

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mr. Olthoff, Mr. Arseneau, and Mr. Tholen

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

- **Department Heads**

Kevin Duval, Lori Gadbois, and Mike Van Mill

Others

- **Media**

None

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 – November 22, 2011

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

4. Presentations

5. Legislative

Mr. Bossert stated that there has not been much activity in Springfield over the last month.

Mr. Bossert stated that we belong to three county organizations here in Illinois plus the national. NACo is our national umbrella organization which cost us \$2100 a year. UCCI costs us \$3500 up front but because of the rebate arrangement that they have with the counties we get it all back which makes it free. Actually, we make money on the deal. IACO (Illinois Association of County Board Members) is a \$1600 membership and then our most recent membership is Metro Counties which is a group of 15 of the larger counties in the state including Cook, Dupage, etc. They asked us to join as it is invitation only and it cost us \$3600 a year. Metro Counties is probably the most aggressive in terms of putting forth an agenda and he doesn't feel that it hurts us at all to have a seat at the table with that group. Any one county in that group can veto a position and force the group to stay neutral if there is an objection to a legislative initiative. He asked the committee how they felt about the NACo membership. They get a newsletter every other week from them and email updates on national issues. Is it worth \$2100 to the county?

Mr. James stated that he reads it all the time and he doesn't think that there is that much significant information in it. What do Metro Counties have to offer?

Mr. Bossert stated that it is a lobbying organization and that is their focus. Basically, membership dues go into a pot of money and a legislative advocate is hired who watches the bills. They break down every bill that is going through that affects local government and informs the group of what is going on and asks if there is a position. For a number of issues that come up, the position is automatic such as anything infringing on local government or unfunded mandates. They know that we are going to have a position on that. There are some that they have to have a talk about. Our sales tax issue is one of them. We are at

Minutes

odds with several of the counties on that particular issue. It is not cheap to put a lobbyist on the ground in Springfield. In the past we have shared lobbying efforts with other organizations. Now they have made the move to hire one who will dedicate her time to this county organization. By the time you hire a person, and benefits, and rent some office space to do it right you spend \$150,000 a year and when there are only 15 counties sharing the cost it is going to get expensive.

Ms. Bernard stated that we have three state organizations and she sees a little bit of redundancy there. NACo is the second to the last cheapest at \$2100. She enjoys reading the newsletters. She thinks that they offer a lot of valuable information and different ways that we could approach things. Given the fact that we are going to be having tighter budgets, we need to start looking at ways to be more innovative. Also, she thinks it is important to keep our pulse on what is going on nationally. She thinks it would be wise to keep NACo because eventually we are going to have to start looking at outside resources. She is personally opposed to having to join the "play to pay" game by having to pay for lobbyists. She would scrap the Metro Counties. Why pay so they can have a lobbyist? We already have two state organizations that we belong to that address state issues. She thinks it would be wrong on our part to join a third state organization and completely cut the federal picture out.

Mr. Bossert stated that he was thinking of dropping the Illinois Association of County Boards. He also feels there is some redundancy. He really would like to give Metro Counties a try. He would be careful about characterizing memberships in this organizations as "pay to play". This is strictly personnel whose job it is to monitor legislation and testify when necessary at committee meetings and to keep the membership informed as to what is going on. None of this money goes to campaign organizations or anything like that. He is not looking for a motion just some discussion.

Mr. Washington stated that he wonders how many issues would come up where we would be sitting on the opposite side of the larger counties; such as, the tax issue. As a result, we would be supporting them and they wouldn't be supporting us in the issues that arise. It has been this way for some time. The smaller counties get pushed down and the larger counties get their way. It is kind of an iffy situation to say that we would be treated as equal partners.

Mr. Mulcahy questioned whether we would have the opportunity to veto and go against the big counties if it only takes one county to pull it off of the table.

Mr. Bossert stated that that is how he understands it. We are fairly new with this organization and to how the bylaws work. To him, just being in the room and being part of a discussion is valuable. Sometimes it is the chance to visit over issues that are not even legislative.

Ms. Bernard stated that she kind of agrees with Mr. Washington because even if we have veto power they are still going to get it done. Cook County has a lot of muscle. Unless we are part of the RTA and working together regionally for transportation, she really doesn't see a lot of commonality there. To her, IACO is a bargain at \$1600. She doesn't think that we need to be a part of Metro Counties. These other organizations will keep their ear to the ground on the issues.

Mr. Vickery stated that he would like to see us at the table with Metro County because of the Illiana that is being planned and the airport. Those are issues that we need to have all the influence that we can and the only way to have influence is to be involved in the group.

Mr. Bossert stated that they would take it under advisement and bring it up later in the spring.

6. Information Services

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

7. Health Department

Ms. Schaafsma was not in attendance.

Mr. Bossert stated that last month the issue of a mandated creation of a mental health advisory committee was discussed. Statute require that such a committee be formed and named by January 1. He did have a visit with the director of the Helen Wheeler Center who brought up the issue and they had a conference call with Ms. Schaafsma. The statue is mandating that a committee be formed; although, it would have no taxing power and it seems that their sole job is to evaluate the local mental health services that are available and provide a report to the county board. It is a seven person committee so as they were discussing this and looking around for various groups to provide some input several were discussed. The Helen Wheeler Center, mental health units in our hospitals, our Health Department, the judicial branch, law enforcement, and education are some of the groups that he will be looking at to find seven people to sit on this committee. He doesn't think that the board has any involvement other than receiving a report at some point in the future. Statute states that the county board chairman makes the appointment and he will inform the board when that is done.

8. Pledge for Life

9. Schools

- **Resolution Appointing Gregg Murphy to Fill the Vacancy of Regional Office of Education**

Mr. Bossert stated that this resolution is for the board to appoint Gregg Murphy to fill the vacancy of the Regional Office of Education. The statute lays out a very detailed process for the county board chairman in the affected counties to vote based on a weighted vote and then make the appointment. However, the election code is in conflict and has language about the county boards (plural) shall appoint a multi-county position so to be safe Iroquois County and Kankakee County will each adopt a resolution and ratify this appointment.

Mr. Hess made a motion to adopt this resolution and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Ms. Bernard asked if they had to have a doctorate to have this position.

Mr. Bossert stated that they do not. They have to have an administrative certificate.

10. Veterans Assistance Commission

- **Monthly Report**

The committee reviewed the monthly report.

Ms. Smietanski stated that this is their fiscal year-end report. The month of November was down a little bit. Their emergency cash and claims totaled \$45,110.10 for the year. Their total budget that they spent over the year including the administrative expenses was \$150,154.74. They are looking into producing some other reports which she may have at the next meeting.

Ms. Smietanski stated that they are going to post the superintendent job December 30 through January 10. It will be going in the newspaper this weekend.

Mr. Washington made a motion to accept the reports and Mr. Tripp seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

11. Personnel/HR Issues

There was nothing to report to the committee.

12. Administrative Issues

a. Reappointments/Appointments

- Reappointment of Calvin Heisner to the Canavan Drainage District

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

- Appointment to the Kankakee County Housing Authority

Mr. Bossert stated that this is being pulled from the agenda. It will be taken up next month.

- Appointment to the Kankakee County Board of Health

Mr. Bossert stated that Linda Faber stopped him at a function and said that she would be interested in this position. She served on it when she served on the county board about six years ago.

Mr. LaGesse made a motion to approve the appointment of Linda Faber to the K3 County Board of Health and Mr. James seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

b. Openings

- Four Openings on the Bloom's Grove Cemetery Association
- One Opening on the Emergency Telephone System Board (911)
- One Opening on the Will-Kankakee Regional Development Authority

Mr. Bossert announced the above openings.

c. Request from Kankakee County Historical Society

Mr. Bossert stated that the Historical Society is asking for permission to reprint the book "Of the People" which was published in 1968 back when it was the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has the copyright on the book. He thought that he better get board approval to allow them to do that. The only caution that he heard is that the State's Attorney cautioned that we needed to make it clear that it will be reprinted exactly in its current form and no alterations to the language in the book. He is not for sure if a resolution is needed.

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

Mr. James asked if there is a cost to it.

Mr. Bossert stated that there is no cost to us. They are only asking for our permission since we have the copyright to it.

d. Approval of Laborers'-Local #751 Contract

Mr. Bossert stated that this is not ready yet. He stated that they did have a bargaining session last week before Christmas and they are expecting to have a document ready shortly.

13. Information Items

Mr. Bossert stated that it is now required of all appointed and elected officials to complete the Open Meetings Act training. He is defining that as any board that must post an agenda and is subject to the Open Meetings Act. Every board member has to go through this training. Any person who is sitting in their position right now has a year to do this; any new office holders that come on after January 1 only have 90 days to complete this training.

Mr. James asked if it has to be done yearly.

Mr. Bossert stated that it appears that in the case of elected officials it has to be done once during their term of office.

Mr. Vickery asked if it could be set up in the back room where enrollment is done.

Mr. Bossert said that that may be able to be done.

Ms. Bernard asked if it could be taken at a remote location.

Mr. Bossert stated that it can be done at home; it does not have to be done here. If it is done at home, a copy of the certificate should be turned in so we can keep track of who completed it.

Mr. Bossert stated that next week there will be a Special PZA meeting on Thursday, January 5. The purpose will be to advance the enterprise zone application that is in addition to the one that we passed earlier. The enterprise hearing was held a couple days ago and in order to have it ready for the full board meeting on January 10 we need to address it before that date.

Mr. Bossert stated that he handed out a report from the Convention and Visitors Bureau for the committee's information. Be aware that probably in the near future we will probably be up for a renewal of the intergovernmental agreement with the other communities on the Convention and Visitors Bureau. We follow the lead of the villages on this. The county really has no skin in this other than we are the collector of the money and disperse the money back to the bureau. By statute, we have to do that.

14. Old Business/New Business

15. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 9:30 was made by Mr. LaGessee and seconded by Mr. Mulcahy. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mike Bossert, Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator