

Minutes

Members Present

Mr. Bossert, Mr. Tripp, Mr. Arseneau, Ms. McBride, Ms. Bernard, Mr. LaGesse, Mr. Hess, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Whitis, Mr. James, Mr. Vickery, Mr. Stauffenberg, and Mr. Washington

Members Absent

Mr. Olthoff and Mr. Tholen

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

Department Heads

Kevin Duval, Mike Van Mill, Bonnie Schaafsma, and Dick Campbell

Others

- **Media**

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 – April 28, 2011

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

4. Presentations

5. Legislative

Mr. Bossert stated that he handed out a condensed list of what UCCI handed out as local government issue legislation and where it is at in terms of status. House Bill 340 that pertained to the FOIA stalled out in the house committee and never got any further. He doesn't think it will surface at all during this session. House Bill 1293 regarding foreclosure sale authority did make it through the House and is up for second reading in the Senate. That is one the county governments and sheriffs; in particular, are opposing. There is some movement at the county government level to try and bring some pressure and not allow that one to move. Local government consolidation commission, Senate Bill 173, did fail so that particular legislation is done. However, there is a new bill that would create just a study commission that would have no ultimate authority to take any action. He guesses that one would pass with unanimous support statewide. Senate Bill 2194, the sales tax sourcing bill, was our big concern locally. That bill made it through the Senate and is now stalled out on the House side in the Executive Committee. The thinking is that it would be kept alive for the veto session this fall. At the same time, the opposition to that bill has turned into a rather strong coalition of the RTA (Regional Transit Authority) and some of the collar counties. All along there was a threat that the RTA would run their own legislation to try to introduce language that would favor how sales are sourced in the State and would take away some of the advantage that is constructed into these sales tax revenue sharing agreements. An amendment to Senate Bill 397 was introduced yesterday that would introduce some language that the RTA drafted over the objections of the coalition and Illinois Department of Revenue. At this point, there is a strong opposition to this bill from the Illinois retailers. It would create a lot of confusion as to how sales are sourced, which is going to be the point of contention throughout all of this. Our legislators understand the issue and are with the county and the city. It tends to be the Cook County representatives and senators who are sympathetic to the demands of the RTA and how they would want to see this happen.

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Mr. Washington asked why they are in opposition to it and how does the way it is constructed now hurt them.

Mr. Bossert stated that the legislation that was introduced in SB2194 would put into the statute the language that basically the regulations follow now in terms of how you determine where a sale occurs. The bright line standards have been developed through the years either through regulations that have been written or court cases. Where is the sale accepted? It is sourced at the point of acceptance of the sale. The litigation that the Department of Revenue lost in Putnam County drew the attention of RTA and the collar counties claiming that every retailer in the state is going to set up a shop downstate and they are going to steal billions of dollars from the high tax counties and ultimately the RTA would lose a lot of revenue. That is their objection.

Mr. Washington stated that it sounds kind of ludicrous because most of the sales of the organizations that are setting these up are not in any particular state because they are internet companies.

Mr. Bossert stated that there is some of that but more to the point – there are companies who need a single source site to make sales to locations around the state, rather than trying to source every sale to a particular location where it is delivered. The proposed legislation that the RTA has introduced would create a series of seven tests in determining where a sale occurs which creates a very complicated process which is what the retailers are so up in arms about. It is going to create more confusion than what there is now. We would be the only state in the Midwest that would have any such rules in place on sourcing sales tax. The City of Kankakee and the County are watching this very closely.

Mr. Vickery inquired about SB1921 “Local Government Distribution Fund Deposit”.

Mr. Bossert stated that the other major concern of the counties and cities is the manner in which the income tax revenue sharing is distributed and whether or not they are going to cut the distribution to local governments as a percentage of the whole pot. The governor even threatened to withhold distributions until the legislature came around to his thinking on borrowing money. Along the way, there was legislation introduced that would demand that a percentage of the income tax be deposited directly into the distributive fund and then back out to the locals so there is no delay, similar to what sales tax does now. Sales tax goes into a trust account and is distributed immediately back to locals. They were going to try to do the same thing with the income tax. He thinks it stalled out in the Senate and did not get any further. Anything that is still in the house of origin is probably not going to make it out.

Ms. Bernard asked if Mr. Bossert had any information on HB 0234 “Property Tax – Open Space Application”.

Mr. Bossert stated that he does not.

Mr. James asked what SB 1712 “Flood Protection District” is about.

Mr. Bossert stated that he has no idea. That would be another one to look up.

Mr. Bossert stated that on the Illinois Municipal League site there is some discussion about a House Bill giving municipalities additional tools to address abandoned property. Senate Bill 16 seems to have some legs and may make it. Also, there is a proposed constitutional amendment that would require any instrument of government who is increasing their pension benefits to have a 3/5's vote of those elected in order to adopt any measure that would increase a pension. A good example would probably be the ERI

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that this body adopted last spring. It appears that it will probably make its way onto the ballot a year from this fall. It would be a constitutional amendment question that would come up later.

Mr. Bossert stated that he learned Monday while he was down at the UCCI meeting that there was a slight change to the redistricting timeline. There was an extension of the deadline from July 1 to file a redistricting plan with the County Clerk to the regular county board meeting in July. He thinks our redistricting committee is on track to have a map ready for the June board meeting. Nevertheless, the extension is available in case we need it. The full description of the legislation discussed today is available if anyone would like a copy.

Mr. Bossert stated that budget bills are making the way through now. The rumor is that today there will be another state legislative map produced and the congressional map may be out today, as well.

6. Information Services

Mr. Duval stated that they are upgrading their wireless backhaul between the courthouse and animal control. He is using Dura-Tech Enterprises, Inc. who are the ones they have always used. The cost of the project is only \$5500 or \$6500 so it does not need to go out for bids. It is the backhaul that they used to have that connected them together, but it has been down for a couple of years. They found a way to route them around to do without it, but he thought it is time to get them back up. Their biggest demand, which will continue throughout the year, is building out the courthouse because of the multi-million dollar system that was brought in. They are building a wireless network that is not for the public; it is for the prosecutors and public defenders. That has been taking the majority of their labor; although, he believes that they have been able to answer every troubleshooting issue in a timely manner.

Mr. Bossert stated that he was invited to a meeting with some of our representatives from CMS. The Workforce Board happened to be our contact locally. The point that was being made by the representative from CMS is that ICN (Illinois Century Network) is upgrading the fiber optic backbone to the latest and greatest. Our community has an opportunity to tap into that and tout that as an asset. The quote he heard is that this is like a public utility that is available. It is a selling point for the community for industry, not just for residents who are surfing. We need to have a plan in place to capitalize on that and there is grant money available, meaning the stimulus funds. There is a major stimulus fund grant that is upgrading this backbone. There will be money available that could tap into that backbone and bring the branches of that internet out into the community.

Mr. Duval stated that last year he met with Sue who is the local representative for ICN and they had asked him to send a letter to them containing all the places that goes through ICN so they could get federal money to expand going down there which he did do.

Mr. Bossert stated that he thinks that this is the end result of that. They were successful and it is happening. They are pulling fiber optic now. This is our opportunity to tap onto that if we can come up with a local plan for industry for the community to utilize that.

Mr. Duval stated that DeKalb did something like that first and it could be tapped into but to get part of it you had to come up with matching funds – if you received \$100,000 you had to match it with \$100,000.

Mr. Bossert stated that the avenue for this might be Economic Alliance and Planning & Zoning. It is an interesting development that we will be thinking about.

Mr. Duval stated that there will be more demand for more bandwidth at the courthouse.

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7. Health Department

Ms. Schaafsma stated that she wanted to update the committee on what was reported in the newspaper last month. They have seen an increase in TB cases. Normally, they have either 0 or 1 case of TB per year; this year already they have 3 confirmed cases. The common factor in all of them is that there was some association either with being foreign borne or visiting a foreign country. TB had been pretty much under control in the U.S. but it is much more prevalent in many other countries. The latest case was an employee at a factory in Momence. When someone is a confirmed case, they begin a case study and look at contacts in their role to try to contain the spread of infectious disease. This instance involved testing not only immediate family but over 250 people at the place of employment. They first tested those who immediately worked with the individual and then at the request of the company tested the rest of the facility. The company was very cooperative with them and because they tested more people than they normally would have the company reimbursed them for the cost of the testing and subsequently some of the follow-up testing that was needed. Of the first 250 people tested, almost 20% reacted positive to the skin test. The way it works with TB is that if you have been exposed to the tuberculin germ somewhere and react positive to a skin test you are considered to have latent TB. It has not progressed to have full-blown TB disease but the germ is in your body somewhere. The next step was chest x-rays and of the 50 that had to have chest x-rays done another 20% of them had suspicious test x-rays and then had to progress to sputum cultures and smears. Fortunately, in this first round of testing they have not found any evidence of other confirmed cases but they have had to initiate prophylactic medication with the 50 that had reacted positive to their skin test to try to insure that they do not progress to the disease. They will go back in 8-10 weeks from the first time and retest everyone else because sometimes it does not show up right away. The 20% that reacted positive likely was not from the initial case that they saw, but probably from some previous exposure. They will continue to monitor that. The cost of medicating those individuals does fall to the health department which is one reason that they have always touted the need for reserve funds available because they are responsible for treatment and follow-up of individuals if there is a TB outbreak. They have recommended to both of our hospitals that they reinstitute yearly testing of their employees because it appears there is more exposure to TB or latent TB out in the community.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that they have embarked on a process for community needs and community health assessment. Every five years health departments in Illinois, in order to retain their certification, have to do a community needs assessment, identify health needs, and develop plans. That is part of what is called the IPLAN (Illinois Plan for Local Assessment of Need) and they are probably on the fourth or fifth five-year cycle for doing that. When they did it five years ago, they worked with both hospitals to use an outside entity to help them collect some of the data. They formed a community group and that was the process. They are doing that again only this time around they are using a process called MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). The partnership for healthy communities is made up of Provena St. Mary's, Riverside Medical Center, the Health Department, and this year United Way is working with them, as well. They are working cooperatively with the Illinois Public Health Institute. They are in the beginning stages and have formed a steering committee and she will keep the committee updated as they progress through that process. There are four different assessments that they will do in the community, outside of just data, that will involve other agencies and more people in the community and most likely someone from this body, as well. This should yield a very good amount of data that can be used and a good assessment of where our community is with regards to health and a plan that all agencies together can use. There is some cost but they are sharing that cost. She thinks it is a really good thing and they should have a really good product at the end of the process that they can use.

Mr. Washington asked what it would take to trigger mandatory testing for the hospitals.

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Ms. Schaafsma stated that they have started making it a mandate as much as they can. Dr. Kutty is their physician who handles their TB cases at the Health Department and he has sent a communication to the hospitals. She believes that they will reinstitute testing.

Mr. Stauffenberg asked if they knew what country brought it in to the U.S.

Ms. Schaafsma stated the common link among the three cases that they have is being foreign borne. They were not all from the same country. The cases at the facility in Momence were primarily from individuals from Mexico. There are many countries that you see it come from.

Ms. Bernard asked what the cost was of the antibiotic treatment and how long does it last.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that for the active case there is one regimen that depends on the case. She would have to check on the exact cost of that. With confirmed cases, it is a fairly labor intensive situation because they do directly observed therapy because of the increase in medication resistant TB which results from people not taking their medication. It is usually any where from a six to nine month regiment of medication and it is very individualized for the person. With contact cases, they do not do directly observed therapy but it is a several months of therapy. They went out to the facility and gave a group presentation to explain the therapy and what it entails.

Ms. Bernard asked if any of the people that tested positive were children or in contact with the school districts in K3 County. She asked how long they latent cases are followed.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that they were all adults. The family members of the confirmed case were tested. She was in contact with the school district with regards to this issue. The latent cases are given the prescribed length of therapy and are not tested again unless they appear to be symptomatic.

Mr. Vickery asked if the language barrier is a problem.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that the company provided translators.

8. Pledge for Life

9. Schools

10. Veterans Assistance Commission

- **Monthly Report**

The committee reviewed the monthly report.

Mr. James made a motion to approve and Mr. Vickery seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Campbell stated that they receive \$50,000 from the Illinois Lottery Scratch-Off Grant.

11. Personnel/HR Issues

Mr. Bossert stated that Ms. Mackin continues to work on the personnel handbook.

Mr. Bossert stated that the health insurance situation is being monitored and next month they may have some pricing information for the Finance Committee.

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12. Administrative Issues

a. Reappointments/Appointments

- **Reappointment of Jean Richmond to the K3 County Board of Health**
- **Reappointment of Ken Allers to the K3 River Valley Forest Preserve District Board**
- **Reappointment of Paul Mau to the Cabery Area Fire Protection District**
- **Reappointment of John Branz to the K3 County Convention & Visitors Bureau**
- **Reappointment of Larry O'Connor to the Minnie Creek Drainage District**
- **Reappointment of John Surprenant to the Minnie Creek Drainage District**

Mr. Vickery made a motion to combine and approve the six reappointments and Mr. LaGessee seconded it. Motion carries with a voice vote.

- **Reappointment of Don St. Germaine to the K3 County Board of Review**

Mr. Bossert stated that he is recommending the reappointment of Don St. Germaine to the K3 County Board of Review. Don's term was up in May and he is willing to be reappointed. He is a Mercer County Supervisor of Assessments but his experience in the position of the Board of Review over the last number of years, the banking world, and the real estate business lends some good experience to that position. The fact that our assessment process worked very well in the course of the last year is an indication that we have a good team right now. It is not unusual to have one county's Supervisor of Assessments serve on a Board of Review on another county.

Mr. Vickery made a motion to reappoint Mr. St. Germaine and Mr. Arseneau seconded it. Motion carried.

Ms. McBride asked about his resignation.

Mr. Bossert stated that he never resigned. There was some discussion in the winter that perhaps he should resign because he took the Mercer County position but when he attempted to do that the language was such that Mr. Bossert refused to take the resignation because he was making it contingent on some other action and that was not appropriate. As time passed it became apparent that it would work for him to continue to serve on the Board of Review and to be the Supervisor of Assessments in Mercer County. He continued to finish out his term and now it is time to reappoint or not reappoint.

Mr. Hess asked if anyone else applied for the position.

Mr. Bossert stated that he has the application that came in last winter from Dondi Mericle but in considering all the facts he is recommending Mr. St. Germaine.

- **Appointment of Vennis Voges to the Manteno Community Fire Protection District**

Mr. Bossert stated that this is an appointment to fill a vacancy created by a resignation of a former trustee. Vennis is a former trustee and well-thought of in the community and by the fire board. He is willing to serve out the remainder of this term which will be one year. He recommends this appointment to that position.

Mr. Hess made a motion to approve and Mr. Stauffenberg seconded it. Motion carried.

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- **Appointment to the K3 County Housing Authority**

Mr. Bossert stated that he is not prepared to make this appointment.

- **Appointment to the K3 Valley Airport Authority**

Mr. Bossert stated that the death of Don Beaupre created this vacancy. He has attached to the packet an application from Paula Jacobi. He thinks she will make a good candidate and is making the recommendation.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve this appointment and Mr. Mulcahy seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mr. Bossert stated that the board has hired a new manager for the Airport Authority and she will be starting next week. She will be making the rounds to meet the various boards and commissions. There is another opening on the Airport Authority because Mr. LaCost's term is up. He will be looking for an appointment for that position. Also, Mr. Buono has indicated that he would like to step down from the K3 County Health Board so there will be a vacancy there.

13. Information Items

- Letter from the K3 County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Mr. Bossert stated that this is an item of information. Their year-to-date numbers are up from last year in terms of revenue which might be a good sign if it is an indication that people are traveling and coming to our community.

14. Old Business

15. New Business

Mr. Bossert stated that yesterday two tornados touched down again in the Pembroke Township area. Nobody was hurt but some buildings were damaged. It was very close to the school. The issue of a lack of sirens in that township will come up again now. He had a call yesterday that there is talk that the county can merely sign a document and the money would be released and the sirens would be put up. That is not quite accurate. About three weeks ago, he was approached by the former mayor of Hopkins Park and was asked if he would be willing to sign a document that would assume the responsibility of a grant that has been authorized but never issued to put up the two warning sirens – a \$32,000 grant. He needed to see some more information about it so a follow-up conversation with DCEO revealed that yes the county could be the grantee and then gift the grants back to the community. He thinks that can be worked out with an intergovernmental agreement. We need to be clear on extra cost and ongoing cost but he thinks it can be done. The county can get involved and is willing to get involved but we need to have some procedures worked out as to how to get it accomplished.

Ms. McBride asked if he had talked to the new mayor.

Mr. Bossert stated that he spoke to him, also. We are probably waiting in part on a plan as to where the sirens would be placed and who will pay for operating cost, etc. He thought there was a donation of some equipment.

Mr. LaGessee stated that he heard that Bourbonnais donated their old sirens.

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16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:02 was made by Mr. LaGesse and seconded by Mr. Tripp. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mike Bossert, Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator