

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee

CHAIRPERSON: John Lang

DATE/TIME February 13, 2020

PRESENT:

John Lang Hendrica Regez Scott Toot LaDon Trost
 Ron Smith John Schultz Diane Gallagher Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others: Dan Reimer

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:** None.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Thank you notes for the December 18, 2019 meeting were sent to Representative Chesney and Senator Stewart's offices – John Lang commented that at the last meeting we agreed to send a letter of thank you to Representative Chesney and Senator Stewart's office for their presence on December 18th. Dan Reimer took care of that in the County Administrator's office.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Status of HB4086 – New 1% Service Tax Bill – Lang reported that this bill has not gotten a committee assignment yet. The only time you get to testify and sign a witness slip is when the bill is in committee. It is not when the bill is introduced or when it goes to the floor of the House or Senate. Scott Toot added that Representative Chesney contacted him requesting a signed copy of the resolution and he is going to put it through and that it will be used for EMS. Senator Stewart will receive a copy of it too. John Schultz added that the Farm Bureau has a program called Adopt a Legislature where local downstate districts adopt a legislature from Chicago or collar county areas. We had a meeting with one from a Chicago northwest suburb and toured Lawfer's farm, Warren school and the FS Plant in Warren. Chesney joined them for the last part. Schultz talked to the gentleman at noon time and gave him a copy of our bill. He said that he would support it once it got moving. Lang added that Sheriff Turner told him that the Illinois Sheriff's Association has signed on to support this bill. Dan Reimer shared the letter that Scott Toot sent to all of the mayors and townships in regards to the EMS Sustainability report. There was much discussion on EMS in the County.
 - b) How to do a witness slip – John Lang explained how to enter a witness slip on the Illinois General Assembly website. Don Zillig suggested sending this information to all of the County Board members.
 - c) New Senate President – Don Harman – John Lang informed the committee that Don Harman is the new president of the Senate. He is from Oak Park.

- d) Former Senator Martin Sandoval – red light cameras – John Lang reported that Sandoval has pleaded guilty over the stop light scandal. Chicago went with a private corporation that installed these stop light cameras. The company actually bills you if you run a stop light.
- e) State of State – Ethics and Corruption – did not address Chicago casino or pension reform – In the governor’s State of the State speech one of the major pushes is going to be on ethics and cleaning it all up. There was discussion on the Chicago mayor going to Springfield to have her voice heard.
- f) Legislation of concern to Sheriff Turner and possible committee action – John Lang reported that Sheriff Turner was unable to be in attendance today, but he has sent Lang approximately 20 bills that he would like this committee to discuss. Scott Toot added that Sheriff Turner is very concerned with the bill to get rid of the bail bond. He is also very concerned about what they have done with the training board and taking the money away that they swept from the training board. LaDon Trost commented that he is a member of the Criminal Justice Commission. There is usually a handful of police officers that come to this meeting. It was packed today because of the issues of police training coming up. They discussed how much this is going to cost all of the counties and municipalities of every jurisdiction in the state. Trost added that Senator Stewart feels the bail bond legislation will probably go through. **Scott Toot made a motion to oppose the reduction of bail bond. Seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.**
- g) Illinois population has declined for six consecutive years – John Lang reported that in the past six years Illinois population has declined and the governor is taking credit for the reduction in unemployment.

6. **Legislation that committee members are interested in and possible committee action**

7. **Citizens’ Comments:**

8. **Board Member Concerns:** Don Zillig commented that we have talked about the EMS with our 1% service tax. From what he understands from the meeting the other night a lot of counties are having the same problem with EMS that we are and he wonders if we shouldn’t try to get Representative Chesney to introduce some bill to try to get some kind of funding. A couple of years ago we talked about having insurance coverage for part time fire fighters and law enforcement. He feels we should pursue this again. There was discussion on making EMS an essential service and this should be our next goal.

9. Next regular meeting - Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

10. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m. following a motion made by Don Zillig, seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.