

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

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

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Betz (Chair), Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Putman, Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gross, Hogue, Moser

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Ron Gremore (Deputy County Administrator/HR), Denny Inman (County Administrator of Facilities & Procurement), Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Carrie Melin (County Board Member), Duane Northrup (Coroner), Michael Richards (County Board Member), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Betz, Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Putman, and Schroeder were present at the time of the roll call. Betz declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Schroeder to approve the agenda; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Putman to approve the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee regular session minutes of February 7, 2007; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County Clerk Fees Report for January 2007

MOTION by Knott to receive and place on file the County Clerk Fees Report for January 2007; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY BOARD

Appointments/Reappointments

Forest Preserve District

MOTION by Schroeder to accept the resignation of Ruth Green from the Forest Preserve District, effective May 31, 2007; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

Public Aid Appeals Committee

MOTION by Schroeder to accept the resignation of John Schmidt from the Public Aid Appeals Committee, effective January 29, 2007; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

Board of Health

Weibel nominated Dr. Prashanth Gowda to the Champaign County Board of Health.

MOTION by Putman to appoint Prashanth Gowda to the Champaign County Board of Health; for a term commencing 3/30/2007 and ending 6/30/2009; seconded by McGinty.

Weibel stated that Dr. Gowda is filling a previously unfilled term, so no one is exiting the Board of Health at this time. Betz asked if there is more than one doctor on the board. McGrath explained the Board of Health is required by statute to have two physicians as members. Dr. Gowda will be the second physician on the board. Dr. Gowda is the Medical Director at Frances Nelson Health Center. Putman said she hopes Weibel will continue to meet with appointment applicants in person and volunteered to attend the interviews.

Motion carried.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Subcommittee

Weibel nominated Jan Anderson, Lloyd Carter, Scott Tapley, and himself to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Subcommittee.

MOTION by Schroeder to appoint Jan Anderson, Lloyd Carter, Scott Tapley, and C. Pius Weibel to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Subcommittee. for terms commencing 3/30/2007 and ending 11/30/2010; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

Liquor Advisory Commission

Weibel nominated Matthew Gladney and Jonathan Schroeder as County Board representatives to the Liquor Advisory Commission. He further nominated Renae Strawbridge and A. Lee Roberts as commissioners to the Liquor Advisory Commission.

MOTION by Hunt to appoint Matthew Gladney and Jonathan Schroeder, terms ending 11/30/2010 and Renae Strawbridge and A. Lee Roberts, terms ending 3/31/2010 to the Liquor Advisory Commission; seconded by McGinty.

Weibel stated this body should have seven members. There is only one current commissioner, but Weibel does not know if she is still in the area because she has not returned his phone calls. The rules state the Liquor Advisory Commission must have two commissioners who are license holders. With the addition of these appointments, none of the current commissioners are license holders. Weibel recommended the Policy,

Procedures, & Appointments Committee look into changing the rules to make it optional to have license holders on the Liquor Advisory Commission.

Motion carried.

Nursing Home Mediation Team

Betz announced the Democratic Caucus met tonight to select the final members of the Nursing Home Mediation Team.

MOTION by Schroeder to appoint Brendan McGinty (Democratic representative for first day), Steve Beckett (Democratic representative for second day), Stan James (Republican representative), C. Pius Weibel, Julia Rietz, and Denny Inman to the Nursing Home Mediation Team; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Vacant Positions Listing

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only.

Financial Impact Regarding House Bill 303 Juror Wage

Busey provided a memorandum so the committee would be aware of the financial impact on the County if House Bill 303 become a law. House Bill 303 would require Illinois counties to pay jurors minimum wage for eight hours each day a juror serves. The minimum wage will be \$7.50/hour effective July 1, 2007. Busey calculated that, if made into law, this unfunded mandate would require an increase of \$658,000 to the Champaign County to cover juror fees. Such an increase would represent 2.2% of the General Corporate Fund total budget, which would likely require cuts in other areas of the budget to implement. Busey noted Champaign County already pays its jurors a higher rate than what is required by law.

Knott requested the committee's consideration to send a letter from the County Board Chair to the legislators who represent Champaign County to oppose House Bill 303. Betz suggested such a letter should praise the idea that jurors should have an increase in their reimbursement, but it should be funded by the State, not the County. Betz supported the principle of the bill. There is no county that could absorb the cost impact of paying jurors minimum wage for eight hours. Busey asked if the committee desired a resolution be prepared for the County Board meeting in opposition to House Bill 303. Betz concurred with a resolution being prepared instead of a letter from the County Board Chair.

MOTION by Knott to approve a resolution opposing House Bill 303, while supporting the idea of increasing juror reimbursement if it is completely funded by the State and not by the counties; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

House Bill 303 Juror Wage

This item was addressed under a prior item.

Counties at the Capitol by Illinois Association of County Board Members

The March edition of *Counties at the Capitol* was distributed to accompany the February edition that was included in the agenda packet. The committee discussed whether to support or oppose various House and Senate bills. Busey highlighted House Bill 827 because landlines are diminishing as cell phones become more

prevalent. As the 9-1-1 revenue from landlines drops, the Champaign County METCAD member agencies will be asked to pay more of the costs. The County has already see a 8% in the payment cost this year and it will continue to increase unless another source of revenue offsets the costs of METCAD operations.

MOTION by Putman to approve a resolution supporting House Bill 827 to increase the 9-1-1 wireless surcharge to \$1.50; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

Busey drew the committee's attention to Senate Bill 1252, which would amend the PTELL Code to exempt all contributions to pension funds from the definition of "aggregate extension." Busey explained the bill would effectively remove the IMRF Property Tax from Champaign County's aggregate. When IMRF had to increase by 27%, growth from other levies had to be appropriated to cover this large increase. Those other levies were prevented from receiving any growth.

MOTION by Knott to approve a resolution opposing Senate Bill 1252 to exempt pension contributions from PTELL; seconded by Schroeder.

Betz ordered a roll call vote so he could vote no because he thinks PTELL is a disaster. Busey suggested the committee also look at House Bill 1310 which would allow county probation officers to be eligible for the Sheriff's law enforcement retirement program (SLEP), which costs the County twice as much as regular IMRF.

Motion carried with a vote of 5 to 1. Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Putman, and Schroeder voted in favor of the motion. Betz voted against the motion.

The committee discussed other bills proposed by State Legislators. Busey brought the committee's attention to House Bill 1752 regarding election judges compensation. This bill would increase the portion of an election judge's daily compensation that is reimbursed by the State by \$20.

MOTION by Putman to approve a resolution supporting House Bill 1752 increasing the State's portion of election judges' compensation by \$20; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Issues for Consideration of a County Board Strategic Plan

Betz requested the survey instrument again be circulated to department heads and the County Board in order to encourage more responses. McGinty suggested reminding everyone that the committee is asking for their ideas, not for commentary at this point. McGinty felt the responses that were received mentioned four points that should be moved forward concerning long-range planning: the capital improvement plan, the comprehensive plan, the financial plan, and the long-term technology plan. He recommended moving these four points to the proper committees or certain individuals to begin development on these issues. McGinty suggested some progress be made on these points while, at the same time, encouraging more department heads and County Board members to respond with their ideas.

The committee discussed both the lack of response from the County Board and the majority of department heads and the responses that were received. Discussion continued over what entities would be best suited to work on the various aspects of long-range planning.

MOTION by McGinty for Issue #4 Comprehensive Plan to be forwarded to ELUC with the goal of working on a land use plan with a long-range goal of developing a comprehensive plan seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by McGinty for Issue #5 Financial Plan to be forwarded to the Finance Committee with the goal of developing a long-range financial plan for the County; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

MOTION by Knott to direct the County Administrators to bring their recommendations for capital improvements and long-term technology improvements, in relation to strategic planning, to the committee; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

The committee further discussed encouraging submission of responses regarding the remaining issues for a strategic plan. Weibel agreed to send an email to all Board members.

County Board Seating Arrangement Options

MOTION by Knott to keep the County Board seating arrangements as they currently stand; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Betz stated he reviewed the closed session minutes and spoke to McGrath. Betz did not think there were any minutes that could be opened. McGrath recommended that all the closed session minutes should remain closed because to open them would violate privacy rights, identify litigation strategies, discuss collective bargaining strategies or agreements, or otherwise disclose information which should remain closed.

MOTION by Knott for all closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Betz designated 7 A 3-6 and all resolutions regarding House bills (not the resolution regarding the Senate bill) for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 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.