

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Health, Environment & Law
CHAIRPERSON: Terry Stoffregen, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: January 20, 2004. 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Alexander
 Berlage
 Jackson

Montelius
 Potter
 Sisler

Stoffregen
 Toepfer
 Zillig

Other Board Members:

Others: Peg Murphy, Glen Weber, Sharon Wand, Steve Allendorf, Brian Melton, Diane Williams, Jeff Klopfenstein

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

Margie Montelius made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2003. Dane Jackson seconded and the motion passed.

2. Staff and agency reports

- a) Health Department. Peg noted that 87% of the staff has now completed the online emergency planning assessment for the bio-terrorism grant. She answered some questions about Chronic Public Health. Clients must be under the care of a physician and have a chronic condition such as diabetes, cardiac, etc. The bathing services that were formerly offered by the Health Department have been picked up by private caregivers or Community Care (Coatsworth Center) for those who meet the income guidelines. (Attached.)
- b) Transit. Rich Machala was not present. The committee would like to know if any part of the loan has been paid back yet. (Attached.)
- c) Sheriff's Office. Brian Melton reported that they will present the Blanding contract at the next meeting. Brian let the committee know that other departments can also use the Federal Surplus program, but there is no list of what's available. It is a holding warehouse across the street from Central Management in Springfield.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Maximus Space Study. There has been no answer to Duane's letter sent to Tom Adams on December 15, 2003. Dick Alexander stated that the services listed in the contract that Merri signed were provided by the company. Some services that committee members want were not listed in the contract. Margie feels that the bill should be paid. Dane reported that a Dubuque company, All-Systems, has done some work for the Sheriff's office and can create more work space by modernizing the furniture that offices are using. Merri Berlage wants the courtesy of a response from Maximus. She will send another letter asking them to come to the February committee meeting. She also noted that we were supposed to be notified if

the contract was assigned to another company and we never received anything in writing.

- b) **Public Defender Salary.** Terry Stoffregen talked with Judge Kelly per the direction of this committee. The Judge has offered to come to the committee and speak on the issue. He feels that it is in the best interests of the County not to have a permanent public defender, or we would have to pay more money. Two part-time public defenders are convenient in case of conflict of interest.

Glen reported that no counties that he knows of are paying public defenders on an hourly basis, with some exceptions for homicide and class X drug cases. Yerda Potter talked with some judges, who also reported that they pay salary only, but the public defender can come back to the County Board if there are extenuating circumstances and they need additional fees. According to the statute the public defender must be paid a \$25,000 minimum salary.

Yerda made a motion to give the public defenders a salary only. Merri seconded and the motion failed with 2 aye votes and 5 no votes.

Dick Alexander made a motion to approve the overtime pay of \$60/hour subject to the Judge's approval of the time spent. Sally Toepfer seconded and the motion failed with 3 aye votes and 4 no votes.

Merri made a motion to have Dick Veith write a new contract with no additional hourly wage. Yerda seconded. Dane moved to amend the motion by removing the specified number of hours from the contract. Margie seconded and the amendment failed with 2 aye votes and 5 no votes. The original motion then failed with 7 no votes.

Merri made a motion to ask Judge Kelly and Dick Veith to attend the next committee meeting to help on this matter. Sally seconded and the motion passed with Yerda voting no.

4. New Business

- a) Durrant has revised the schedule for the HVAC 2004 project with more detail and is concerned about the length of time it will take to order equipment once a contractor's bid is accepted. (Attached.) The courthouse could be without a/c when it is needed. Jeff Klopfenstein has determined that ship time on the equipment will be about 8-10 weeks. He would like the committee to consider pre-purchasing the equipment. The bid specs to contractors will reflect the fact that the County has pre-purchased the equipment. Durrant does not anticipate that there will be any price difference overall, but the County will be the purchaser of the equipment instead of paying the contractor for the equipment.

Dick made a motion to allow Durrant to solicit bids for the advance

purchase of HVAC equipment and return them to the committee for approval and selection. Margie seconded and the motion passed.

- b) Proposed Revenue Disbursement Resolution for the Public Safety Sales Tax. (Attached.) The Sheriff has an alternate idea for the 20% Countywide Public Safety/Emergency Services Fund. Instead of a grant program, he suggests that a set amount of money be distributed to the 21 service programs that qualify and the remaining amount be returned to the services based on their tax contribution level. The total tax revenue, estimated from past experience, is \$1.3 million. Dick questioned how much Galena's contribution is as that will be affected if they pass Home Rule. Brian said it is \$486,669. The Sheriff has 30 speaking engagements scheduled between now and the election and needs more support from the County Board and this resolution is a show of support. The consensus of the committee is that the 60/20/20 split as proposed is acceptable. Committee members discussed the paragraph in the 60% section that limits the General Fund reduction to budgets/departments that will be receiving PSST funds. The Sheriff stressed that the voting public wants to know that proceeds from the PSST are not going to be swapped dollar for dollar to the General Fund.

Brian explained the numbers behind the request that the Sheriff's budget not be reduced by more than 25%.

- 60% of \$1.3 million is \$780,000. 85% of that is \$663,000. The Sheriff's budgets combined are now approximately \$2 million. If \$663,000 (32%) is subtracted from the \$2 million, it leaves about \$1.4 million that will still be needed from the General Fund. The Sheriff is asking that no more than 25% be reduced from the General Fund contribution to his budgets. That difference of 7% equates to an additional \$142,769 for the budget that will cover employee salary increases and other expenses.

All proceeds from the PSST will come to the County like other sales tax proceeds and be distributed via the budget process. The County Board is not losing control over those funds.

Yerda made a motion to approve the resolution and send to the County Board provided the Emergency Services Fund distribution section is clarified as discussed. Sally seconded and the motion passed with Margie voting no.

5. Other Business

- a) Terry announced that the Elizabeth Ambulance Service will be at the next committee meeting to discuss changing the boundaries of two Special Service Districts. Yerda commented that all ambulance services should be invited to that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.