

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

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

7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beckett

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Denny Inman (County Administrator of Facilities), Ron Gremore (Deputy County Administrator of HR)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Betz welcomed new member Schroeder to the committee. Schroeder filled the position created by the resignation of Patty Busboom.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Betz, Fabri, Knott, Moser, Putman, Schroeder, 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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Knott to approve the regular session minutes of May 3, 2006; seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by Knott to approve the closed session minutes of April 5, 2006; seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County Clerk Fees Report

The County Clerk Fees Report for May and Semi-Annual Report were distributed to the committee.

MOTION by Wysocki to receive and place on file the County Clerk's Fees Report for May 2006 and Semi-Annual Report; seconded by Fabri. **Motion carried.**

Feinen entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

COUNTY BOARD

Appointments/Reappointments

Cemetery Associations

Bailey Memorial Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Brenda Dismon to the Bailey Memorial Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried with two no votes.**

Craw Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Alfred Karcher to the Craw Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2011; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint David Payne to the Craw Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2011; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Michael Rosenberger to the Craw Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2011; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried.**

Davis Memorial Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki for an omnibus motion to appoint Phyllis Booker to the Davis Memorial Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012, to appoint Rosie Eileen McCoy to the Davis Memorial Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012, and to appoint James Sipich to the Davis Memorial Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Locust Grove Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Robert Grove to the Locust Grove Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Leo Lafenhagen to the Locust Grove Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Mt. Olive Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Betty Logue to the Mt. Olive Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Stearns Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint William McMahon to the Stearns Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Yearsley Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki for an omnibus motion to appoint James Clabaugh to the Yearsley Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012 and to appoint David Waters to the Yearsley Cemetery Association for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2012; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Public Water District

Dewey Community Public Water District

MOTION by Wysocki to accept the resignation of Jamie Rogiers effective 10/8/2005; seconded by Moser.

It was noted that Rogiers's resignation letter was not received until 5/30/2006, though the resignation was effective as of 10/8/2005.

Motion carried.

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint William Roller to the Dewey Community Public Water District to fill Rogiers's term from 6/23/2006 to 5/31/2008; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Other

Champaign County Board of Health

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Victor Escobar to the Champaign County Board of Health for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2009; seconded by Schroeder.

Wysocki stated she interviewed the two candidates, Victor Escobar and Nezar Ahmed Kassem. Both candidates are dentists. She was particularly impressed with Dr. Escobar's background, the fact that he served on a County Board of Health in another area, and the breadth of his knowledge of finances, services, and personnel. Wysocki believes Escobar will be a fine addition to the Board of Health.

Putman said both applicants have good credentials but she preferred Kassem because she knows more about him. Kassem served on the CIDES Board. Putman asked about Escobar's experience. Wysocki stated Escobar has been a member of a team that traveled to Central and South America to provide gratis services for poor children, particularly reconstructive oral surgery. While this is not direct experience with local low income families, Wysocki feels this adds to Escobar's sensitivity towards those less fortunate.

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

Wysocki reminded the committee there is a vacancy on the County Board of Health that needs to be filled by a medical doctor. There are currently no candidates for this position. The position will be re-advertised and hopefully an appointment can be brought to the committee in August. Putman noted there is a question about political party affiliation on the appointment request form and it could be off-putting to applicants some who apply for an appointment where party affiliation is not relevant. Betz said any changes to the forms could be handled within the County Board Chair's Office. Wysocki noted some organizations keep copies of appointment request forms and then submit the older version.

Champaign County Board for the Care & Treatment of Persons with a Developmental Disability

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Michael Smith to the Champaign County Board for the Care & Treatment of Persons with a Developmental Disability for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2009; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried.**

Forest Preserve Board

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Robert Toalson to the Forest Preserve Board for a term from 7/1/2006 to 6/30/2011; seconded by Schroeder.

Schroeder stated the community is fortunate to have someone of Toalson's caliber on the Forest Preserve Board. Schroeder has worked with Toalson on the Forest Preserve Board and was highly impressed.

Motion carried.

Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board

Betz said two members need to be appointed to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board. One must be a Republican and the other a Democrat. Wysocki read a statement regarding these appointments that she shared with the County Board yesterday. Wysocki described the selection process for the Mass Transit District Board. She spoke on how a healthy board involves changing membership and leadership. Wysocki sought input from numerous individuals regarding these appointments. She also commended the MTD Board for its work in the community. Wysocki selected Ron Peters as the Democratic appointment. Peters has a long history in labor relations, is a good listener who takes into account different points of view, and who understands the politics and dynamics within the cities of Champaign and Urbana. Peters will be a new appointment to the board.

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Ron Peters to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board for a term from 6/23/2006 to 12/31/2010; seconded by Fabri.

Putman said she agreed with everything Wysocki presented in her well-stated message. She supported the appointment of Peters. Fabri said George Friedman's reaction as quoted in the newspaper was very gracious. Fabri thought all the Democratic candidates were excellent and he was happy to support Peters, who was a great choice by Wysocki. Betz spoke about the events surrounding the MTD appointments and the many discussions he had with Wysocki regarding these appointments. Betz stated that Friedman was an outstanding public servant and one of the most capable people in the community. He admired Friedman's stand for the idea of the community and mass transit district as a whole that should not be divided. Betz noted in San Francisco public transportation used to be unable to take passengers to the airport because communities opted out of the mass transit district until the state legislature intervened. Friedman fought for a cohesive transportation system and Betz admired him for standing up for a principle. Betz believes Friedman will continue to be a champion for mass transit. Betz stated Peters will do a great job as a board member of the MTD and he supports the Wysocki's appointment.

Motion carried.

Wysocki read more of her statement regarding the selection of the Republican candidate for the MTD. Wysocki choose Vicki Stewart, the incumbent. Stewart heads the MTD's Personnel Committee and is highly regarded by her colleagues and MTD employees. Another factor in Wysocki's decision is that Stewart relies on public transportation and ridership is a compelling asset for a board member. Wysocki stated the criticism she has heard against Stewart is largely that Stewart is "not Republican enough". Wysocki failed to see the

relevance of the strength of one's political affiliation as significant to the task of working for the citizens of Champaign-Urbana in the area of mass transit. Wysocki stated Stewart's record of public service and performance outweighs her political allegiance.

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Vicki Stewart to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board for a term from 6/23/2006 to 12/31/2010; seconded by Putman.

Betz commended the choice of Stewart and appreciated both her willingness stand her ground and her sense of humor.

Betz ordered a roll call vote. **Motion carried** with a vote of 5 to 3. Betz, Fabri, Feinen, Putman, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion. Knott, Moser, and Schroeder voted against the motion.

Champaign County Board

A letter from Jason Barickman, Chairman of the Champaign County Republican Central Committee, was distributed to the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee. The Republican Central Committee nominated Kevin Hunt to fill County Board seat from District 2 left vacant by the resignation of Patty Busboom.

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Kevin Hunt to the Champaign County Board to replace Patty Busboom in District 2; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

Betz asked if this appointment will be placed on the June County Board agenda as the first action item so Hunt could vote on the rest of the agenda items. Wysocki confirmed that was the plan. Wysocki said Hunt was also scheduled to meet with her tomorrow for a bit of orientation.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Vacant Positions Listing

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only.

CHAIR'S REPORT

NACo Conference Subsidy of \$1,000 Per Board Member

Betz asked if any more County Board members, other than Wysocki, Steve Beckett, and Brendan McGinty, were interested in attending the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Chicago. No other members expressed interest in going to the conference. Betz asked if the Republican Caucus had designated a member to attend the conference. The answer was negative. Betz asked if the committee needed to take action on this item. Busey recommended an inter-committee memo from the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee to the Finance Committee in support of a budget amendment to provide a subsidy for travel, hotel, and registration expenses for the three Board members attending the conference. The committee gave its consensus for an inter-committee memo to be sent to the Finance Committee in support of a budget amendment for three Board members to attend the NACo Conference with a \$1,000 subsidy per member. Fabri disagreed with the committee's decision. McGrath suggested the budget amendment go to the County Board at the July meeting.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

IACBMC Counties at the Capitol Legislative Report

Knott announced the IACBMC has not yet produced the latest Counties at the Capitol Legislative Report. A memo from IACBMC about the Public Defender salary legislation was distributed to the committee.

Busey explained the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation in 2002 to require the State to fund a portion of the salaries for counties who had full-time Public Defenders. However, the legislation was never funded until now. The Public Defender's salary must be equal to 90% of the State's Attorney's salary to be eligible for a reimbursement of two-thirds of the Public Defender's salary by the State. There is a recommendation on tomorrow's Finance Committee agenda to increase the Champaign County Public Defender's salary from 80% to 90% of the State's Attorney's salary so that Champaign County would be eligible for reimbursement by the State. This would generate a cost savings of approximately \$70,000 annually to the General Corporate Fund.

Knott announced he and Wysocki were copied on an email from Dan Stebbins, Board of Review Chair, to Curt Deedrich, Supervisor of Assessments. The email was encouraging the Supervisor of Assessments to follow through and talk to the Farmland Assessment Committee about the procedures that will be used for the farmland assessment values. Knott raised this issue to encourage the Supervisor of Assessments to work with the Board of Review and the Farmland Assessment Committee to get the work done. He was concerned with staying on track as we enter the heart of the tax cycle. Betz requested the email in question be forwarded to all County Board members.

Betz asked if the Governor signed the county smoking ban. McGrath said he had not signed Senate Bill 2400 as of today. Betz asked how long the Governor could hold the bill. McGrath stated the Governor has sixty days after the bill reaches his desk to sign or veto it.

Aquifer Study

McGrath stated this item is not ready for action. Wysocki said *American Water Company AmerenIP* has designated \$600,000 over a three-year period to fund the Illinois State Water Survey. A great deal of concern has emerged about special permits for ethanol plants in the County and the impacts the plants would have on the aquifer. Wysocki reported discussion remains ongoing on this issue. Mayor Prussing is interested in having the County, the City of Champaign, and the City of Urbana engage in a study session in September for the purpose of discussing the aquifer study and seeing if the study could get some state funding. McGrath said there has been legislation introduced into the General Assembly to see if some department would be authorized to expend funds on studies where ethanol plants are to be located, but no action has been taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Designation of Parent Committee for Public Aid Appeals Committee

McGrath requested the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee be designated as the parent committee for the Public Aid Appeals Committee because, by statute, the Public Aid Appeals Committee is required to report to a County Board committee on an annual basis. There has not been a report from the Public Aid Appeals Committee in several years, nor have they made changes to their procedures as required. McGrath is working with the committee on revising their rules. The committee will be voting on the changes at their June 13, 2006 meeting. The revised Public Aid Appeals Rules would then be submitted to the designated parent committee and then the full County Board for approval. There have been some significant changes to the law that require revisions to bring to the Public Aid Appeals Rules up-to-date. The Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee gave its consensus to draft a resolution to designate the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee as the parent committee of the Public Aid Appeals Committee.

July Schedule of Committee Meetings

The committee agreed to cancel the July meeting.

ADDENDUM

Approval of Resolution to Adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard for IMRF Participation

MOTION by Fabri to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard for IMRF Participation; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Ordinance of the County of Champaign, Illinois Ascertainning the Prevailing Rate of Wages for Laborers, Mechanics, and Other Workers Employed in Public Works of Said County

MOTION by Fabri to approve the Ordinance of the County of Champaign, Illinois Ascertainning the Prevailing Rate of Wages for Laborers, Mechanics, and Other Workers Employed in Public Works of Said County; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

Putman asked, since the County was close to the next cycle of annual performance appraisals, if the Board of Review members should receive an annual appraisal by a committee as the Supervisor of Assessments does. Busey explained convening an appraisal committee involves an extensive amount of time and effort. The County Board Chair appoints the Board of Review, and if an annual evaluation of those members is done, then the Board Chair should be charged with that responsibility. Those positions that undergo an annual performance appraisal are filled only by a selection process which encompasses more than just the County Board Chair. The County Board Chair has responsibility for the Board of Review's budget and for basic administrative oversight with regard to payroll. Betz stated this item was not on the agenda and offered to include it on a future agenda for detailed discussion. Putman requested it be included on the August agenda.

Feinen asked if anyone ever volunteered to be the County Board Liaison to the 377 Board after she resigned. Wysocki said no one had expressed interest. Wysocki noted a Republican is needed to be a County Board Liaison to the U of I Extension Board since Patty Busboom has resigned. Wysocki will include the two vacancies in her weekly email to the County Board.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair designated all appointments, except for the Bailey Memorial Cemetery Association, Board of Health, Developmental Disabilities Board, and Vicki Stewart to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, for the consent agenda. Agenda items XI C & D were also designated for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 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.

Minutes amended at 8/9/06 meeting at request of the committee. Alterations shown in italics and strikethrough.