

Closed Session
Jo Daviess County Board Meeting
November 14, 2006

The board entered Closed Session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss personnel section 2(c)1, collective bargaining section 2(c)2, Appointment section 2(c)3, property section 2(c)5 and litigation section 2(c)11 following approval of a motion made by Domer Schubert and seconded by Yerda Potter.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Present were Beth Baranski, Merri Berlage, Jody Carroll, Vincent Hasken, Dane Jackson, Alan Kent, Matt Kluesner, Ron Mapes, Margie Montelius, Tim Petitgout, Yerda Potter, Domer Schubert, Marvin Schultz, Terry Stoffregen, Sally Toepfer and Jack Zillig. Present: 16. Absent-William Cooper. Absent: 1. Also present were County Administrator Dan Reimer, County Clerk Jean Dimke, Highway Engineer Steve Keeffer and Ron Passarelli, the County's attorney for union bargaining.

Mr. Passarelli informed the board that there were two contracts that have been ratified by the employees; the Highway Department employees and the Sheriff's Department employees. He said they are just waiting for board approval.

He said the Highway Department contract was close to county policy and it would be a 3-year contract retroactive to December 1, 2005. For wages, it show a minimum increase and 50 cents the second year and 45 cents the 3rd year. It also establishes an apprenticeship program, which pays a percentage of the wage. It established double pay on holidays and Sundays.

Board members on the bargaining committee said they felt this was a fair contract.

Steve Keeffer left the room at this time.

Mr. Passarelli said the Sheriff's contract was more complex. Some of the most negotiated talks were on Health insurance and wages. The union was very adamant about keeping the same benefits and costs for health insurance. They did agree to the county plan, but will have health reimbursement accounts. It will result in a \$5,000 to \$8,000 savings to the county.

He said the contract created 20-year step increase in pay for employees with longevity. It is a 4-year contract.

The union gave permission for the sheriff to share the results of the testing if he chooses to do so.

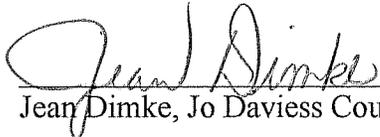
The consensus of the board was to accept both the Highway and the Sheriff's union contracts.

Mr. Passarelli informed the board that the command people in the Sheriff's Department have filed a petition to form a union. He said it is a little unusual for sergeants and lieutenants to be in unions since they normally act as supervisors.

He said it is up to the County to contest their right to form. He advised the board to contest it and that would buy some time to see how the new sheriff will operate the department. If the county does contest it, then a position paper would have to be filed with the State Board.

Dan Reimer left the room at this time. Merri Berlage passed out evaluation forms for board members to complete their six-month evaluation of County Administrator Dan Reimer. Merri asked the board to return them next Tuesday night.

The board exited closed session at 7:53 p.m.


Jean Dimke, Jo Daviess County Clerk