Members Present
Mr. Kruse, Ms. Barber, Mr. Graves, Mr. James, Mr. Meents, Mr. Marcotte, Mr. Nicholos and Mr. Whitten

Members Absent
Mrs. Lee

In Attendance
Mr. Martin, David Cagle, Ed Smith, Richard Campbell, Ed Piatt, Dennis Vercler, Chad Miller, Curt Saindon, SteveMcCarty, Mike Watson, Karen McGregor, Rick Einfeldt and Brenda Gorski,

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

2. Public Comment
   None

3. Approval of Minutes
   A motion was made by Mr. Marcotte seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of September 7, 2004. Motion carried.

4. VAC: Richard Campbell
   The committee reviewed the Monthly Report. A motion was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Mr. Nicholos to approve the Monthly Report. Motion carried.

5. School Financing Reform
   Mr. Saindon stated that back in July the Senate Education Committee began a process of conducting hearings throughout the State. He received yesterday a spreadsheet from a group called the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. The property tax payers in Herscher School District would realize almost a 2 million dollar property tax rebate, in Kankakee it would be over 3 million and Bradley-Bourbonnais would be 5 million dollars if the law went in to effect. It would raise the foundation level of State support to 50%. He is asking for this committee’s support of House Bill 750 and Senate Bills 1 and 2 that include this legislation. Kankakee School District supports this in hopes that the some type of tax structure form can move forward.

   There was discussion regarding the State Budget for Education and House Bill 750 by Mr. James, Mr. Nicholos, Mr. Saindon, Mr. Meents, Mr. Martin, Ms. Bernard, Ms. McGregor and Mr. Graves.

   Mr. Vercler, from the State Farm Bureau, stated, “This discussion has been going on for decades. The concepts are based on a simple idea and that is that property tax is a weak tax for funding public education. The Farm Bureau
came to this issue because they saw in the mid 80’s that tangible wealth was not going to get us where we needed to go towards education. The question is what does the Kankakee County Board do? What you can do about this is make your concern about this issue heard to the Legislature and the Governor. This will only get solved when there is sufficient pressure. Is this committee going to recommend to the County Board to express their feelings about House Bill 750? I would suggest that you have the County Board endorse the principles of this collation. The collation has committed itself to five principles.”

Mr. Kruse stated that something needs to be done and we need to move.

A motion to accept the proposal of Mr. Vercler, to join the A+ Illinois collation was made by Mr. Meents and seconded by Mr. Marcotte. Motion carried.

A motion to go to old business was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Marcotte. Motion carried.

6. Malpractice Insurance Reform Update

Mr. Kruse stated, “I attended a meeting in Will County last week with their legislative committee. They are really pushing forward on that particular subject that is down in front of Springfield also. They did have a number of their doctors in talking about what it is costing them, particularly when it gets to the head injuries. I think that there is only one neurosurgeon possibly left there; South of Springfield there are no neurosurgeons left in the State. This is becoming another item that the State Legislature is going to have to deal with because we are losing doctors rapidly. They are going to have two more meetings in October and they are going to make a recommendation and pass some type of resolution onto their County Board. I will keep you updated on what they are doing. The City of Kankakee is also dealing with this topic right now. They are looking at the City of Carbondale’s ordinance, limiting some of the dollar amounts that have been given. The City of Kankakee is looking at that to see if they want to pursue that ordinance. I will also keep you updated on what the City does.”

7. Recommendation for Ethics Advisor

Mr. Kruse stated, “This is one of the things that we need to be dealing with as far as the new ethics ordinance is concerned. I am going to recommend that the State’s Attorney be our Ethics Advisor since he is actually our advisor on other matters anyway. I would make that recommendation and pass that on to the full County Board.”

A motion to recommend the State’s Attorney as the Ethics Advisor was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. Marcotte. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith stated that he would be happy to serve as the ethics advisor.
8. **Ethics Committee Update**

Mr. Kruse stated, “There is a number of people who are interested in the committee but because of some of the things that Mr. Smith has just outlined I am not ready to make any recommendation right now.”

Mr. Nicholos wanted to know if we can give the Chairman another month or two to make his decision regarding this committee. Mr. Smith stated that there is a six month time frame spelled out in the ordinance.

Mr. Meents would like to recommend that we take final action on this at the November meeting.

9. **Resignation of Mark Benoit**

A motion to accept the resignation of Mark Benoit was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried.

10. **Buy Local Hire Local**

Mr. Kruse stated, “We have adopted the ordinance supporting Buy Local Hire Local before. October is the month that they designated for their Buy Local Hire Local month.”

A motion to adopt October as the Buy Local Hire Local month was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Mr. Nicholos. Motion carried.

11. **Recognizing the volunteers who went down to Florida**

Mr. Kruse stated, “We did have 12 people who went down to Florida through the FEMA program, we still have three people down there until December. We thought that it would be a good idea to go ahead and have some resolution recognizing those people who went down to help during the emergencies that were created by all of the hurricanes that were going through. We do have a list and we will pass that along so that there is a copy with the resolution.”

A motion to recognize these people was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. Whitten. Motion carried.

12. **Supervisor of Assessments**

Mr. Kruse stated, “Every four years we have to go ahead and appoint a Supervisor of Assessments. That was just brought to our attention again. Sheila Donahoe is the current Supervisor of Assessments, she is at school today otherwise she would have been here. I am going to strongly recommend that we go ahead and reappoint Sheila for the next four years.”

A motion to appoint Shelia Donahoe as the Supervisor of Assessments was made by Mr. Meents and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried.
13. Executive Session – 5 ILCS 140/7- Review of Executive Session Minutes
A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Marcotte and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

A motion to open the executive session minutes for the opening of the Convention of Visitors Bureau interviews and the executive session 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) concerning Myron Diefenbach and Jeannine Wulff was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried.

A motion to keep the other portions of the executive session minutes closed was made by Mr. Nicholos and seconded by Mr. Meents. Motion carried.

14. Old Business
Mr. Strickland stated, “Sometime ago we were asked to try to identify opportunities for Kankakee County to remediate the waste tire situation here in the County and to look at what might be creative ways of using those tires in sort of a value-added opportunity, whether that might be to create rubber for roads and infrastructures or whether to use that process for creating an energy source that could be used for recycling of other materials. Our idea was that because the State of Illinois had issued a number of proclamations about Kankakee County relating to its concept of Team Illinois and a Program called Opportunity Returns that there was an opportunity with the State that existed and that specific attention was being focused on Kankakee County and that specific funding might be made available for such an effort. We did publish a request for proposal that asked vendors who had ideas to come forward, and we received two responses. Through an evaluation of people, both of ours and people at the State, for various reasons there were strengths to each of the proposals and there were weaknesses to both of the proposals but in the end the money that was going to be required to make either of these or any other project really go was more than I think that the State was prepared to take on. We have maintained regular contact with the State and although the engagement between the County of Kankakee, myself and Gardner, Carton and Douglas has formally come to an end, I have continued to work with Chairman Kruse and continue to be available to people of the County of Kankakee to try to continue to identify funding sources that would address the tire problem. I am pleased to be able to have a continued relationship with you and I do that just because I think that there is a lot of opportunity ultimately and hopefully at some point in time we will be able to secure the kind of funding that will move things forward. I will say that on the Tire Recycling Programs of the State, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity did operate a program that has since been in essence zeroed out. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency maintains an active tire program. IEPA is aware of the challenges of Kankakee County, IEPA is
anxious to come here and visit with leaders of the County, individuals in communities and anyone who can identify tire difficulties, tire problems, tire sites, they have not only the funding, they have the mandate and they have the willpower right now to address that. The gentleman’s name in Springfield is Todd Marvel. I also spoke to the Kankakee County inspector who had been to Sun River Terrace not long ago and they have each expressed a great willingness to come to Kankakee County to go out into the field and take a look at sites and through their fund that they have operating address as many tire situations as they have time and energy to. That is where we are right now.”

Mr. Martin wanted to know if we have gotten a written report from Gardner, Carton and Douglas. Mr. Strickland stated that he would get that report.

Mr. Kruse stated that the money did come out of the Tipping Fee and not the tax payers’ money.

Mr. Meents wanted to know if the State is looking at centralizing tire collection facilities. Mr. Strickland stated that he would look into that.

Mr. Kruse would like to recommend to Finance at some point in time that this would be probably a good expense out of the Household Hazardous Waste Fund that we have with our other agreement with Waste Management.

Mr. Kruse also stated that there are still some dollars that we are still trying to go after from Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park and that is for their water and sewer. We are still trying to go after a couple of million dollars.

15. New Business
- One opening on the Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission

There is now one opening on Minnie Creek Drainage District.

Mr. Nicholos stated that he has received calls concerning the off ramps at the Manteno interchange. Mr. Kruse stated that it has been brought up at the Highway Department and they are taking care of this issue.

Mr. Meents stated that UCCI is going to be sponsoring seminars in November and December pertaining to tax and tax policy, streamlining government, conflict management and public budgeting. He would like to make sure that copies of the seminars are passed out to each of the board members.

Mr. Kruse stated, “We did get reimbursement back from UCCI for the various things that Mr. Meents does, I believe that it was part of the UCCI program.” Mr. Meents stated that for each meeting that he attends the County gets back $250.00; his per diem is $40.00.
16. **Adjournment**

   A motion was made by Mr. Marcotte and seconded by Mr. Nicholas to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Motion carried.

Karl Kruse, Chairman

Stephanie Gresham, Executive Coordinator