

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Betz (Chair), Beckett, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Moser, Putman, Wysocki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Busboom

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Joseph Gordon (Court Services/Probation Director), Ron Gremore (Deputy County Administrator of HR), Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Mark Shelden (County Clerk), Steve Ziegler (First Assistant State's Attorney), Tricia Crowley (Attorney for the City of Champaign Township), Steve Anderson, David Short, Scott Tapley, Sharon Zhu

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Beckett, Betz, Feinen, Knott, Moser, Putman, and Wysocki were present at the time of the roll call. The Chair declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

Betz requested agenda items XIII B & C be dealt with after Public Participation because a representative from the Sheriff's Office was present. The committee agreed.

**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 April 5, 2006; seconded by Putman.  
**Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were five people for public participation.

Sharon Zhu spoke about the Champaign Township disconnection issue. She lives in the Ironwood Subdivision in Champaign. She said the ballot question was confusing and resulted in people casting votes in error. She asked the County to redrawn the township boundary. Citizens in Zhu's subdivision will have to pay

taxes to both Champaign Township and the City of Champaign Township even though Champaign Township will not be providing any services to the subdivision since the subdivision has been annexed.

Fabri entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

David Short spoke about the township disconnection issue. He is a resident of the Ironwood Subdivision. Short felt the he and fellow residents were being treated unfairly because they are being taxed by two townships. He felt the wording of the referendum was confusing because it involved two townships with very similar names: the City of Champaign Township and Champaign Township. He requested the County Board redraw the boundary lines to bring Ironwood Subdivision into the City of Champaign because Champaign Township is no longer providing any services to the subdivision.

Scott Tapley spoke, as a citizen and not as a County Board member, about the township disconnection issue. Tapley requested the township boundary be redrawn because it is not fair for subdivision residents to continue to pay taxes to Champaign Township when the subdivisions will no longer be receiving services from that township. He thought the City of Champaign Township's attorney would be willing to pursue the legal issues involved in redrawing the boundary so it would not cost Champaign County any money. He urged the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee to have this issue on the June agenda. Tapley provided an email from Greg DeYoung about the disconnection issue because DeYoung was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Betz entered the email into the committee record.

Short asked to address the committee again. Betz allowed him to do so. Short stated that they were less than 20% of the total voters eligible to vote on the referendum issue, but the referendum vote resulted in 4,749 votes in favor of disconnecting from Champaign Township and becoming a part of the City of Champaign Township versus 5,934 votes in favor of staying in Champaign Township.

Putman asked which township the citizens who spoke actually lived in. She was confused because the township names were similar. Betz recommended letting Tricia Crowley, attorney of the City of Champaign Township, address that issue after the other members of the public finished speaking.

Steve Anderson spoke about how he was glad to pay his federal, state, county, city, and school district taxes. But he was not glad about paying taxes to Champaign Township. He lives in the Ironwood Subdivision that is now governed by the City of Champaign and has no representation in Champaign Township. He does not want to be taxed by a township while being governed by another. He asked the subdivision be disconnected from Champaign Township and connected to the City of Champaign Township.

Tricia Crowley, attorney for the City of Champaign Township, stated this same issue with townships occurred in 2001 and the County Board took action to realign the township boundaries after annexation by the city by referendum. Crowley said the current issue is very similar. The City of Champaign has annexed the areas and is providing the road services, which make up a large part of the township tax need, even though the areas remain within Champaign Township and the township receives tax revenue. Crowley requested the issue be placed on the next Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee agenda and offered to answer any specific questions from the County Board within the next month. Crowley offered to provide a brief or a long review of the issue in writing for the Board members.

Betz asked Crowley to answer Putman's earlier question. Crowley said Champaign Township is one of the original townships that Champaign County was divided into. The City of Champaign Township was established pursuant to statute as a co-terminus township in the early 1900's. Co-terminus means when there is an annexation of territory to the city then there is an annexation of territory to the City of Champaign Township from whatever township the territory was belonged. As the City of Champaign Township grows, other townships shrink. Betz asked if the City of Champaign's legal and zoning staff was prepared to draft an

ordinance to redraw the township boundary lines that could be placed on the next Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee agenda. Crowley was willing to do anything the committee or County Board requested. She thought the County's own staff would prefer to write its own ordinance, but she is willing to prepare it. Crowley will coordinate with the State's Attorney's Office to draw up a proposal.

Fabri has heard rumors that Champaign Township would be willing to appeal any action taken by the County Board in court. Fabri asked if there was a legal reason why the township would think this would be a more successful strategy than in 2001. Crowley said there have been some recent cases, but the exact issue of the County Board's authority has not been litigated in this context.

Betz asked, if the County Board approves redrawing the township boundaries and is sued by Champaign Township, whether the City of Champaign would be willing to reimburse the County for the cost of litigation. The litigation costs would be substantial. There is a great deal of tax revenue at stake for the townships, but the County would not stand to win any money from the litigation and would have to pay the legal costs involved. Crowley said she does not have the authority to commit funds, but she offered to be a specially appointed Assistant State's Attorney to defend the County in this case. Crowley will ask the city officials if and how they are willing to reimburse the County for legal costs.

Feinen asked how the case was litigated in 2001. McGrath said the State's Attorney's Office represented the County at the local trial court level and the appellate level. Betz asked if there were any time constraints. Crowley said there are no specific time constraints. McGrath said the statute that governs this requires the County Board to act in June. The County could take action in any month of June, but only in the month of June.

Moser asked if there any legal provision that would allow the City of Champaign to take over the remaining undeveloped section of land within Champaign Township. Crowley stated Champaign Township's assessment has been growing at the same rate as the City of Champaign's assessment. There is no legal provision in Illinois that would allow what Moser suggested. Betz asked if the City of Champaign's growth plan would eventually swallow all of Champaign Township. Crowley said no, there always would be a Champaign Township in existence.

Betz asked if the committee wanted this issue on the June agenda. The committee agreed that it did. Crowley asked what the committee would like to have in hand before the next meeting in order to make an informed decision. Beckett requested a brief summary of the law (from statutory to case law), an indication of the townships' positions, and he would like to understand the differences between the 2001 case and the present case. Betz requested a sample ordinance and information on how the township would reimburse the County for legal costs. Feinen asked for historical documents. Wysocki asked for maps of the current boundaries and the proposed boundaries.

Betz asked if this issue would continue to occur every election cycle. Crowley anticipates this to be the last issue of this type because a referendum is only required more than 1% of the EAV of Champaign Township is annexed in any one year. This only occurred because the City of Champaign was annexing developed properties. At this point, the city has a policy of not allowing development to occur outside of the city. So the city is annexing undeveloped farmland and it does not have enough value to require a referendum.

McGrath said it is likely that Crowley cannot be appointed as a special Assistant State's Attorney. It is appropriate and in the City of Champaign's interest for their legal staff to take the lead and develop the legal research to pursue this. McGrath and Crowley will work together. Betz requested an estimate on the cost and time involved in litigation.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**County Clerk Fees Report**

The County Clerk Fees Report was distributed to the committee.

**MOTION** by Beckett to receive and place on file the County Clerk's Fees Report for April 2006; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

**COUNTY BOARD**

**Appointments/Reappointments**

**Drainage Districts**

**Lower Big Slough Drainage District**

**MOTION** by Beckett to accept the resignation of Alvin Brock from the Lower Big Slough Drainage District effective May 4, 2006; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

**Fire Protection Districts**

**Scott Fire Protection District**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Paul Berbaum to the Scott Fire Protection District for a term from 5/18/2006 to 4/30/2009; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

**Public Water Districts**

**Penfield Water District**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Steve Parrish to the Penfield Water District for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2011; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

**Sangamon Valley Water District**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Paul Clinebell to the Sangamon Valley Water District for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2011; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint O.G. Parkhill to the Sangamon Valley Water District for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2011; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried** with one abstention from Feinen.

**Other**

**Board of Review**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Stan Jenkins to the Champaign County Board of Review for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2008; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Dan Stebbins to the Champaign County Board of Review for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2008; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

**Liquor Advisory Commission**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Jenny Heck-Dodson to the Liquor Advisory Commission for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2009; seconded by Fabri. **Motion carried.**

### **Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to appoint Jerry Lyke to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District for a term from 6/1/2006 to 5/31/2009; seconded by Moser.

Betz noted this was a Republican vacancy and asked if the Republican Caucus selected Lyke. Feinen said the Republican consensus was that Wysocki should interview both applicants and make a decision regarding who should be appointed. The Republicans felt both Steve Bantz and Jerry Lyke were qualified applicants. Wysocki stated she interviewed the applicants and selected Lyke because prior to his meeting with Wysocki he spent an afternoon visiting the sanitary sites and spoke with the Executive Director of the sanitary district. She felt Lyke had a good sense of what work is ongoing and the future issues of the sanitary district. Lyke has been searching for a way to return to public service and felt this was a good opportunity. Lyke has served on the County Board and the Forest Preserve Board in the past. Feinen stated the Republicans are supportive of Lyke as a candidate for all the reasons Wysocki mentioned. Moser concurred.

**Motion carried.**

### **County Board**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to accept the resignation of Patty Busboom from the Champaign County Board effective April 30, 2006; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION** by Knott to appoint Jonathan Schroeder to fill the position on the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee vacated by the resignation of Patty Busboom; seconded by Moser.

Betz asked if it was the Republican Caucus's preference that Schroeder be appointed to the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee. The Republicans on the committee confirmed Schroeder was the Republican preference.

**Motion carried.**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### **Vacant Positions Listing**

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only.

Fabri exited the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

#### **Approval of Revised Personnel Policy**

Busey stated the only changes from previous drafts were outlined in the memorandums from legal counsel.

**MOTION** by Moser to approve the revised Personnel Policy; seconded by Beckett.

Fabri re-entered the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Putman asked about the language used for worker's compensation and work related injuries. McGrath explained the language was a recommendation from Debbie Chow, the County's Insurance Specialist and Mike Downing, the Claims Adjuster assigned to the County's worker's compensation cases. McGrath explained the

process of a worker's compensation claim and why an employee was referred to Carle Clinic Occupational Medicine as an independent consultant.

Beckett exited the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Putman was concerned with steering employees to one business. McGrath said no provider in town other than Carle Clinic Occupational Medicine offers the necessary services.

Betz requested a roll call vote.

Beckett re-entered the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

**Motion carried** with a vote of 8 to 0. Beckett, Betz, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Moser, Putman, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion.

#### Approval of Revised Travel Policy

Busey stated there were no additional changes to the revised Travel Policy.

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the revised Travel Policy; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

#### COURT SERVICES/PROBATION

##### Request Approval of Waiver of Hiring Freeze to Fill Juvenile Supervision Line Staff Vacancy

Gordon stated he was requesting to fill a position in the Juvenile Probation Division because one of the three Line Staff Officers is leaving.

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve a waiver of hiring freeze to fill Juvenile Supervision Line Staff vacancy; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

#### STATE'S ATTORNEY

##### Request Approval of Administrative Legal Secretary Position

Ziegler stated the office was requesting to maintain its current staffing. An Administrative Legal Secretary position was a part of the discontinued federal Domestic Violence Grant. The State's Attorney worked with the grant monitors to get two extension of the grant money for this position. This position will not be exclusive to the Domestic Violence Division any longer, but it is needed to absorb other duties in the office involving the new continuous jury system.

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the addition of a bargaining unit Administrative Legal Secretary position; seconded Knott. **Motion carried.**

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

##### NACo Conference

Betz asked if any committee members planned to attend the NACo Conference. Beckett stated he wants to go, but will pay his own way. Betz noted that traditionally the County Board Chair and a member from each political party attend the conference. The County usually assists in paying some of the costs for these members. The conference is being held in Chicago this year so the expenses should be considerably less than usual. It has been discussed that each County Board member who attends the conference would receive \$1,000 to defer travel, food, and lodging expenses. This amount was reached with the expectation that up to five County Board

members would be attending the conference. Betz said every County Board member who has attended a NACo Conference has returned with invaluable information to the Board. Betz felt Beckett should not have to pay the entire cost for attending the conference. Beckett highly recommended attending the conference because it is very useful to meet members from other County Boards and hear how they have handled issues similar to what Champaign County is facing.

Busey stated the \$1,000 figure was reached because the registration fee is about \$400 (the County would pay this fee), the hotel rooms are close to \$200/night, and the meal allowance is about \$70/day. Each County Board member who attends the conference would receive \$600 for travel and other expenses. The Board members would be required to provide documentation that the money was spent on hotel, travel, and meal costs. Knott asked when early registration ended. Busey said she believed early registration is available through June. Busey recommended Board members make a decision on whether or not to attend by the end of May. Betz noted \$600 would not cover all the costs of attending the conference, so Board members would pay the remainder of the cost themselves. The committee discussed the \$1,000 subsidy for County Board members to attend the conference and the value of professional development. Busey noted the County Board budget does include money for conferences and training. The committee agreed to have the \$1,000 subsidy on the June agenda.

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

#### **IACBMC Counties at the Capitol Legislative Report**

Beckett requested the County's legal staff draft an ordinance banning smoking in Champaign County, if the bill is signed by the Governor. Moser requested a list of businesses that would be affected. McGrath stated a County ordinance would only have authority over unincorporated areas within Champaign County. The committee discussed enforcement of a smoking ban and where it would be in effect. Knott asked about Senate Bill 2967 concerning county jail medical expenses. Beckett said he thought the health care provider is equipped to discover if an inmate is eligible. Beckett will follow up on this matter.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Request Approval of Resolution Honoring Retiring Board Member Patty Busboom**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the Resolution Honoring Retiring Board Member Patty Busboom; seconded by Moser.

Beckett thanked Busey for drafting the resolution and capturing Busboom's personality so well.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Request Approval of Resolution Honoring Retiring County Employee Richard E. Quick**

**MOTION** by Moser to approve the Resolution Honoring Retiring County Employee Richard E. Quick; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

#### **Request Approval of Resolution Honoring Retiring County Employee Walter Wolfe**

**MOTION** by Wysocki to approve the Resolution Honoring Retiring County Employee Walter Wolfe; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Request Approval of Resolution Commending & Thanking the Champaign County Genealogical Society for Their Work on Behalf of the Champaign County Clerk

Shelden stated he has worked with the Champaign County Genealogical Society since he became County Clerk. The Genealogical Society volunteered to index old birth and death records because they wanted access to those documents and the County Clerk's Office did not have the staff to do the work. This work has been a great benefit to the County Clerk's Office.

**Motion carried.**

Participation in Joint Municipal Intervention in Ameren Delivery Rate Increase Cases

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve participation in Joint Municipal Intervention in Ameren Delivery Rate Increase Cases; seconded by Fabri.

Betz asked if participation involved a commitment of money on behalf of the County. Wysocki stated this agenda item was the result of conversations she had with Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing. Wysocki received the letter from Bruce Walden and other information contained in the agenda packet. Prussing assured Wysocki that even though Walden's letter mentioned a County contribution of \$17,000, the money is not the issue. The City of Urbana was primarily interested in being able to add the County to the issue along with the City of Champaign. Wysocki said the County is not obligated to make a financial contribution, but the County Board can do so if it wants to. Beckett asked if the County's legal counsel would be drafting an intergovernmental agreement if the participation is approved. McGrath confirmed she would. The committee discussed participating in the intervention. Crowley stated she was willing to provide more information to the County and suggested a \$2,000 contribution from the County

Beckett and Fabri agreed to a friendly amendment that the County provide a contribution of \$2,000. Betz requested a roll call vote.

**Motion carried** with a vote of 7 to 1. Beckett, Betz, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Putman, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion. Moser voted against the motion.

**ADDENDUM**

Certification of Election Judges

**MOTION** by Feinen to approve certifying the selection of election judges. She further moved a petition be filed in the Circuit Court for the confirmation and appointments of the election judges. Motion seconded by Beckett.

McGrath noted her name was listed as a potential election judge. She respectfully suggested that it would not be appropriate because she would be giving legal advice to the County Clerk's Office and other entities on behalf of the County during the course of the election.

Feinen and Beckett agreed to a friendly amendment striking McGrath's name from the list of potential election judges.

Shelden stated the Democratic and Republican Caucuses approved the lists.

**Motion carried.**

Beckett reported to the committee that he has attended several meetings of the Construction Industry Diversity Taskforce. He is on a subcommittee researching disparity studies. They are trying to find existing disparity studies throughout the U.S. and the RFPs for these studies for the purpose of analysis. They will prepare a draft RFP to share with all agencies for input. The other taskforce subcommittee is looking into the apprentice academy programs.

Putman talked about the public awareness of what door to use to enter Brookens Administrative Center on meeting nights. Putman asked to have a sign on the front Washington Street doors for the meeting nights. Busey said the County is looking into obtaining cases to post the agendas in the foyer of the front Washington Street doors. The outside doors would be left unlocked, allowing access to the cases twenty-four hours a day. The interior doors would be unlocked only during normal business hours. The information about what door to use would be posted in the cases as well.

Putman asked about the progress of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board appointments. Wysocki reported on the applications she has received for the two vacancies. The three applicants who reside in the area that was the subject of the referendum have withdrawn their applications. Wysocki has appealed to the caucuses to search for qualified candidates if they wish to have more applicants to consider.

Betz stated the July committee meetings are traditionally canceled due to the difficulty in establishing a quorum. Betz asked for the committee's opinion of whether to cancel the July committee meeting. All items that would go on a July Policy agenda will be placed directly on the July County Board agenda, with any controversial items being held for the regular August Policy meeting. If an item is particularly urgent, a July Policy meeting will be scheduled. The committee gave its consensus to this plan.

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

The Chair designated all appointments, except those for the Sangamon Valley Public Water District, and agenda items VIII B & C, XIII B, C, D, & F for the consent agenda.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 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.*