D.A.R.E. program is strong. They have had a large increase in public support and are expanding from the focus on 5<sup>th</sup> graders to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Warren office setup is moving slowly and will be completed over a span of several months.

- b) Sharon Wand reported that there is a bill in the Illinois House that will give Counties the power to raise their court costs. She has spoken with Representative Sacia who has assured her that he will vote in favor of it.

### **4. Other Business**

- a) Merri Berlage received a letter from Kishore Thampy regarding a request under the Freedom of Information Act and a meeting with Berlage. The committee directed her to give the letter to the State's Attorney so that Thampy can get the proper forms to fill out and also invite Thampy to visit this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.