

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

Meeting Rm. 1, Brookens Administrative Center

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Betz, Beckett, Busboom, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Moser, Putman, Wysocki

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator), Denny Inman (County Administrator), Ron Gremore (Deputy County Administrator of HR), Susan McGrath (Office of the State's Attorney), Mark Shelden (County Clerk)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Beckett, Betz, Busboom, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Moser, and Wysocki were present at the time of the roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Beckett to approve the agenda and addendum for the meeting; seconded by Busboom. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Wysocki to approve the regular session minutes of December 7, 2005; seconded by Busboom. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one for public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on file the County Clerk's monthly report for December 2005; seconded by Moser. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD

Appointments/Reappointments

Mt. Olive Cemetery Association

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Rod Maddock to the Mt. Olive Cemetery Association with a term ending date of 6/30/2011; seconded by Moser. Motion carried with one abstention by Knott.

South Fork Drainage District

MOTION by Beckett to accept the resignation of Alvin Decker as a Commissioner of the South Fork Drainage District, effective 11/15/2005; seconded by Knott. Motion carried.

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Kenneth Decker to the South Fork Drainage District with a term ending date of 8/31/2007; seconded by Knott.

St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District

MOTION by Knott to accept the resignation of Forrest Chism as a Trustee of the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District; seconded by Wysocki. Motion carried.

The appointment of a trustee to take the place of Forrest Chism as a Trustee of the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District was deferred for at least thirty days at the request of Wysocki.

Community Services Block Grant Board

MOTION by Wysocki to appoint Henry Gamel to the Community Services Block Grant Board with a term ending date of 12/31/2010; seconded by Busboom. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Vacant Positions Listing

The vacant positions listing was provided in the agenda packet for information only.

EEO and Affirmative Action Plan

The EEO and Affirmative Action Plan was presented by Gremore. He stated the plan is essentially the same as the plan adopted in 2001 with a few systematic changes and upgrades based on new data. Gremore reviewed the phases of the plan for the benefit of committee members.

Putman entered the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

The plan identified objectives for the next two years and listed steps to address those areas. In the revised plan, Gremore advised a six-year program objective with a review of the data every two years for a progressive and aggressive approach.

MOTION by Knott to approve the EEO and Affirmative Action Plan; seconded by Beckett. Motion carried.

COUNTY CLERK

Request Approval of Precinct Consolidations

MOTION by Beckett to approve the County Clerk's recommendation of precinct consolidations; seconded by Busboom.

Betz asked about the impact on districts in terms of voter turnout and whether the consolidations would create congestion. Shelden stated there are about five or six precincts which already have one polling place for two precincts. No additional consolidations were made regarding these precincts. The amount of available space inside the polling place and the available parking were the top considerations in the consolidation of any precincts. Shelden stated the amount of space in the consolidated polling places will allow the consolidations to happen without any problem. Betz asked about the parking in Cunningham 5 and 9. Shelden said the Cunningham 9 polling place has temporarily moved from the Twin City Bible Church to the Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Hall due to construction. Shelden anticipated the polling location would be able to return to Twin City Bible Church in Fall 2006. If this cannot occur, Shelden plans to locate another polling place for the precinct.

Fabri asked if the consolidations were just for the primary or if they would be permanent. Shelden stated the polling place consolidations would be permanent. One machine would service both precincts. Shelden stated each time this is done it saves \$10,000. Betz asked if it would create a problem with district lines. Shelden said it would not and some other counties put multiple precincts on one machine. Shelden provided further details about the voting equipment. Betz asked if Shelden was willing to discuss any problems after the primary. Shelden said he was willing to take any suggestions if there are problems with any polling places.

McGrath had a language consideration with regard to the motion. She stated there is a difference between consolidating precinct polling and consolidating precincts. She wanted to be certain the motion indicated the approval of the consolidation of precinct polling places. Beckett and Busboom agreed that the motion was to approve the consolidations of precinct polling places.

Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTION FROM JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Request Approval of Re-classification of Administrative Legal Secretary Position

Busey stated this Circuit Court position has been assigned additional responsibilities to be the Applications Administrator for the Jano Justice Information Technology Project for the Circuit Court. The job title will remain the same. The job description has been adjusted to reflect the new responsibilities and it has been reclassified to Salary Grade Range F.

MOTION by Moser to approve the re-classification of the Administrative Legal Secretary assigned to the Circuit Court to Salary Grade Range F; seconded by Beckett. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was no Legislative Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Request from the University of Illinois Chancellor for the Creation of a University Liaison Position to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board

Betz stated he did not see how the County Board has the authority to create a liaison position. McGrath said she thought it was a misunderstanding of the process by which the University of Illinois was going to

request the position be created. McGrath had suggested to Richard Herman, the University of Illinois Chancellor, that he should contact the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District Board to ask them to change their by-laws to create a liaison position, which they have the statutory right to do. If the MTD Board creates the liaison position, then the County Board could fill the position. The County Board does not have the authority to create a position, only to appoint someone to an existing position. The liaison position would be a non-voting position.

Feinen recommended informing Herman that several current MTD Board members have connections to the University of Illinois. The committee agreed the County Board Chair would write a letter to the University of Illinois Chancellor informing him of the correct procedure for the creation of a MTD Board liaison position and that existing members of the MTD Board have university connections.

Resolution to Adopt a Domestic Partner Statement and Policy for Champaign County

A revised version of the resolution was distributed to the committee.

MOTION by Beckett to approve the Resolution to Adopt a Domestic Partner Statement and Policy for Champaign County. Beckett further moved to strike the language from the first bullet point in Paragraph 1 of the resolution that says “and of the same gender.” Motion seconded by Feinen.

Fabri asked for the reason for the language change. Beckett stated it is a matter of policy. The language change will allow the resolution to be inclusion to both partners of opposite genders and the same gender. Fabri asked what language was used in the domestic partner ordinances passed by the Cities of Champaign and Urbana. Beckett said this resolution would be consistent with the Cities’ ordinances. McGrath stated there is no legal reason to alter the language; it is a policy decision.

Betz asked if the resolution needed to contain language expressly stating that it can include couples of the same gender. Beckett said legislation in general does not state the negative. The discussion held at the meeting clearly indicates it is the committee’s intent that the resolution can apply to couples of the same gender. McGrath said she researched domestic partner ordinances in other cities and the language suggested by Beckett is correct. Discussion continued concerning this issue.

Beckett asked if Busey had any preliminary thoughts on the potential impact of the resolution. Busey said the resolution extends the offering of benefits to domestic partners and there will be no substantial cost to the County because the County does not pay for those benefits, the employee does.

Betz ordered a roll call vote on the amendment to the resolution. The amendment was approved with a vote of 9 to 0. Beckett, Betz, Busboom, Fabri, Feinen, Knott, Moser, Putman, and Wysocki voted in favor of the amendment.

Putman requested a language change to another section of the resolution. McGrath explained the language is an IRS requirement. Betz requested “Champaign County” be placed in parentheses after the word company. The committee agreed to treat the change as an errata change. Putman asked about sick leave and bereavement leave. Beckett suggested if the committee wanted to change the sick or bereavement leave policy, then the Champaign County Personnel Policy would need to be amended, not the resolution presently before the committee. Busey agreed the Personnel Policy is the document that would require amending. Busey said the Personnel Policy will likely be reviewed by the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee in its entirety by March at the latest. The committee continued to discuss the evolution of the resolution’s language.

Betz ordered a roll call vote on the motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt a Domestic Partner Statement and Policy for Champaign County. Motion carried with a vote of 6 to 3. Beckett, Betz, Fabri,

Feinen, Putman, and Wysocki voted in favor of the motion. Busboom, Knott, and Moser voted against the motion.

Congratulatory Proclamation for Retiring WDWS Employee Jim Manley

MOTION by Beckett to approve the Congratulatory Proclamation for Retiring WDWS Employee Jim Manley; seconded by Knott.

Beckett stated Jim Manley is a radio personality and a person who has contributed a great deal to the community. The City of Champaign is issuing a proclamation calling January 27th Jim Manley Day in Champaign. Feinen voiced her support for the proclamation and disclosed that Manley is a friend of the family. Beckett stated Manley was responsible for the creation of the Democrats versus Republicans softball games. Discussion was held over the proclamation.

Motion carried.

Putman stated the self-help groups were very pleased with the County Board proclamation honoring them at the December County Board meeting. Wysocki said she received a self-help organization's newsletter with an article thanking the County Board for the proclamation. Because of that exposure from self-help groups, Wysocki was able to provide contact information to groups for several County employees who requested information.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Betz designated agenda items VII A 2, VII A 4, and VIII B for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 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.