

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig

DATE/TIME June 20, 2018

PRESENT:

Don Zillig LaDon Trost John Lang Steve McIntyre
 John Schultz Ron Smith RJ Winkelhake

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others: Dan Reimer, Gary Diedrick. Mike Dittmar & Don Hall

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Zillig called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
2. **Minutes Approval** -
 - a) Steve McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2018 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by John Schultz and the motion passed.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** Dan Hall, Scales Mound and Mike Dittmar of Elizabeth made comments concerning Senate Bill 1657 and House Bills 1465, 1467, 1468 & 1469 and gave their reasons for opposing these bills and for supporting a Resolution opposing these bills. Chairman Zillig then suggested and it was agreed that we move item f) under Unfinished Business to this part of the Meeting while the subject was fresh in everyone's mind and would allow the speakers, Mike Dittmar and Don Hall to leave early rather than to wait around until the subject came up later in the meeting. Zillig said that the Board was waiting for a ruling from John Hay in order to decide how to proceed. R. J. Winkelhake said he was as looking at what was best for Jo Davies County. He also said that this being an election year, it is a good time to contact the various candidates and voice your opinions. Ron said at this point we don't know what if any of these bills will go thru and until then we should refrain from taking any action. Zillig stated that until we get an opinion from John Hay we're getting ahead of ourselves in making a judgement as to how to proceed. LaDon Trost said there is not one of these bills that would have prevented the "School Shootings". LaDon said he had talked to John Hay and Kevin Turner and was told if the last paragraph of the Resolution was removed, they would not have a problem with it (the resolution) but neither said they were supporting the resolution. Zillig felt that the County Board would possibly vote on the issue at the July County Board Meeting. He stated he doubted if he would be in attendance as he would be attending his granddaughter's wedding in Colorado. He stated that each Board Member should vote their conscience on the issue. He said he supported LaDon from the start would continue to do so. John Schultz expressed his opposition to the last paragraph making the County a "gun sanctuary county".. Dan Hall reiterated his feelings on the Bills and the rights of the Citizens. Steve McIntyre voiced his opinion and read parts of the 2nd Amendment pertaining to infringement. He voiced his opinion that much of what is taking place "down State" is "feel good" measures to make the legislators look good in that they are addressing the issues during an Election Year. He referred to the recent incident in Dixon that was stifled because of the action of the school's resource officer's action. individuals action. Steve said little has been said about the incident. John Lang said he opposed the "sanctuary" cities as he felt that you have laws, you have laws. LaDon felt the Telegraph Herald article was slanted against the "sanctuary" issue. Mike Dittmar brought up the history of the rights of the people to bear arms and gave a brief explanation of the 1st, 2nd and 4th Amendment. ". No one

seemed to know how our representatives voted on these bills. R.J. again voiced his opinion that we have to look at what's best for Jo Daviess County. 1." There was some question as to why John Hay hadn't been contacted by the Legislative Committee prior to the Board Meeting. Zillig said it was probably his fault and R.J. felt it was probably his fault. Steve McIntyre advised that the "Looking Glass" report is up to date. Zillig advised Dan Hall and Mike Dittmar concerning the purpose of the "Looking Glass" and its' accessibility.

4. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **FY2017/FY2018 Strategic Goals & Plans – Timelines/Responsibilities** - Nothing new to report on this item.
- b) **Prevailing Wages** – Chairman Zillig said possibly we should drop this Prevailing Wage issue from future meeting as it appears we're getting nowhere with the bill. He said he felt one of the problems is that lack of Representative Stewart having any co-sponsors on not only this bill but also the Public Disability Act giving the same benefits to part time Firefighters and Law Enforcement individuals as those received by full time employees. Zillig asked when you look at the bills listed in the "Looking Glass" report, where do you see just one name as sponsoring a bill. Zillig felt that in the length of time that Representative Stewart had been in office, he should have developed rapport with other representatives in getting their support. John Lange said he had confronted Mike McClary of the UCCI concerning their opposition to the Disability Act and got a lot of "double talk" explaining their reasoning. John said that UCCI receives much of their income from the sale of insurance. He also repeatedly contacted Stewart's office as to if Brian wanted John to come down to Springfield to testify and was finally told that bill wouldn't be called. John said he is suspicious on the entire handling of the bill. John said over the years he's had Legislators tell him there going to do something but never do just to get you of their back. LaDon told that he addressed the "Disability Act" with Representative Stewart at a 2meeting with the Sheriff's Association in attendance and was assured that he would support it and then something happened with the bill. John Lang said the Tony McCombie asked him to send her the information on the "Act" and she would support the bill. John sent the information to her but she never supported it. Zillig said from what he's seen and heard, he wonders if Representative Brian looks at any of what we send him. There was discussion brought up by Mike Dittmar regarding compensation they had given to a part time employee. There appeared to be confusion as to what was actually occurred in the Elizabeth situation. Dan Reimer said felt we should ask our Representative and Senator to attend our Legislative Meeting where we can talk about various issues that concern us as he feels this makes a good impression on them. We've had Senator Bivins and Representative Stewart attend one of our Legislative Committee Meetings a couple years ago and I think everyone would agree it was a beneficial meeting. It was also brought up that Mike Madigan decides what happens to the bills regardless of what our Representative wants. It was suggested that we invite the Representative and Senator sometime in January as we will have our new Board Members in place.
- c) **Highway 20 Discussion** – Ron Smith advised that IDOT is taking measure to make Hwy. 20 safer with shoulder improvements, turning lanes etc... Zillig said he heard they were

considering putting in a traffic light at Hwy. 20 and Barge Terminal Road. Steve McIntyre inquired the work on Gear Street. Ron Smith said that the project will take about 5 months and commented on the work that has already been done (gutters, curbs, water, gas lines, etc..) The State advised that they wouldn't be starting the Spring Street Project this year probably because of money. Steve made the comment that it appeared that Hwy. 20 would not be impacted this year. Mike Dittmar mentioned the monies that Elizabeth is receiving from the State, a \$49,000 advance on a grant for different projects that Elizabeth is undertaking. Zillig complemented Mike on the ongoing progressive actions being taken by Elizabeth

- d) **Update on Bills** – John Lang said House Bill 4822 would be of interest to some of the Board Members as it may save the County some money. The bill allows for Local Government to use an Electronic Notification System for government mailings. This bill has already passed both Houses as of May 24th. The 7 Billion Dollar deficit that Illinois has incurred was discussed. John advised that it appears that the State will be sweeping monies from various programs. Some of the Budget that passed is based on the sale of the Thompson Center ces. R. J. said that last Friday was the last day for the Township Accessors to get their paperwork in. R.J. said we were informed Wednesday or Thursday that two of the people had not turned in their paperwork. One was West Galena and other one was Stockton. In the case of Stockton, e-mails, phone calls, etc. were not responded to. Both were notified that the information was needed by the 15th. West Galena filed paperwork but were missing some information such as photos that were due two years ago. Donna Berlage is working with West Galena to get that work completed. A letter has been drafted to the accessor for the Stockton area and has been sent to the Township Supervisors and the Stockton School Superintendent because it has a profound effect on them as nothing, absolutely nothing has been turned in. Donna will have go thru and have to charge them and if they, the Townships, don't have reserves to cover the money they'll have to go out and borrow the money to cover their bills. The law allows Donna's office to do the work but it delays everything. Donna's office offered to help the Stockton situation but didn't receive any reply to the offer.
- e) **Special Tax Referendum** – Ron Smith said he doesn't have anything new to report and he is getting the same answers from Herman Bowdewes. Zillig said we could inquire concerning this at the UCCI Meeting in July
- f) **Discussion on a resolution opposing Senate Bill 1657 and House Bills 1465,1466, 1468 and 1469. THESE ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED IN CITIZENS COMMENTS UNDER SECTION 3 ABOVE**

5. **New Business – None**

- 6. **Legislative Looking Glass:** Chairman Zillig passed out copies of the current Looking Glass report and suggested the committee members look over the bills.

7. **Citizens' Comments:** See above under Section 3
8. **Board Member Concerns:** Ron Smith discussed the dates for the UCCI Meeting in July and Dan mentioned the need to reschedule some of our Meeting for that week.
9. **A motion was made by R. J. Winkelhake** and seconded by John Lang to move our meeting times from 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month to 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month thru and including the meeting scheduled for October 17th, 2018. The motion passed and the meeting times will be changed accordingly starting with the Meeting of July 18th, 2018
10. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. following a motion made by Steve McIntyre, seconded by John Schultz