

Members Present

Mr. Bossert, Mr. Liehr, Ms. Bernard, Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Whitten, Mr. Tripp, Mr. LaGessee, Mr. McLaren, and Mr. Washington

Members Absent

Mr. James, Mr. Vickery, and Mr. Whitis

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- **Department Heads**

Lynn Mackin, Dick Campbell, Steve Beatty, Kevin Duval, Lori Gadbois, Bonnie Schaafsma, Bob Hart, Jamie Boyd

- **Others**

Ed Meents and Larry Williams

- **Media**

Leigh Marcotte and Dimitrios Kalantzis

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Bossert, at 9:00 a.m. Quorum present.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. McLaren and seconded by Mr. LaGessee. Motion carried with a voice vote.

4. Presentations

- **March of Dimes Jeans Day – Nicole McCarty**

Nicole McCarty came and gave a presentation on the March of Dimes organization and informed the committee on how important the organization has been to her personally and how instrumental it is in helping premature babies. She got involved with the organization five years ago and this is her fifth year as the co-chair of the local walk. They raised nearly \$50,000 last year and had 400 residents participate in the walk. She has a family walk team and a county walk team. This year's walk is Sunday, April 18, and there will also be a Jeans Day at the County on Thursday, April 1. Employees can wear jeans for \$2.00 on that day and they will receive a sticker that shows their support.

5. Legislative

Ed Meents reviewed and discussed with the committee the bills that have come out of committee in Springfield that pertain to counties. A copy of them will be placed in each of the County Board member's mailboxes.

Mr. Bossert stated that he wanted to bring a bill that pertains to cell towers to the committee's attention which is of particular interest to our county. There has been some legislation introduced to perhaps give counties better control over siting of cell tower locations. House Bill 4877 pertains to this issue and it has made it out of committee and is up for third reading. The bill has been amended from its original form, but it does seem to introduce some more control at the county level. Lisa Dugan signed on as a sponsor of that bill so it has bipartisan support and may well make it out.

Ms. Bernard asked if this bill would allow the county to be the ultimate decision maker on the permit.

Mr. Bossert stated that he is not sure about the ultimate decision making but it may involve some hearings and some public notice.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Bossert and Mr. Meents for bringing up cell towers at the UCCI meeting. She appreciates them doing that. She would like this body to show their support of this legislation by possibly writing a letter.

Mr. Bossert stated that perhaps until we know the details of the bill and know whether we fully support all the aspects of it we can individually contact our representatives.

Mr. Bossert stated that recently we got a communication from our other county organization, the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners, asking for support for a resolution. There has been talk in the Governor's budget about reducing the State's contribution from the pool of income tax revenue that is shared with municipalities and counties to the tune of about 30% of the allocation. Currently, there is a 10% distribution from that fund to locals distributed on a per capita basis. The proposal in the Governor's budget is to reduce that to a 7% distribution based on the theory that locals should share in the pain that the State is going through. He would point out that we are already going through some pain in terms of reduction in income tax revenue in total, as well as, sales tax revenue and all the other things that affect our budget. Illinois Association is asking for a resolution of support to ask that the legislature not go in that direction in terms of reducing our distributive share of that allocation. In round figures, it would affect the county to the tune of about \$800,000 if that were to happen.

Mr. Whitten made a motion to move this on to the full board for adoption and to forward it on to our elected officials and Mr. Tripp seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Washington stated that considering the number of unfunded mandates that we are operating under right now and that don't show any sign of decreasing he would be strongly supportive of this letter, as well as, asking for an increase in that fund rather than a decrease.

Mr. Liehr stated that at the UCCI meeting they did indicate that we need to speak loudly regarding this matter; even though, all the indications are that it may not have a lot of support. It is something that we really can't just take a risk on. We need to support this resolution.

Mr. Bossert stated that our resolutions do get read. Going back to our support of the Illiana configuration project, we adopted a resolution of support, as well as, every municipality in the county, which was forwarded on to our elected officials and IDOT. We have gotten responses back that people have read it and understand our concerns.

Mr. Meents stated that UCCI will not be meeting in April, but he will try to get a synopsis of the bills for the next Executive Committee meeting.

6. Information Services

Mr. Duval asked the committee if they had any issues when they switched over to the new email server.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she has had people tell her that they have emailed her but she doesn't receive them.

Mr. Duval stated that he would have to look into that. Because of both age of the equipment and because someone else put up another wireless unit, we lost the wireless connection that connects this building to the courthouse. He used another way to reroute us around, but at some point we may need to replace that in some manner. He would come back to committee because that is not something that was not projected into his budget. It is not a large amount and he would not need it every year. He doesn't need it right now but that could change at some point.

Ms. Bernard asked if Mr. Duval could check her account, also. It is no longer forwarding her emails.

Mr. Bossert asked Mr. Boyd if we should be forwarding emails off to a personal account or should we keep a business account that is strictly for business.

Mr. Boyd stated that the policy at his office is that they don't forward emails. He doesn't think it is a good practice only because some of the info that is being forwarded is probably sensitive or privileged at times. If they want to run the risk that somebody is going to be able to corrupt and get into their email and as long as they are not getting into our system, he is ok with it. It is their risk. In the FOI situation, he supposes that if we are directly forwarding to an email account it is certainly possible that someone could request the emails of that person's personal account in light of the fact that it is being used for government purposes.

Mr. Duval stated that they do not allow any K3 County employees to have their information forwarded on to their personal accounts. He didn't know if we had the right to tell the board members that, also.

Mr. Boyd suggested that a policy might be in order for that.

Ms. Schmidt stated that maybe Mr. Duval should come and physically show them how to navigate through the new county email system.

7. Health Department

Ms. Schaafsma stated that despite delays in payments they are holding their own with cash flow for now due in part to some of the lay-offs that occurred and cost-cutting in other areas. What they are hearing for budget year 2011 is that despite \$17 million in cuts to that department it looks like the three largest general revenue items that affect public health were kept at level funding, at this point,.

Ms. Schaafsma reviewed the County Health Rankings Report for 2010 with the committee.

Ms. Bernard asked what the schools were doing in regards to teaching comprehensive health education.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that it varies from district to district. Their health educator provides a lot of programming in the schools. It is taught in all school districts.

Mr. LaGesse asked if the Health Department works with the local schools with regards to menus and healthier food choices.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that it pretty much comes under the school's job. Some things being considered are letting school districts buy from local farmers which would be cost saving, as well as, make healthier choices available. Where her department tries to address the obesity issue is primarily through their WIC program. Vouchers are given for particular foods but it is tied to attendance at education classes.

8. Pledge for Life

9. Schools

10. Veterans Assistance Commission

The Committee reviewed the February 2010 VAC report.

A motion to accept the “VAC Report for February 2010” was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. McLaren. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. LaGesse questioned why the administrative costs are so high in the monthly expenditures column.

Mr. Campbell stated that he thinks what is causing this is that they have a lottery scratch-off grant for dental, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Those grants have been included in the administrative account. Also, they have fire, theft, and liability which are a considerable amount. He has applied for another grant for dental, eyeglasses, and hearing aids for \$45,000. He should know by the middle of next month what the status is on that. KCCSI applied for and received a huge grant from a TARP fund and out of that 1% is to go to the veterans. We received \$10,000 from that grant.

11. Personnel/HR Issues

Mr. Bossert stated that there is a new employee up in the administration area, Jennifer Mussman. She will be our FOI officer for this building, as well as, ancillary offices around this building. She will be a tort fund employee.

- **EEOP**

Ms. Mackin reviewed the EEOP report with the committee. This is a comprehensive document that analyzes our relevant labor market and our policy procedures to insure that we have the opportunity for full and equal participation of men and women in the work place regardless of race, color, or national origin.

Ms. Schmidt asked if these statistics influences whether or not we get grants.

Ms. Mackin stated that she is sure it would if we were completely out of line.

Mr. Bossert stated that the bigger point is that we have done the study and we have adopted the results of the study. We can't get federal grants unless we have adopted this.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that they are so heavily grant funded it is a requirement that we do the study and have a policy in place and that we are making our best effort towards equal opportunity employment.

Ms. Schmidt asked if we have to have things in place to show that we are trying to improve or do we give them an action plan.

Ms. Mackin stated that we do and it is included in this document. One of the things that they have done is to utilize the website more in order to get the job opportunities out there. They have also done the diversity training.

Ms. Schmidt asked if they could get a report every once in a while on how that is working.

Mr. Bossert stated that probably the test would be to go back and look at the prior EEOP and track these utilization percentages. It takes an enormous amount of work to put this together.

Mr. Washington stated that if we did not comply with this we could be eliminated from getting grants.

Ms. Mackin stated that we could lose our grants.

Ms. Bernard asked if Ms. Mackin was keeping copies of and charting applicants by the demographics that are required for doing this report.

Ms. Mackin stated that they do.

Mr. Bossert stated that you have to be careful about that. He is not sure you are going to know ethnic issues. You really only know male or female unless you bring them in for an interview.

Ms. Bernard asked if she is first charting number of applicants and then number of interviewed where you can actually meet the person face to face.

Ms. Mackin stated that she does not do all the interviews. Each department does their own interviews.

Ms. Bernard asked if there was anything prohibiting her from asking the departments to supply that basic demographic information of the people that they interview.

Ms. Mackin stated that there is nothing prohibiting it that she is aware of.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve the report and Mr. Liehr seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **FMLA**

Ms. Mackin stated that they are attempting to get through their policy and procedure book. Today she brought forth the Family Medical Leave. They updated it to some changes that were done in the beginning of 2009.

Mr. Bossert asked Mr. Boyd if we are adopting each of these individual policies as we go along or shall we hold off until we have a full policy manual to adopt.

Mr. Boyd stated that it would be his preference to do it in a full policy manual setting; however, given the nature of the FMLA he would ask that this committee consider passing the amended Federal Medical Leave policy of the County separate and apart of the others.

Mr. Whitten made a motion to adopt the amended FMLA policy and Mr. LaGesse seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

12. Administrative Issues

a. Reappointments/Appointments/Resignations

- Reappointment of James LaMotte to the Emergency Telephone System Board (911)
- Reappointment of Donald Beaupre to the K3 Valley Airport Authority
- Reappointment of W. Anthony Humble to the K3 County Housing Authority
- Reappointment of Hollice Clark to the K3 County Housing Authority

- Reappointment of Argusta Carter to the K3 County Housing Authority – tenant position
- Reappointment of Charles Parsons, Jr. to the Will-Kankakee Regional Development Authority
- Reappointment of Peter Viall to the K3 County Farmland Assessment Review Committee
- Reappointment of Greg Dralle to the K3 River Valley Area Airport Authority
- Appointment of Curt Ralston to the K3 River Conservancy District Board
- Resignation of Warren Ouwenga from the K3 River Valley Area Airport Authority

Mr. Whitten stated that he would like to cast a “no” vote for Hollice Clark at this present time. He thinks it is a conflict of interest because of the other jobs he is holding. He may change his vote at the board meeting but today he wants to vote “no” on Hollice Clark.

Ms. Bernard asked if Curt Ralston is currently on the River Conservancy District.

Mr. Bossert stated that he is not. There was a vacancy created due to a death and Mr. Ralston stepped forward. The pool of available applicants is very limited because you have to be a resident of that conservancy district which is one mile wide from Momence to the State line.

A motion to combine all of the reappointments, the appointment, and the resignation with the exception of Hollice Clark’s reappointment was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Tripp. Motion carried with a voice vote.

A motion to make the appointment and reappointments except for Hollice Clark’s reappointment was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. Liehr. Motion carried with a voice vote.

A motion to make the reappointment of Hollice Clark to the K3 Housing Authority was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. Liehr. Motion carried with a voice vote. Mr. Whitten opposed.

Discussion

Mr. Bossert asked Mr. Whitten if there was a conflict of interest that he is aware of in terms of an opinion rendered by a legal authority.

Mr. Whitten stated that as of right now he does not know. He will check it out and he may change his vote at the board meeting but today he would like to cast a “no” vote.

b. Openings

- One Opening on the Bourbonnais Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Grant Park Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Greater Momence Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the K3 Township Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Limestone Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Manteno Community Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Otto Township Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Pilot Township Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the St. Anne Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the Cabery Area Fire Protection District
- One Opening on the K3 County Board of Review

Mr. Bossert announced the openings listed above.

c. Resolutions

- **Declare Vehicle Surplus Equipment**

Mr. Bossert stated that the sheriff's department has an aged vehicle.

Mr. McLaren made a motion to declare that vehicle surplus equipment and Mr. LaGessee seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Intergovernmental Agreement for the Promotion of Tourism**

Mr. Bossert stated that the intergovernmental agreement in support of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau is up for renewal.

Larry Williams from the Bureau stated that this agreement has been a five-year agreement in the past but he is asking it to be a two-year agreement due to the economy and issues that have come up in the tourism industry. In 1983, the intergovernmental agreement was signed by five communities. The reason for allocating this 4% tax which is imposed on hotels was to promote tourism in Kankakee County. Tourism has a great impact on our community in ways of employment, bringing visitors to our County to spend their dollars, and to also make a great impact on our visibility and position in the State of Illinois. He is requesting that this be continued.

Mr. Washington made a motion to adopt the intergovernmental agreement and Mr. LaGessee seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Liehr asked who decides what kind of events are promoted for tourism.

Mr. Williams stated that what they try to do is promote signature events. The board is very involved in the decision making.

13. Old Business

- **Retention of Recordings of County Board Meetings & County Board Committee Meetings**

Mr. Bossert stated that in the interest of time we will defer this again. His intention is to bring back the start of internal policy in terms of the administration and perhaps even get into some board policies that may or may not be related. He would like to work on that for the next meeting and will bring forward some ideas in that area if that is acceptable to the committee.

Mr. Boyd stated that on the good news front he was notified yesterday that the Illinois Supreme Court denied the petition for leave to appeal on the Town and Country landfill which effectively stops all landfill litigation in the County of Kankakee. We will be leaving our file open for an additional 30 days for the possibly of a petition for leave to file the motion to reconsider which we do not anticipate either the petition or the actual consideration of such a matter by the Supreme Court. This is the best result we could have hoped for. He is pleased with what the Board was able to accomplish with outside counsel, with the help of the State's Attorney's office, over the course of many years. At this point, we are out of the landfill fight business.

Mr. Washington stated that he has been here through the entire fight and he would like to say on the behalf of all of the members present and past who have sided with him on opposing these moves that have been made against us that he is extremely happy and satisfied with the end result.

Ms. Bernard stated that this is excellent and it is awesome to see that this thing is DOA.

Mr. Boyd stated that the other news he has is the bad news. As the committee knows, he is very particular about not going into executive session on things unless it is absolutely necessary and after reviewing some recent events he has determined that it is not absolutely necessary for executive session. As you know, currently the County is negotiating several union contracts. They have made progress on many of them and in fact have reached an agreement with Highway that he believes has already been adopted by the Board. We are going possibly to arbitration on a couple of other matters and we are in mediation on one, for sure. The most recent meeting between the negotiating committee of the County Board and the representatives of the Teamster's Union who represent the Maintenance Department did not go well. He believes the committee was under the impression that we were very close to an agreement. Information was exchanged, offers and negotiations. Unfortunately, in response to the County's latest offer the representative of the Union, Mike DeGard, became verbally belligerent to the members of the committee and representatives of the County who were present, including Ms. Mackin. He used language that at a minimum is inappropriate whether you are in mixed company or not. As a result of that, he has no idea how to advise this committee or the negotiating team regarding what the status of negotiations on that contract is. He is not asking for any kind of reaction or suggestions from this committee rather just letting them know. This has been a long drawn out process with the Teamsters and he doesn't have an explanation as to why this occurred, but he wants to make sure that the committee understands that if they hear on the street that the County is refusing to negotiate or is in any way holding up negotiations, that is not the case.

Mr. LaGessee stated that he was on that negotiating team and has been on committees for 15 years negotiating all different contracts with different unions. This was by far the worse conduct he has ever seen from an official representing a union of the County. The language was by far the worse he has ever heard and was not fit for anyone. It was degrading and he was abhorred by it.

Ms. Schmidt asked what it would take for employees to switch unions.

Mr. Boyd stated that what she was talking about was called decertification and then recertification of another union. He can't openly discuss what those requirements are. He would never suggest to these people that they decertify their union. That is not the purpose of him telling this. Our union people are good employees. He doesn't want anyone to think that the behavior of Mike DeGard in any fashion is a reflection of our employees. It is really inappropriate for him to talk about how to get rid of their union. That is not what he is after.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she is saying that they may want to consider it if they feel that they being represented poorly.

Mr. Boyd stated that he didn't think that was something that she should ever suggest to them. In fact, that may be inappropriate. They are happy with their union and he is not suggesting otherwise. He wanted this board to be aware of an inappropriate situation so it didn't reflect poorly upon us.

Mr. Washington stated that there was an employee present representing the union negotiating group and that employee had absolutely nothing to do with the explosion that occurred with the union rep. We were under the impression that we were moving close. We had brought back a counter offer to the offer that they had made. We were offering some dollars in a limited form as much as we felt we could manage. This explosion took us totally by surprise.

Ms. Bernard asked which bargaining unit is represented by AFSME.

Mr. Boyd stated that it would be the Circuit Clerk and State's Attorney's Office. They met Tuesday and it was very productive.

14. New Business

Mr. McElroy stated that in checking up on the resolution that was passed by the County Board to oppose the Aqua Water rate increase; he periodically checks the ICC site. He checked it and they have filed their water rate increase and they have never served it on the County of Kankakee. They did serve it on the local municipalities that are involved. Four years ago, when this happened, they did serve us through the County Clerk. He will file our request for intervention, but he thought he should let the committee know what is going on. At some point, we may have to consider getting an expert.

Mr. Bossert asked what evidence is in the file online that they served.

Mr. McElroy stated that there is proof of service. It is all online for anyone who would like to look at it. The case number is 100194.

Mr. Boyd stated that for those who want to access it - it is the Illinois Commerce Commission and you can probably access it through the general State of Illinois website. The docket number is 100194.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Review of Executive Session Minutes – 5 ILCA 120/2(c)(21)**

Mr. Bossert stated that they need to enter into executive session. They have some more executive session minutes to clear out.

Mr. Boyd stated that this committee will be reviewing executive session minutes from the Executive Committee, the Personnel, Automation, Insurance Committee, and the Administration, VAC, and Legislative Committee because they all fall under the auspices of what this committee is today. There will no formal action after they come out of executive session except to approve the release of whatever minutes were agreed upon in executive committee.

A motion to go into executive session to review executive session minutes was made by Mr. Tipp and seconded by Mr. LaGessee. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays.

- **Release of Closed Session Minutes**

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve any of those executive session minutes not previously approved and to release all recommended minutes as amended (dated 3/26/09, 3/22/07, 4/19/07, 6/21/07, 6/22/06, 10/19/06, 7/21/05, 2/18/05, 3/18/05, 4/22/05, 5/20/05, 6/24/05, 8/19/05, 9/27/04, 10/25/04, 3/2/04, 5/4/04, 10/5/04) and Mr. Tripp seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

15. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:47 was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. McLaren. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mike Bossert, Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator