

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Merri Berlage  
**DATE/TIME:** May 29, 2008 1:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Berlage  
 Cooper

Montelius  
 Stoffregen

Toepfer  
 Schultz

Others: Dan Remier County Administrator

### MINUTES

#### 1. Citizen's Comments

None

#### 2. Minutes

**Stoffregen made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Second by Montelius. Motion carried.**

#### 3. Pending Legislation

##### a. Legislative Looking Glass

The committee reviewed the Legislative Looking Glass quickly since most items status remained the same from last meeting.

##### b. Regional Superintendent of Schools funding per capita vs. assessment

Berlage called Jim Sacia's office before the meeting to see if there was any information pertaining to this issue. We are hoping to have some information for the finance committee before we get too far into the budget.

##### c. Mental Health Act

Berlage called the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois and spoke with Executive Director Cheryl Ramirez. The committee had spoke with Ms. Ramirez last month asking about possible law suits pertaining to funding and levy extensions. Ms. Ramirez asked that we put in writing our questions with some information for reference. Ms. Ramirez stated that she did not find any law suits with any of the members of ACMHI.

However, she did state that Jackson County and Evanston,IL have called asking about use of funds and if they could be moved to different lines items such as Highway, or General fund. The committee discussed the situation and decided that Dan Remier and Merri Berlage could draft a letter of questions for Ms. Ramirez, and hopefully have answers to our questions by next meeting. Ms. Cheryl Ramirez contact information is email – [acmhai@shout.net](mailto:acmhai@shout.net) Phone 217-369-5168 Address - ACMHAI - P.O. Box 17187 Urbana, IL 61803

**d. County Home Rule**

We have some information on the County Home Rule but want the committee to do more homework before discussion at next months meeting.

**e. Departmental Reports and Issues**

Berlage reported that Peg Murphy has been keeping us updated on SB1102 Local Health protection grant level funded at 17 Million and SB2707 (Smoke Free Illinois)

**f. TIF Districts**

Montlius reported on the East Dubuque TIF, Berlage reported on the Elizabeth TIF and stated that there are three businesses that have applied to make use of the funds. Schultz reported on the Scales Mound TIF which is still in the development stages.

**4. New Business**

**a. Discussion on new legislation**

Discussion on HB5653 (Criminal Code- Disarming a Peace Officer, and HB4139 (Police Firearm Possession). Motion by Montelius to add HB5653 and HB4139 to our Legislative Looking Glass watch list. Second by Stoffregen. Motion carried.

Discussion on HB773 (Expansion of Prevailing Wage). Motion by Montelius to add HB773 Expansion of prevailing wage to our watch list also. Second by Stoffregen. Motion carried.

**b. Proposal of any legislation**

There were no new legislation proposals at this time.

## **5. New business**

None

## **6. Board Member concerns**

Members were concerned about the packets and organization of materials noting that things are hard to find and wondered if PDF files could be used to streamline, so members would not have to open separate files. Schultz noted that IT committee was working on some ideas to put information on internet as soon as the meetings is done so members could have information as soon as possible.

Schultz asked if there was anyone aware of property being purchased by IDOT for the Highway 20 project, committee members were not aware of any purchased in the Snipe Hollow area.

The committee was interested in the status of the capital bill, Berlage was unable to find an updated status report on the internet.

## **7. Citizens' Comments**

Concern from Citizen Simon Blankenbacker concerning the riverboat legislation, he noted that East Dubuque would be getting a large share that they did not put into the project. Berlage and Schultz stated that the city of East Dubuque took over the Fentress Lake project and have most likely lost money, so they have a right to cover there cost of taking the project over.

Motion to adjourn at 2:26 p.m. by Stoffregen second by Schultz, Motion carried.