

## **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

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**Finance; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments; Justice & Social Services**  
**Tuesday, October 14, 2014**  
**Lyle Shields Meeting Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christopher Alix, Astrid Berkson, Lorraine Cowart Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Josh Hartke, Stan James, John Jay, Jeff Kibler, Alan Kurtz, Ralph Langenheim, Gary Maxwell, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell, Pattsy Petrie, James Quisenberry, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Rachel Schwartz, Jon Schroeder

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lloyd Carter

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Adelaide Aime (Children's Advocacy Center), Van Anderson (Deputy County Administrator/Finance), T.J. Blakeman (City of Champaign Senior Planner for Economic Development), Deb Busey (County Administrator), John Farney (Auditor), Kathy Larson (Champaign County Deputy Enterprise Zone Administrator), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), Craig Rost, (Champaign County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director), Libby Tyler (City of Urbana Community Development Director/City Planner), Dan Welch (Treasurer)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Rhodes called the roll. Alix, Berkson, Cowart, Esry, Harper, Hartke, James, Jay, Kibler, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGuire, Michaels, Mitchell, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, Schwartz and Schroeder were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**OMNIBUS MOTION** James by to approve the minutes of the Legislative Budget Hearings held on August 25, 26, & 27, 2014; seconded by Mitchell. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Jay to approve the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole minutes and the September 30, 2014 Special Finance Committee of the Whole minutes; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

**MOTION** by Rosales to approve the Agenda/Addenda; seconded by Mitchell. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Scott Harper, Randy McCormick, and Stan Friese spoke in opposition to county licensing of Poker Runs.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Quisenberry, the Deputy Chair of Policy, Personnel and Appointments Committee announced that although the item brought to the Committee of the Whole regarding the licensing of Poker Runs failed last month, he did intend to place it back on the agenda for further consideration by the Committee of the Whole in November 2014.

Alix added that after the item failed approval last month; the County Board received an opinion from the State's Attorney that it would be illegal not to license Poker Runs.

## **JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

### Monthly Reports

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by James to receive the Animal Control-August 2014; Emergency Management Agency-September 2014; Head Start-August and September 2014; Probation & Court Services-August 2014; Public Defender-August 2014; and the Veterans' Assistance Commission-September 2014 reports and place them on file; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

There was no other business or Chair's report.

## **FINANCE**

### Champaign & Urbana Enterprise Zones – Report & Presentation

Craig Rost, the Executive Director of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation explained that the EDC acts through public/private partnerships to grow the local economy by supporting local business and driving expansion and attraction. The Enterprise Zone is one of the few economic tools available to grow the local property tax base, bring new employers to the area, assist existing employers, ensure competitiveness in site selection and show unified support to the business community.

Kathy Larson, Champaign County Deputy Enterprise Zone Administrator, explained the purpose and history of the 1982 Enterprise Zone Act. The goal is to stimulate growth and neighborhood revitalization in depressed areas of the state. Projects located in an Enterprise Zone may become eligible to obtain various local and state tax incentives, providing an economic stimulus

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to an otherwise neglected area. Incentives can include tax exemptions on machinery and equipment, utilities, investments, corporate contributions, sales tax, and abatement of property taxes.

Recently, the Enterprise Zone Act was amended setting all existing zones to expire without any option for renewal and communities must now compete for new Enterprise Zones. There are currently 97 Enterprise Zones in the State of Illinois. These zones are expiring in 2015 and the State will approve up to 97 new zones. Each community will compete for new zone establishment, based on 10 criteria. Larson explained that there were three existing zones located in Champaign County. These zones are set to expire in December 2015, 2016, and 2017.

New boundaries provide the ability to re-map based on economic and community needs. Opportunity to include multiple taxing bodies for property tax abatements, which can decrease the number of years per abatement. Sub-areas are allowed to focus on specific community needs. The process will be competitive; the State is looking for cooperation on economic development and community collaboration regarding employment growth. The Champaign and Urbana applications are due December 31, 2014.

T.J. Blakeman, City of Champaign Senior Planner for Economic Development, explained that there were currently six property tax abatement programs in the City of Champaign and those are single family, commercial, industrial, hotel/conference center, planned development, and rehabilitation. The average yearly abatement for the City of Champaign since 2002 is \$350,000 and the total construction value of Enterprise Zone Projects since 2002 is \$549,310,000 (29% of entire City Construction Value). During this time for every \$1 abated, it has returned \$77 in construction value.

The City of Champaign is actively recruiting the following taxing districts to participate in the local incentive programs: Unit 4, Champaign Park District, Parkland College, and Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District. The more partners that join the programs will result in a greater abatement amount. Additional partners also ensures that the abatement periods are short and therefore each agency sees growth added to their property tax rolls more quickly. The local incentive programs are; Targeted Neighborhood Improvement, Affordable Multi-Family Housing, Commercial District Enhancement, Employment Expansion, Historic Structure Rehabilitation, and Tourism Development.

Libby Tyler, City of Urbana Community Development Director/City Planner explained that the City has a real need to build its tax base because they have a large amount of tax-exempt land leaving the City with a certain urgency to jump start its economic development.

Alix asked for a show of hands for interest to see the requests for enterprise zones come back for approval in November 2014. Alix confirmed the member's strong interest in seeing the proposals move forward in November.

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 7:51 p.m. and resumed session at 8:01 p.m.

## Champaign County CASA – Request for Adoption of Fees

Rush Record, Executive Director of the Champaign County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program the history of the program since 2002, in Champaign County. Record stated that in August 2013, legislation was signed amending 55 ILCS 5/5-1101 adding a provision allowing for a fee to be imposed and collected by the clerk to be deposited for the operations of CASA. CASA has expanded staffing, because of additional funding through the University of Illinois. This additional funding is set to expire in 2016 and CASA has begun the process of identifying other sources of funding through fund raising and the possibility of the implementation of fees.

The implementation of a \$20 fee as allowed for by the statute would assist CASA to maintain the current level of service. The knowledge that additional funding is coming to the program would help CASA plan. CASA recognizes that the need for additional staff and space is only a matter of time.

Petrie asked if more information could be presented to the committee regarding the budget and collection of fees. James felt that grant money should never be allocated towards items that require long-term sustainability, such as additional staff. He did not support an additional fee.

Record stated that the program is not funded and 50% of their funding is done through fund raising efforts. CASA fulfills a need and without CASA many children would be lost in the system, so anytime an opportunity arises to fund the program they will promote it.

Kibler was concerned because the County did not support any other not-for-profit organization other than those that the board has a stake in by statute. Busey agreed, however, the legislature has made this funding available by amending its statute.

James would also like to have a list of the other fees already charged for fines. Kurtz supported the fee because CASA fulfills a need within the community. Record would provide more budgetary information before the County Board meeting. **MOTION** by Quisenberry to recommend approval of CASA fee request to the County Board; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer

**MOTION** by Kibler to receive the Treasurer's September 2014 report and place on file; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Michaels to recommend County Board approval of resolutions authorizing the County Board Chair to Execute a Deed of Conveyance or Cancellation of Appropriate Certificates of Purchase for Real Estate, Permanent Parcel No. 91-21-06-451-003,004; 46-21-07-307-008; 46-21-07-306-016; 41-20-11-231-018; and 01-35-30-226-003; seconded by Mitchell. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Auditor

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by James to receive the Auditor's September 2014 report and Quarterly Financial Report and place on file; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Schwartz to recommend County Board approval of an amendment to the County Financial Policies; seconded by Petrie. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Nursing Home

**MOTION** by Kurtz to receive the Nursing Home Monthly Report and place it on file; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendments/Transfers

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing **Budget Amendment #14-00038** for Fund/Dept. 080 General Corporate-127Veterans Assistance Commission with increased appropriations of \$1,000 and increased revenue of \$1,000 due to a donation by the VFW Men's Auxiliary Post 630 to be used for food vouchers; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous consent.**

County Administrator

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Kibler to receive and place on file the General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Projection and the General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Change reports; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the General Corporate Fund Departments Staffing Budgets for FY2015; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution to receive and place on file the FY2015 budget; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Other Business

**MOTION** by Kibler to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the designation of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as Agent; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

There was no Chair's report.

Designation of Items for the Consent Agenda

Items C2-6; D2; F1; G3-4; H1 were designated for the County Board Consent Agenda.

**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS**

Appointments/Reappointments

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the appointment of Kim Ruckman to the Community Action Board, term ending 12/1/2016; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the appointment of Dick Willfong to the Penfield Water District, term ending 5/31/2019; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the appointment of John Leonard to the Sangamon & Drummer Drainage District, term ending 8/31/2017; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

County Clerk

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Rosales to receive the revised August 2014 and September 2014 monthly reports and place on file; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

County Administrator

**MOTION** by James to receive the Administrative Services September 2014 monthly report and place on file; seconded by Kibler. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Other Business

**MOTION** by Kurtz to defer reconsideration of the use of the Public Health Placard System; seconded by Alix. **Motion failed.**

**MOTION** by Petrie to reconsider the use of the Public Health Placard System; seconded by Schroeder. Discussion followed. **Motion failed with roll call vote 5-14.** Hartke, James, Kurtz, Langenheim, and Rosales voted in favor of the motion. Alix, Berkson, Esry, Harper, Jay, Kibler, Maxwell, McGuire, Michaels, Mitchell, Petrie, Quisenberry, Schroeder, and Schwartz voted against it.

Chair's Report

Quisenberry stated that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee will evaluate the success of the current Strategic Plan for review by the new Strategic Planning Subcommittee in 2014-2016.

Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

Items A1-3 were designated for the Consent Agenda.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes,  
Administrative Assistant

*Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*