

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mr. McLaren

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- **Department Heads**

Kevin Duval, Bonnie Schaafsma, Lori Gadbois, and Roger Diercks

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 – October 28, 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 legislative issues that were discussed at the UCCI meeting. One of the things discussed was the health insurance program. They have been working for the last couple of years on a combined health plan for the counties; they now have a proposal. There are three counties joining the new plan at this time with two additional counties joining January 1, 2011, but counties may join at any time. The budget director for Governor Quinn who was scheduled to talk about the budget got caught in the storm and did not make it to the meeting. Another subject that was discussed is what the Governor is going to do about the income tax; nothing has been decided as of yet.

Mr. Bossert thanked Mr. Meents for being our representative at UCCI for the past couple of years. Yesterday Mr. Bossert went down to Springfield to the Illinois Association of County Board Members session and they also had a legislative update session. The veto session was a prime topic. They also discussed Senate Bill 3538 which is the pension reform bill that is being pushed right now. The new changes that are being pushed in this bill for new participants after January 1, 2011, would increase the retirement age, increase the number of years it would take to max out, and put a cap on the salary considered in the pension. The other big bill that is being watched is House Bill 5055 which is the mortgage foreclosure bill. It made its way through the legislature but the Governor amendatorily vetoed it by changing an effective date. The opponents of the bill are hoping that that will effectively kill the bill. The counties in particular are opposing foreclosure modification because it would take the foreclosure process away from local government and give it to private industry. Stipends for elected officials may be cut back or eliminated. The Illinois Association is also talking about forming a health insurance co-op. A consulting group is working on that now. Right now we are pretty comfortable with what we are doing but will watch with interest what happens statewide with the health insurance issue.

Mr. Liehr stated that yesterday he testified before the ICC about the Aqua rate increase and expressed the opposition of this Board to that increase. It does appear that Aqua will not get the full rate that they have requested. We have gotten good support from the Attorney General on this.

Mr. Bossert stated that they are very close to making a decision. The talk is that the rate increase will probably be in the 17% range over the four years rather than the 22+% that was originally applied for. The ICC was meeting yesterday and it was an opportunity to appear before the actual body to make some comments rather than just a hearing officer. The Attorney General's office suggested that the ICC board does take into account the fact that people show up and actually testify to them. He asked Mr. Liehr if he would go up and make some comments on the behalf of the county and our community. He thanked Mr. Liehr for doing that.

6. Information Services

Mr. Duval did not have anything to report to the committee.

7. Health Department

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

Ms. Bernard asked Ms. Schaafsma for an update on the recent burning at the pallet company.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that reportedly burning took place and both the Kankakee Fire Department and the Police Department were there and did issue a ticket and took pictures. It has been reported on to the EPA.

Ms. Bernard asked if the EPA was going to go out there again.

Ms. Schaffsma stated that when the EPA go out there is no burning. What they are going to be relying on is the evidence that was collected by the Police Department and Fire Department. Citations for violation of the Open Burning Ordinance were issued.

Ms. Bernard asked for an update on the flu season.

Ms. Schaffsma stated that they have not seen much activity yet as reported by the hospitals. They have plenty of vaccine. Next week is National Family Immunization Week so they are taking appointments. It is offered widespread around the County at various venues – physicians, pharmacies, or at the Health Department. It costs \$25 but at the Health Department if an individual is eligible for Medicare then there is no cost to them because they bill Medicare for them, but they do not accept other insurances.

8. Pledge for Life

9. Schools

10. Veterans Assistance Commission

- **Monthly Report**

They have not met yet this month so the full report will be at next month's meeting.

11. Personnel/HR Issues

Mr. Bossert stated that they are progressing with changes in the County in terms of reduction in force and retirements. IMRF has been in the County to work with employees three times. The Early Retirement Incentive has not drawn out a large number yet.

12. Administrative Issues

a. Reappointments

- Reappointment of Leo Dumas to the Raymond Drainage District
- Reappointment of Gerald Wagner to the Raymond Drainage District
- Reappointment of Paul Marcotte to the Spring Creek Drainage District
- Reappointment of Ronald Sieling, Sr. to the K3 County Housing Authority

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

13. Information Items

14. Old Business

Mr. James asked how many employees are taking early retirement.

Mr. Bossert stated that he does not have that number with him.

Mr. Tripp asked when the final cuts were going to be announced. It looks like cuts were made in our office.

Mr. Bossert stated that he hopes that in a week we could circulate among the departments and get a report as to the status of staffing and what is happening. He did have to make a hard decision in his office.

15. New Business

16. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 9:29 was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Ms. Schmidt. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mike Bossert, Chairman

Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator