

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social & Environmental
CHAIRPERSON: Marvin Schultz
DATE/TIME: March 14, 2005. 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baranski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zillig
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schubert	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montelius	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz	

Other Board Members:

Others: Peg Murphy, Heather Miller, Rich Machala, Terry Kurt, Gary Jobgen, Mike Bielenda, Don Gereau

MINUTES

1. Minutes

The minutes of the February 16, 2005 committee meeting were approved following a motion by Beth Baranski and seconded by Jack Zillig.

2. Citizens' Comments – none

3. Old Business

Marvin Schultz questioned if the thank you note was sent to Wal-Mart for the Transit donation. He will check with the County Administrator's office.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion of the 708 Mental Health Board Tax Levy. Schultz commented that there has been some discussion in the past about how the levy amount is determined. Don Gereau made a presentation to the committee members covering the handout material he provided. Beth Baranski stated that she understands there are questions about legal responsibility as well as policy. Terry Kurt questioned if the previous States Attorney had issued an opinion and Berlage stated that the opinion was that the County Board could levy only \$1.00 if they chose. Kurt has not yet reviewed the opinion from Chip Schmadeke that JDWI provided. Schultz reported that he wanted the States Attorney to hear the questions that the board and committees are raising. Kurt asked for clarification on the legal questions that they want answers for. The questions they would like him to research are:
 - i. Can the County Board direct the 708 Mental Health Board as to what the budget amount should be or is it up to the 708 Board?
 - ii. What are the duties and responsibilities of the 708 Mental Health Board under the law?
 - iii. Should public agencies be treated differently from County Departments as regards to the levy?
 - iv. Is the 708 tax levy under the aggregate corporate levy and therefore limited by PTELL?

- v. Is the 708 tax levy entitled to the CPI or increase in EAV taxes generated?

Gary Jobgen expressed his frustration regarding the budget process last year and stated that information from the 708 Board was not presented to the County Board. Berlage questioned if the County Board should explore ways to get rid of PTELL. Kurt will research the questions outlined above and bring his answers to the committee meeting next month.

- b) Discussion of NICA Golden Meals Program. Schultz presented copies of a letter regarding cutbacks in the Golden Meals program. In Hanover the participation had declined for various reasons, but recently participation has increased and the program had not budgeted enough funds. They have reduced their restaurant service to four days per week instead of six. They are still providing meals to the homebound and have not reduced that service. Berlage reported that FEMA has given them a grant of \$3000 to support the program. Meals are \$2.50, or a donation. Rich Machala is on their board of directors and clarified some issues for the committee. The donations are sent to NICA in Freeport and they in turn pay the restaurant that provides the meals. Similar situations have been happening in the four area counties and the aging population has created a greater need.

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess Transit. Machala reported that the donation from Wal-Mart, fee increases and savings on fuel purchases by having their own tanks have helped reduce the deficit for the program. He also reported that the House of Representatives passed a 6-year transportation bill. If it passes in the Senate and is not vetoed, it would give 29% increases in funding for public transit over the next 5 years.
 - i. Acceptance of Special Warranty Resolution. This resolution is something that the County Board approves every year. It is designed to protect transportation employees in areas where multiple service providers exist. Margie Montelius made a motion to recommend approval of the Special Warranty Resolution as presented. Zillig seconded and the motion passed.
- b) Health Department. Peg Murphy distributed the Legislative Priorities for 2005 prepared by the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators. Murphy talked with the committee about the fundraiser at the Blackhawk Run Golf Course that was held for Stephenson County last year. The assistant manager of the golf course has offered to do it for Jo Daviess County this year. They would use the funds raised for the infant and toddler car seat program. In the last year, they gave about 40 seats to low-income families. Hospitals no longer provide the seats because of liability issues. The Executive Committee discussed the issue of the fundraiser and the States Attorney has stated that it is okay, but he would recommend that

it is clear that the golf course is running the fundraiser. Montelius asked about meth arrests. She stated that the Finley Hospital is having a symposium about the risks of exposing children to meth. Murphy replied that meth is highly addictive and substance abuse is identified on the needs assessment for the County. Sojourn House has a treatment program. She also stated that 2 of 3 issues on the needs assessment relate to mental health issues.

- c) Other. Berlage reported that there have been several requests for applications for the Small Rental Properties Program. She spoke with Judy Eikstadt regarding this and paperwork will be forthcoming in May to participate in the program.

6. Citizens' Comments – none.

7. Board Member Concerns

Berlage expressed concern about a bill proposed that would make cold medicines only available at pharmacies because of the meth problem.

Montelius had more questions about the fundraiser. Murphy replied that she will send out letters requesting sponsors and donations.

Meeting adjourned following a motion by Zillig and seconded by Berlage.