

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

**Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, Stierwalt, Wysocki

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wysocki called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, Stierwalt, and Wysocki were present at the time of the roll call. Wysocki declared a quorum present and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Burnison to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Stierwalt. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Burnison to approve the minutes of May 12, 2006; seconded by Stierwalt. **Motion carried.**

DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular Public Aid Appeals Committee meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. Burnison stated he would be unable to attend that meeting because he will be out of town. The committee agreed to schedule another meeting on June 22, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in order to hear an appeal that has been received from the City of Champaign Township.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications for the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Response from Cunningham Township on Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules Draft of 5/19/2006

McGrath stated that Carol Elliott, the Cunningham Township Supervisor, sent a letter containing several more requests for changes to the Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules. No comments were received from any other township supervisors. The committee concurred with making reference to emergency assistance in the rules because some townships still offer this assistance. McGrath agreed with Elliott's recommendation to change the rules to accurately reflect that the statute says the appellant has fifteen days of continued benefits if an appeal is filed. The appellant will be told how long their assistance will be continued if they file an appeal. McGrath will double-check the statutory language on this issue. McGrath noted Paragraph 8 reflects that an appeal must be forwarded to the Public Aid Appeals Committee Chair with four days by the township. This requirement was formally forty-eight hours. This change was made because some appeals are received on a Friday and it was not possible to meet the forty-eight hour deadline. Elliott's letter also asked about Paragraph 19, regarding an appellant's appearance at the hearing. McGrath checked the statutory language and confirmed that an appellant must be present at the hearing. The appellants may bring a representative to assist them, but the appellants themselves must be present.

MOTION by Burnison to amend the Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules as suggested by legal counsel; seconded by Stierwalt.

McGrath will confirm the changes with the statute and then incorporate them into the final document. The final draft of the rules will be forwarded to the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee and then forwarded to the full County Board for approval.

Motion carried.

Approval of the Revised Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules

MOTION by Schmidt to approve the revised Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules and recommend to the County Board approval of the Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules; seconded by Starwalt. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Public Aid Appellant Identification Numbering System for Agendas and Minutes

McGrath explained the revised Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules state that appellants will be identified by a number instead of by name on the committee agendas and open session minutes. The Open Meetings Act requires that the agendas and minutes be publicly posted. The Recording Secretary has developed a numbering system for the appellants, has applied this system to the past appellants, and will use it in future cases. Schmidt asked why the numbering system was necessary. McGrath explained the statute has a contradictory requirement that the hearings be open and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, but the statute also says the privacy of the appellant must be protected. Schmidt asked why appellants at public aid hearings receive a different level of privacy than those participants in a court case. McGrath was not certain why the public aid hearings are treated differently from court cases. It is likely the legislature compares the hearings to other administrative proceedings. The closed session minutes will continue to contain the appellants' names.

The committee agreed to have its semi-annual review of closed session minutes at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.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.