

Legislative Committee Minutes
September 5, 2012

Committee Members present – Merri Berlage, Marvin Schultz, Daniel Scheridan, Bill Cooper, Terry Stoffregen, Margie Montelius, Kim Monk

Others Present – Don Zillig, Nick Tranel, Julie Jacobs, Kay Weibel, Delos Groezinger, and Rep. Jim Sacia.

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. Bill Cooper made a motion to approve the July 17th minutes, second by Terry Stoffereggen.

Prevailing wage - Blackhawk Regional Council representative Julie Jacobs was there and told the committee that they could help with support and help contact other counties. This will be helpful since we plan to resubmit our prevailing wage bill again to Rep. Sacia. Jim commented that the approach that we took in February was ground breaking. Having a Republican and Democrat agree and testify in front of the Labor Board was great. He felt that we need to recreate Bill 4537 and present it again. Merry noted that in our county some projects that people want to volunteer for even are affected because of prevailing wage issues. (Examples – DNR trails and Elizabeth park upgrade) The committee felt our idea of including other counties should be attempted again. Jim felt that if we had more examples like the ones we presented to the Labor Committee in Springfield from all over the state we may turn some heads. Even if a list of deferred projects were made to make the statement that this is what we could have done – had it not been a prevailing wage job, and our county could not afford to do it.

Rail Road Crossings – Don Zillig and Nick Tranel were in attendance and shared information that Don had com across in old deed search. A copy of the Fredrick Frentress deed from the Chicago Burlington Railroad had a statement in it that the underpass at Frentress would be able to “girth four teams of horses”. Copies of the documents were presented to Jim Sacia to see if this holds any water to reopen the underpass. All are hopeful that the 1885 underpass still is applicable. Don Zillig stated that he wondered about the Interstate Commerce and what about the citizen’s rights. Petitgout was shut down at one point because they were unable to get supplies due to blockage of roads. This affects their business and peoples jobs. Don asked if this issue would have any teeth with Zoning. Merri will contact Zoning Administrator and ask. Don Zillig is going to discuss this with the State’s Attorney.

Law Library – It was noted that the county spends thousands of dollars to keep the Law Library up to date. There was discussion on why we can’t get information via internet and provide a computer for access. Much discussion. Merri Berlage is to check with the State’s Attorney and Judge to see if they have

any ideas on how to save dollars or share this information. Merri will also check with the Sheriff to determine prisoner use of the Library.

Pension issue – “Looming Crisis” is what Jim Sacia referred to calling the prison issue he believed that it would be downgraded once again until the election is over.

Thompson Prison – Jim noted that the federal government is still dragging their feet on this one. Overtime for prison guards is running into \$45 million thru the state. “Lets just open it” Hopefully, the coming election will move this issue forward.

Merri informed the committee that she has been trained to administer the Action Alert site. Hopefully we can put something on by next meeting.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 16th 2p.m.