

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2005**

**Meeting Rm. 1, Brookens Administrative Center**

**1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Betz, Beckett, Busboom, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Putman, Wysocki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Moser

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey (County Administrator), Denny Inman (County Administrator), Tim Breen (Information Technology), Curt Deedrich (Supervisor of Assessments), Joe Gordon (Court Services/Probation Director), Susan McGrath (Office of the State's Attorney), Mark Shelden (County Clerk), Scott Tapley (County Board Member), Mike Munson (Press)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the agenda and addendum for the meeting; seconded by Putman. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the regular session minutes of November 9, 2005; seconded by Knott. Motion carried.

Feinen entered at 7:05 p.m.

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the closed session minutes of October 5, 2005; seconded by Wysocki. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Scott Tapley addressed the committee as a citizen and not as a County Board member because of a conflict of interest regarding the pending litigation he has against the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District. Tapley said he understood that Wysocki had made a decision concerning the appointments to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District and he thanked her for sharing that information with him. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to address them. Tapley stated the C-U MTD is desperately in need of reform. He said many other members of the public also felt reforms were needed and this could be seen in letters in the newspaper and calls to WDWS. Tapley said he voted to approve George Friedman's appointment to the C-U MTD a few years ago. He did not vote to approve Vicki Stewart's appointment to the C-U MTD for other reasons. He does not regret voting in favor of Friedman at the time because there was no \$200 million trolley project, no \$2 million GPS system project, no forced annexations, and no insensitive comments were being made by Friedman or Bill Volk, Executive Director of C-U MTD. Tapley stated that he posted a picture of a travel voucher from Bill Volk on the Illini Pundit

website. Volk spent \$831.53 to fly round trip to Florida in one day to attend a retirement party. Tapley stated this was indicative of how out-of-control things are at the C-UMTD. Tapley stated the only way any reforms can be started at the C-U MTD is for board members to start being replaced. He appreciated that the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee provided an extra month to recruit some C-U MTD Board applicants from the newly annexed areas. Tapley can understand why Wysocki made the decision not to make any appointments to the C-U MTD tonight, but he was disappointed as well. He does not see how any reform will occur without replacing C-U MTD Board members. Tapley stated he thinks the public is crying out for the County Board to hold the C-U MTD Board accountable.

Tapley asked for permission to ask McGrath a legal question. Beckett and Feinen requested the Chair suspend the rules for a question. The Chair suspended the rules. Beckett stated, as a point of order, if Tapley was speaking as a citizen and not a County Board member he should choose his words carefully. Tapley thanked Beckett. Tapley asked about Friedman's and Stewart's terms on the C-U MTD Board. McGrath stated the term length is five years by statute. With the C-U MTD appointments, the incumbent continues in the position until he or she is replaced. This procedure is the same with all appointments made by the County Board. Tapley asked at what point is there an issue with the County Board not making a new appointment after an appointed term has expired. He asked if the incumbent could continue in the position for ten or fifteen years until a new appointment is made. McGrath stated, to her knowledge, there are not a lot of cases that talk about when a board or council is bound to replace an appointee to another board or outside commission. She said the expired term should not continue for a lengthy time, as a matter of practice. In unique situations, such as this, when members of the public have applied for the potential positions and may, or may not, be eligible to serve within a finite period time, it is a reasonable legal justification for the County Board to defer appointment until that particular outcome has been resolved. In this case, the outcome is the referendum. The appointments of George Friedman and Vicki Stewart will continue until March or April, after the referendum issue has been decided. This is not unreasonable, so long as the County Board is expressing its intent to look at new appointments in either March or April.

Tapley stated his concern is about the litigation that could continue if the referendum passes and a new Champaign Southwest Mass Transit District is created. McGrath stated if the referendum passes, a new district is created and is subjected to legal challenge; the person who lives in the new district would not be eligible to serve on the C-U MTD Board. Tapley asked how much longer would be a reasonable period of time for the C-U MTD Board appointments to be made, since that obstacle would be gone. McGrath explained Wysocki has stated her intention to bring the appointments to the County Board as soon as possible after the referendum has been decided. So long as that is Wysocki's stated intention, it is a reasonable expectation for the County Board to know the appointments will come back soon after the referendum issue has been settled.

Tapley thanked the committee members for allowing him the opportunity to address them. Beckett asked Tapley if he expected the referendum to pass. Tapley said there is a fair expectation the referendum will pass because more than half of the registered voters in the district signed the petition to create a new mass transit district. Beckett asked about Tapley's statement about "something like an overwhelming majority of citizens wanting reforms on the C-U MTD" and where the basis for this characterization comes from. Beckett has read the letters to the editor and they seem to be coming from the same area of town. Other letters support the C-U MTD. When speaking with his constituents, Beckett has not heard the same response Tapley referred to. Tapley said his information is obviously anecdotal. He does not have any polling data to support his conclusion. He has received calls, emails, and checks from citizens urging him on. The people who have contacted Tapley have spoken against forced annexations. Tapley believes there is a large number of people who support the referendum. He said there may only be a vocal minority, but he does think there is support for an elected MTD Board.

Fabri entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Tapley commented that his characterization of an overwhelming majority in favor of the referendum might be overstating it, but he would wager it is a plurality of the people in the C-U MTD. Beckett said he felt it might be

an overstatement, though he respects Tapley's views and understands Tapley strongly holds those views. The issues are troubling for all. Tapley stated this is not about his agenda and someone does not need to completely agree with his issues to think C-U MTD could use some reforms. Tapley concluded Beckett's comment about the overstatement was fair.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Beckett to receive and place on file the County Clerk's monthly report for November 2005; seconded by Fabri. Motion carried.

### **COUNTY BOARD**

#### **Appointments/Reappointments**

#### **Champaign County 377 Board**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to accept the resignation of Deborah Frank Feinen as Board Liaison to the Champaign County 377 Board; seconded by Busboom.

Feinen stated the 377 Board was a great board and she would recommend it to others. Wysocki stated she has communicated with the Chair of the Republican Caucus to identify a successor, as it is a Republican slot.

Motion carried.

#### **Mt. Hope Cemetery Association**

**MOTION** by Knott to accept the resignation of Steven Towner as a Trustee of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association, effective 11/15/05; seconded by Beckett. Motion carried.

#### **Davis Memorial Cemetery**

**MOTION** by Beckett to accept the resignation of Farrell Ware, Jr. as a Trustee of the Davis Memorial Cemetery, effective 11/6/05; seconded by Wysocki. Motion carried.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Calvin Woodworth to the Davis Memorial Cemetery to fill the term of Farrell Ware, Jr. with a term ending date of 6/30/08; seconded by Beckett. Motion carried.

#### **Union Drainage District of Stanton & Ogden Townships**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Les Olson to the Union Drainage District of Stanton & Ogden Townships for a term ending 8/31/2008; seconded by Busboom. Motion carried.

#### **Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board**

Wysocki explained she would not be recommending any appointments to this board at this time. She has shared information on this decision with the members of the County Board. Wysocki proposed to delay making any appointment to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board until the results of the March 21<sup>st</sup> referendum are available. Wysocki came to this conclusion after five hours of interviews with the five candidates for the two appointment openings. It became apparent that three of the candidates came from areas that were recently annexed and are the subject of the referendum. Wysocki consulted with the State's Attorney, who informed her if the referendum were to succeed those individuals would have to resign from the C-U MTD Board if one or two were appointed. Wysocki felt it would be a disservice to the C-U MTD Board to have an individual

start as a board member and then resign after three months. The search process would have to begin again. Postponing the appointments is in the best interest of all concerned. Wysocki made it clear in her statement that George Friedman and Vicki Stewart would continue to serve as board members until April when the County Board will revisit these appointments. The application process will be re-opened beginning tomorrow and extending until March 24, 2006. The candidates who have already applied and been interviewed by Wysocki do not need to reapply for consideration. Candidates must communicate with Wysocki if they choose to withdrawal their applications. Wysocki understands that not everyone will be pleased with this decision, but her intent is to do what is in the best interest of the members of the C-U MTD Board and the community at large.

Putman asked, because the appointments to the C-U MTD Board are party specific, whether Steven Holland, Michael Sutter, and Edward Vaughan, Jr. are Republicans or Democrats. Wysocki answered that Holland is a Republican, Sutter is a Democrat, and Vaughan is a Republican.

Beckett asked McGrath if there was any requirement for the committee to take any parliamentary action on this item. McGrath said no, by statute the two incumbents will continue to serve until the County Board takes the affirmative step to either replace them or reappoint them. Betz stated it is not unprecedented to have an appointment delayed.

Busboom thanked Wysocki for trying to be fair to all parties involved. In her opinion, Wysocki made the right choice. Putman asked if the question on the March ballot will be whether a Champaign Southwest Mass Transit District should be formed and what parts of a new district would overlap with the C-U MTD. McGrath explained there is a defined area in which voters are being asked if they wish to form a separate mass transit district. There is no overlapping area between the mass transit district that might be created and the mass transit district that currently exists. Wysocki stated she spoke with all five candidates today to inform them of her decision and explain what it meant for each of them. Virtually, every one of the candidates thought this was the right thing to do and they fully understood why Wysocki was moving in this direction. Wysocki appreciated their patience. All candidates expressed a desire to remain in the pool.

### **Community Services Block Grant Board**

**MOTION** by Knott to accept the resignation of John Lee Johnson as a Member of the Community Services Block Grant Board, effective immediately; seconded by Wysocki.

Feinen requested a note be sent to Johnson thanking him for his service to the community because he has served of the Community Services Block Grant Board for at least ten years. Wysocki stated Johnson did not write a letter of resignation, however, he made his intentions known in a public meeting of the Community Services Block Grant Board. Johnson has also submitted his resignation to the Regional Planning Commission, where he has served for twenty-five years. That appointment will be filled by the Regional Planning Commission Nominating Committee; it is not a County Board appointment.

Motion carried.

Wysocki stated Catherine Harper has requested to be reappointed to a three-year term on the Community Services Block Grant Board. Wysocki spoke with Darlene Kloepfel of RPC, whose practice it is to extend the terms without having the applicant resubmit an appointment request form. Wysocki stated Harper will be a wonderful continuation on the board.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Catherine Harper to the Community Services Block Grant Board for a three-year term with a term ending date of 12/31/08; seconded by Busboom.

## **Mental Health Board**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to accept the resignation of Gina Jackson as a Member of the Mental Health Board, effective immediately; seconded by Fabri.

Wysocki stated, for the committee's information, Jackson was elected to the Champaign City Council last spring, which created a conflict of interest. Jackson emailed her resignation letter to Wysocki on November 21, 2005.

Motion carried.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Deloris Henry to the Mental Health Board to fill the term of Gina Jackson with a term ending date of 12/31/07; seconded by Putman. Motion carried.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Ernest Gullerud and Thom Moore to the Mental Health Board with term ending dates of 12/31/09; seconded by Feinen. Motion carried.

## **Senior Services Advisory Committee**

Wysocki stated there are five vacancies on the Senior Services Advisory Committee. Only three vacancies can be filled at this meeting. Clarence Loebach currently serves on the committee. Theresa Tracy requested to be appointed to a term of only one year. Bonnie Vaughn is requesting an appointment to a full three-year term.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Clarence Loebach to the Senior Services Advisory Committee with a term ending date of 12/31/08, to appoint Theresa Tracy to the Senior Services Advisory Committee with a term ending date of 12/31/06, and to appoint Bonnie Vaughn to the Senior Services Advisory Committee with a term ending date of 12/31/08; seconded by Knott. Motion carried.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Vacant Positions Listing**

Busey stated the vacant positions listing is available in the agenda packet for information only.

## **COURT SERVICES**

### **Request Approval of Waiver of Hiring Freeze to Fill Vacancies at the Juvenile Detention Center**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve a waiver of the hiring freeze to fill vacancies at the Juvenile Detention Center; seconded by Putman.

Knott asked why the committee goes through the charade of the hiring freeze when the committee has always approved the waivers of the hiring freeze, except as a way to make Gordon come out on a cold, wintery night. The committee laughed.

Motion carried.

## **COUNTY CLERK**

### **Monthly Report**

This item was handled at an earlier point in the meeting.

Request Approval of Resolution for Optical Scan Voting Equipment

Shelden stated this resolution is essentially the same resolution that was approved by the County Board in October. However, there are two different grants and the State of Illinois is requesting two separate resolutions: one to deal with the accessible voting equipment (approved in October) and the resolution before the committee, which is the Title I punch card buyout money. This resolution gives Shelden the right to sign the papers to receive the grant money and affirms he will comply with federal law, etc. Fabri asked what kind of prospects the County is looking at as far as what percentage of the funding can be expected from this grant. Shelden said the initial estimate was the County would receive about \$900,000 out of the \$1.1 million cost. Shelden said he thought the County could receive another \$85,000. He will attend a State Board of Elections meeting this month to continue to lobby for more funding. There is more money available; the question is how that money will be distributed and whether or not counties will be able to use it to offset the punch card buyout that is not paid for by the grant. The amount of punch card buyout money Champaign County will receive is not equal to the amount of expenditure.

**MOTION** by Knott to approve the Resolution for Optical Scan Voting Equipment; seconded by Beckett.

Putman asked if the County is on the path towards the optical scan voting equipment, then why is the committee passing a resolution that addresses punch cards. Shelden explained the resolution is for the optical scan equipment. He refers to it as the punch card buyout because the money is being received to buy out of the punch card system. Putman noticed the title of the resolution does refer to optical scan voting equipment. Putman asked if there would be a paper trail. Shelden confirmed voters would be voting on a piece of paper. It is the same paper trail as there was in 1960, with a better counting system. Shelden stated he did not mean to imply that Putman was of voting age in 1960. Wysocki stated she voted in 1960. The Chair stated the committee had concluded that no present committee members, except Wysocki, were of voting age in 1960. Laughter ensued.

Motion carried.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Request Approval of Martin Luther King, Jr. Proclamation

**MOTION** by Feinen to approve the Martin Luther King, Jr. Proclamation; seconded by Fabri.

Feinen stated she thought this resolution has been at every Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, but this might be the first time it has been approved by the County Board. Wysocki said the County Board approved last year's proclamation.

Motion carried.

Feinen stated volunteers are needed to sell advertising. The celebration will be held on January 13, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

Request Approval of Self-Help Support Group Proclamation

**MOTION** by Wysocki to approve the Self-Help Support Group Proclamation; seconded by Beckett.

Wysocki stated she was approached by Sharon Mundy-Dorsey, who pointed out that January is Self-Help Support Group Month and asked if the County Board could endorse a special week for self-help support groups. The heads of various self-help agencies will be in attendance at the December 20<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting. Wysocki requested this item not be placed on the consent agenda. If the proclamation is approved by the full Board, Wysocki will sign it that night to give it to the self-help agencies.

Motion carried.

Discussion Policy Development for Public Information Made Available Through Electronic Media

Betz stated this item was deferred from last month's meeting. Knott stated he asked for this item to be on the agenda. It is a follow-up to the implementation, by the Supervisor of Assessments, of the online data search of assessment records. Knott had hoped the Supervisor of Assessments would be present at the meeting to answer questions. Deedrich was not present at this time. Instead, Knott asked Tim Breen the technical questions he has been asked by the public. Knott asked how many hours of development time was spent on the project. Breen answered probably sixty hours of development time was used. The program uses a web interface, which some of the County's programmers are not familiar with, and they are accessing the actual data on the AS400 through the interface. It is two different worlds and training was needed to get the programmer acclimated to developing web programs. Knott asked if there was a cost to train the programmer or if he was trained in-house. Breen said the programmer was trained in-house. Knott asked if a procedure manual on how to maintain the program had been developed or is Curt Deedrich the long-term caretaker of the program. Breen explained the caretaker of the program is the IT Department. The caretaker of the data itself is the Supervisor of Assessments. Knott asked about the database. Breen further explained a separate directory has been created and is linked (in read-only format, except for the IT Department) from the directory to the actual data. At no point is the material available on the Internet accessible through anything other than a read-only link. There is no duplication of data entry by anybody to provide the data. Knott asked for the time lapse between data being changed in the Supervisor of Assessments database versus appearing on the website. Breen stated information entered by the Supervisor of Assessments in the database would appear immediately on the website. Knott asked if Deedrich has outlined future changes to the website. Breen said other departments have expressed interest in making some of the data available, including the Treasurer's Office. IT manages the entire County website, so there is constant work to keep current information posted. Knott asked if the County should develop a procedure or guidelines for non-elected officials to put data on the Internet. Knott is aware the information is public information, but should the County consider safeguarding the privacy of citizens while still making data available. Knott is interested in others' opinions.

Putman stated she read the letter from Deedrich and was impressed by his thoroughness. Putman recalled people were concerned about making public the names of taxpayers who receive the senior citizens exemption. She has spoken with some senior citizens in her neighborhood and none of them were concerned with anyone knowing they were over sixty-five.

Busboom said she would like for all the departments who work with property assessments (Supervisor of Assessments, Treasurer, Recorder, etc.) to have the same definition of a farm, a residence, and a non-residence for continuity.

Feinen stated she thinks the public information is a benefit to the public. Her office uses the website at least once a day. The website saves her office a phone call and saves the Supervisor of Assessments' Office staff from having to answer the phone call and look up the information. She knows of lawyers who also use the website. Several lawyers thought some names should be removed. Lawyers, who work with elder abuse clients, were concerned about elderly clients being subject to financial exploitation. In Feinen's opinion, the website will not be the trigger for someone to get information to exploit an elderly person.

Shelden said this issue has come up for a couple of years within the tax cycle group of Dan Welch, Curt Deedrich, and himself. Welch and Shelden have voiced their opposition to this website for a long time. The County Clerk's website was the first to offer tax information online, but it was only searchable by PIN or address. The Treasurer's site is searchable by PIN or address. The Supervisor of Assessments' website is searchable by a person's name. Shelden stated anyone who needs to use the website to conduct business would have either the PIN or the address of the property. The search by name option is handy. Shelden's concern is a number of citizens choose to keep their addresses and phone numbers private for very good reasons, such as police officers,

correctional officers, or someone with an order of protection against an abusive ex-spouse. The Supervisor of Assessments' website is an easy way for people to find this information. Sheldon understands that this is public information. A person's driver's license number is also public information, but that information is difficult to find out about another person because a request must be made. Sheldon does not think it is unreasonable to have an extra level of security for people. California once had easy access to the drivers' license information for the public until someone was murdered by a stalker who located the individual through the driver's license information system. Sheldon does not understand why the information needs to be this open. If someone needs to know information about their own parcel, they will have no difficulty obtaining this information because they will have the PIN or address. If someone wants to look up their neighbor's assessments in order to challenge their own assessment level, they would easily know the addresses. Sheldon thinks the name search is unnecessary and an invasion of privacy.

Feinen stated she emailed Deedrich when this project started and suggested he have some type of subscription that would require people register their names and email addresses or fill out a form in order to use the website's name search option. The County would have a record of who is conducting the searches. Feinen said for businesses who use the site to obtain information, filling out a form would be no big deal. Feinen does not disagree with Sheldon and believes they do have some responsibility to make taxpayers aware of this information. That way taxpayers can put their property in land trusts if they do not want their name is be searchable.

Beckett stated the old-fashioned part of him wants to agree with Sheldon. When Linda Frank opened the Circuit Clerk's website, his clients were destroyed because information about their divorce cases were available to everybody without having to go to the Courthouse and ask for the file. But Beckett accepts that this is now the way of the world. The County cannot be paternalistic about public information. It is unrealistic to assume otherwise. All public information is available to everyone. Beckett stated drivers' license numbers are not public information. He could not call Springfield and get another person's driver's license number. Sheldon said the drivers' license numbers used to be public information and it was changed. Beckett said as long as the identifiers are public information than they can be accessible on a website.

Wysocki said she heard from a County employee who was concerned because her daughter has orders of protection against an individual. The employee was struck by the dichotomy because an order of protection guarantees a level of protection and privacy, but because her daughter was a property owner she could be located and her safety compromised. Wysocki said the employee was distraught and she did not have a good answer for the situation. In response to Busboom's request, Wysocki said she will bring the definition of a farm up at the next tax cycle meeting in December.

Putman appreciated the points Sheldon made. She asked if it would meet the needs of businesses who use the Supervisor of Assessments' website to have the information searchable by means other than someone's name. Feinen said lawyers or businesses would usually have the PIN or address. The information does not have to be name searchable in order to find the information.

Deedrich entered the meeting at 8:08 p.m. and Betz wanted to give him the opportunity to speak. Betz stated his office searches for properties by the owners' names because he does landlord/tenant law on behalf of tenants. The State Landlord Tenant Act has a doctrine in it called contiguity of property. The only way to establish contiguity of property is by name. Betz said usually an order of protection states that a person cannot go to the address of the person being protected and lists the address on the order. Therefore, the searchability of the database does not have an impact on orders of protection. McGrath stated there are orders of protection granted when the address is suppressed. The State's Attorney's Office handles orders of protection in domestic violence cases where the address of the protected individual is suppressed.

Betz offered to let Deedrich throw in his two cents. Deedrich began by explaining that the information available on his office's website was the information available on the terminals in his office. He stated he thinks

transparency and availability are important. Knowledge is power in making sure people know their assessments and know the time to file an appeal. This type of delivery system enables people, who cannot take time off from work, to check their assessments and even check their assessments at their workplace. He said the Internet is an acceptable and expected delivery format in this day and age. Deedrich has received three negative calls about this website since it went up. The idea of assessments being public started in 1833. The assessments are listed by name so that an assessor does not show favoritism. Deedrich said he thinks it provides a service to the taxpayers of Champaign County to have the information available on the Internet. Deedrich stated Bill Simmering has done a great job of putting the parcel history on the website. In the case of Mrs. Thompson from last April, if she could have checked her history of exemptions then she could have seen something was wrong and the assessment could have been corrected before the Treasurer had to issue a refund. Deedrich said it is a good delivery method and it is worth a try for one tax cycle to see what happens.

Knott asked if Deedrich envisioned further enhancements to the website. Deedrich said no, he does not see any reason to change anything for at least a year. Deedrich said the data on farm records has improved, such as including the names of the soil types and descriptions of land use.

Knott said he liked the layout of the website. He again asked what will be Champaign County's philosophy about making data available on the Internet. Knott wants to put as much information on the Internet as possible and still be responsible to the public. Knott asked the County Administrator what the process is for department heads who want to put data on the Internet. Busey stated they have been fairly willing to accommodate department heads who request information to be made available on the website. They rely on the department head to tell them what they want to make available. In most instances, it is elected officials who are adding information to the website. It is up to the elected officials what information is available and how it is done. Breen said if they start asking for subscriptions and identify the end users, then a privacy policy might need to be considered. In general, the practice on the Internet is to let the end user know what you plan to do with the collected data. Breen said the Sheriff wants to post information about sex offender lists on the Internet, which is currently available at the state level. Breen has discussed with the Sheriff's Office the possible application of a current list of who is incarcerated and the bond amounts. IT has approached most of the department heads, both appointed and elected, to ask them what they want available on their websites. Most of what is seen on the County's website is a result of those questions. Some of the material is static and some are linked to dynamic databases. Knott asked if any of the data on the Treasurer's and Supervisor of Assessments' websites can be mined. Breen said if it is posted it can be mined. Deedrich stated the Treasurer sells the data each year to Lexis-Nexis and First America Tax.

Shelden said he did not wish to speak for Dan Welch, but he thought they were of one mind on this issue. The information has been easily available on the Treasurer's website for anyone with the PIN or address, including for Mrs. Thompson. Shelden said it is inaccurate to suggest that the name search option gives someone the opportunity to get information that was not available before. Shelden does think it is reasonable to make some limits on what information, even public information, the County makes available on the Internet. Shelden stated no one is suggesting that just because employees' addresses and salaries are public information that there should be a website where someone could look up Champaign County employees and find out where they live and how much money they make. It is reasonable to not have some public information posted on the Internet. The County will honor any request made for that information when it is made to the proper office. Shelden thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak on this issue. Deedrich said an advantage of his new site is that it shows the prior history of assessments. Shelden said his point was that same information could be found by inputting an address. The name feature is not critical to the dispensing of the information.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Knott stated Beckett and he would make a New Year's resolution to be more proactive with the legislative report as the General Assembly convenes.

Wysocki provided information that she learned at the CUUATS technical meeting held this morning. According to individuals from IDOTS, because the State of Illinois reorganized its districts a year ago, Champaign County is now lumped in with McLean County, Vermillion County, and Peoria County. Champaign County's allocation of federal money has been reduced by 50% to \$7 million for this coming year. The allocation was \$15 million last year. This will likely have the effect of putting an extended timetable on the Windsor Road development. The development was scheduled to start 2006-2007 and will probably be changed to 2008-2009.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Request Approval of Waiver of Hiring Freeze to Fill Vacancy in Physical Plant**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the waiver of hiring freeze to fill vacancy in Physical Plant; seconded by Wysocki. Motion carried.

**Request Approval of Resolution Approving Extension of Term of the Board of Review**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to approve Resolution Approving Extension of Term of the Board of Review; seconded by Beckett. Motion carried.

Beckett passed out a proposed resolution to adopt a Domestic Partner Statement of Policy for Champaign County. Beckett received a communication from a County employee, who has a domestic partner, requesting the County take action on this issue and referred Beckett to the fact that the City of Champaign had done so. Beckett modeled the proposed resolution on the City of Champaign's Domestic Partner Statement of Policy and also provided a report to the City Council. Beckett took the policy the City of Champaign enacted on behalf of its non-bargaining employees and prepared a drafted so the Policy Committee would have something in writing to discuss. Beckett requested that the Domestic Partner Statement of Policy for Champaign County be placed on the next agenda and asked the State's Attorney change the policy into a form consistent with County resolutions. Beckett recognized there are financial implications with this action; therefore, he requested the effective date be the next fiscal year.

Betz asked if the policy would only apply to non-bargaining unit employees. Beckett said he does not see how the County could effect the terms of bargaining unit employees by resolution. Betz agreed, he just wanted to make it clear that the resolution applies to non-bargaining unit employees. Beckett is maintaining the privacy of the person who contacted him. He does not know if that person is a bargaining or non-bargaining unit employee. It is the first time any County employee has asked Beckett to take any action on their behalf with regard to this issue. Betz said the issue will be placed on the January agenda. Betz stated the County has bargained over this issue before. Putman said she appreciated Beckett bringing this issue forward. She said one of McGrath's predecessors in the State's Attorneys Office did research on this issue regarding the ordinances of the City of Chicago. Putman will direct McGrath to that research. Betz stated the City of Urbana and University of Illinois also have Domestic Partner Statements of Policy.

Feinen stated she is still not able to print agenda documents off the County's website. She is not criticizing IT because Breen has been working with her on this problem. The problem could be Feinen's equipment or software. She requested this problem be resolved if possible and would like to see some redesign of the County's website. Feinen's noted the websites for the Cities of Urbana and Champaign are much easier to use and sleeker in appearance. She stated the County's website is 100% better than a year ago, but she would like to see more improvement. Busey stated a website redesign is in the works. A different look will probably be seen within the next sixty days.

**DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

Betz designed all items except for the Self-Help Support Group Proclamation for the consent agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork

Administrative Secretary

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*