

Members Present

Mr. Bossert, Mr. Liehr, Ms. Bernard, Mr. Whitis, Ms. Schmidt, Mr. LaGesse, Mr. James, Mr. Vickery, Mr. McLaren, and Mr. Washington

Members Absent

Mr. Tripp

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- **Department Heads**

Kevin Duval, Bonnie Schaafsma, Mike Van Mill, and Lynn Mackin

Others

- **Media**

Leigh Marcotte

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 – September 30, 2010

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

4. Presentations

5. Legislative

Ed Meents reported on last weekend's UCCI seminar. UCCI and the counties are working on a medical plan which may be finalized in six or seven months. Reimbursements for the State's Attorney's salaries are probably going to stay about the same next year as they were this year. Also, the census should be completed by the end of January; the redistricting of the counties in the State has to be done by July 1, 2011. Within the County, the deviation of districts should be very small – something between 4% and 7% may be acceptable depending where those districts are located. Salaries for the county board members and elected officials have to be set well in advance of the election date. He gave Mr. Bossert a handbook pertaining to the rules of redistricting that the committee members can look at.

6. Information Services

Mr. Duval gave an overview of the county's website. He handed out a packet that showed some things that are on the website. This year there was a major redesign based on some ideas that Mr. Bossert and some of the board members had. They tried to simplify the number of clicks to get to things and tried to take out some things that people did not know how to navigate through; such as, drop down boxes. One of the simplest things that they did on the front page, which they have had a lot of compliments on, is they actually list all the departments in the county. Almost no other county site does that. The photos on the front page can be pulled off and populated if room needs to be made for other items. They also put in a site for "County News" and if the board members have something that they would like to put on it they can contact Mr. Bossert's office and if he deems it viable it can be placed on the website. This year every department has the ability to put documents on the website without going through any place else. On the front page there is a link that says "Online Documents" and when you click on that you will go to a subpage that will list them by topics of interest. You can also go to a specific department and get the documents

there, as well. If the committee has any more suggestions or ideas, they have to be within reason and Mr. Bossert has to okay them. The IT Department does not make those decisions.

Ms. Schmidt made a suggestion to put the Prescription Drug Disposal Procedure on the website to educate the public on it.

Mr. Bossert thought that it would be good idea to do that. Will County has a good link that explains to the public how to go about that.

Mr. James stated that instead of using initials we should probably spell out the words because the public may not know what they stand for. For example, ETSB stands for Emergency Telephone Systems Bureau.

Mr. Duval stated that is a minor change which can be made.

Ms. Bernard stated that she thinks a little bit of formatting may be helpful. She also stated that changing the photos seasonally would show that that the website is really being kept up. People are very image driven. She asked how much it cost to develop the website.

Mr. Duval stated that this year probably about \$4000 was spent. It is done as needed in smaller increments which accumulates over time. It was not decided in the beginning that \$4000 would be spend on it; that is just what it happened to accumulate to.

Ms. Schmidt asked if it would be feasible if each county board member bought their own laptop with the money that they get paid through the county and then everything could be done electronically instead of using so much paper, ink, paper clips, etc. She is just looking for ways to save money.

Mr. Duval stated that laptops can be brought to the meetings – there is wireless access. Presentations might be difficult to do because sometimes it is not known until the last minute what is coming and what format it is in.

Mr. Bossert stated that it would force us to be much more organized about having presentations ready to go a day before so they could be in the right format and be distributed to everybody. There is also varying degrees of computer skills amongst the board members. Furthermore, laptops batteries do not always last very long. There are no plug-ins for the laptops; we would have to wire for sound and electricity.

Mr. Duval stated that it would cost 10's of thousands of dollars to do that; there would be no cost savings. They have looked at it over the years and it will never be feasible. What it will do is make the meetings potentially run better. It is an excellent idea but it is not a cost-saving idea.

Mr. Bossert stated that he got a compliment from a banker this morning who really appreciated the tax search link that is on our website.

7. Health Department

Ms. Schaafsma did not have anything to report to the committee.

8. Pledge for Life

9. Schools

10. Veterans Assistance Commission

- **Monthly Report**

The Committee reviewed the monthly VAC report.

A motion to accept the monthly VAC report was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried with a voice vote.

11. Personnel/HR Issues

Ms. Mackin did not have anything to report to the committee.

12. Administrative Issues

a. Reappointments/Appointments/Resignations

- Reappointment of David Kohl to the Canavan Drainage District
- Reappointment of Ronald Blanchette to the Exline Creek Drainage District
- Reappointment of LeRoy Bauer to the McGillivray Drainage District
- Reappointment of Curt Ralston to the K3 River Conservancy District
- Reappointment of David Zack to the K3 River Conservancy District

Mr. Vickery made a motion to combine and approve the reappointments and Mr. Liehr seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

b. Openings

- One Opening on the K3 County Housing Authority
- One Opening on the Spring Creek Drainage District
- One Opening on the Snake Creek Drainage District
- Two Openings on the Raymond Drainage District
- Two Openings on the Ethics Commission
- Three Openings on the University of Illinois Extension Board
- Two Openings on the K3 River Valley Area Airport Authority

Mr. Bossert announced the above openings.

Mr. Bossert stated that the county board extension system is in the process of merging with Will and Grundy County. According to Beth LaPlante, we would probably keep separate budget boards. She has been named the Joint Unit Director of the three-county unit. There is still discussion over the location of the unit office.

Mr. James asked if this is one where we tax and pay for our portion of it and other counties don't.

Mr. Bossert stated that we have a tax levy that supports Extension and the issue and concern is that the other counties do not have a tax levy. They do contribute through other funds but they do not have a tax levy. Our county puts up proportionally much more funding in this combined unit than the other counties – that is the issue. We may not have a choice but we can express our concerns which we have done.

Mr. Bossert stated the K3 River Valley Area River Authority needs a couple members added to that board even though they have no function right now. It is just a place holder; it has no taxing power. The statute established a board and we had the opportunity to put someone on that board so until they do something one way or another someone needs to be placed on it.

Mr. Washington stated that it was placed in effect when there was hard campaigning for the airport to be in Kankakee County. They were hoping that if that happened then we would have representation even if it did go to Will County.

13. Information Items

Mr. Bossert reminded the committee that the IKO Midwest tour will convene here about 10:30. The bus will be out front or in the alley. This is an opportunity to go visit a factory that is actually a green grass site factory that was built from scratch here in town. Probably one of the few built here in the city over the last decade of two.

14. Old Business

15. New Business

Mr. James asked for a briefing of the Early Retirement Program (ERI).

Mr. Bossert stated that the Finance Committee endorsed participation in the ERI under IMRF. That issue will come to the full board at the next meeting. He has been trying to talk to the board members and show them the numbers. He put a packet in everyone's mailboxes on the county budget. That budget will be brought back to a Special Finance Meeting on Thursday, November 4, for review and to officially put it on the table for public review and then there will be a Special County Board Meeting on Friday, November 19, which will be set at the next County Board Meeting. The ERI is a complicated process to work through in terms of cost and analysis but the Finance Committee felt that in order to encourage employees that are nearing retirement to take advantage of that and to open the door for less tenured employees to retain their jobs it was worth the cost. We can nearly finance it with the cost savings within the retirement fund because of less staff. He wasn't prepared today to go through a big presentation but that is the issue.

16. Adjournment

**A motion to adjourn at 9:49 was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. Washington.
Motion carried with a voice vote.**

Mike Bossert, Chairman

Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator