

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

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

7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Tim Breen (IT Systems Administrator), 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), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Betz, Gross, Hogue, Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Moser, 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 Putman to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by McGinty to approve the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee regular session minutes of April 4, 2007; seconded by Putman.

Putman thanked Bork for the quality of the minutes.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brad Uken. Manager of the Champaign County Farm Bureau spoke about the gross receipts tax and its effect on agriculture. Uken stated the Governor's proposed gross receipts tax threatens the viability of Champaign County agriculture and has the potential to drive companies out of the state. Uken said the farmers would be particularly hit hard by the tax because suppliers will pass along the tax as increased costs of seed, fertilizer, equipment, and services. Farmers are wholesalers who purchase at retail prices. Because they are price-takers, they are unable to pass along the tax burdens to anyone else. It is estimated that each acre of corn

will cost an additional \$5.29 and each acre of soybeans will cost an additional \$2.75 to plant a crop. Uken asked the County Board to oppose the Governor's plan on gross receipts tax and urge legislators to find another way to balance the state budget and improve the quality of public education in Illinois.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County Clerk Fees Report for March 2007

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

COUNTY BOARD

Appointments/Reappointments

Farmland Assessment Review Committee

Weibel nominated Steve Moser to the Farmland Assessment Review Committee.

MOTION by Knott to appoint Steve Moser to the Farmland Assessment Review Committee for a term commencing June 1, 2007 and ending May 31, 2011; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried.**

Betz offered his condolences to Moser on his appointment.

Forest Preserve Board

Weibel summarized the qualifications of the candidates and nominated Brenda Molano-Flores to the Forest Preserve Board. His reasons for doing so included that Molano-Flores is a plant biologist with the Natural History Survey and her active interest in hiking and local ecology. Weibel added that the Gender Balance Appointments Act mandates that the County Board try to balance the boards by gender. Weibel said he reviewed this act after he decided on nominating Molano-Flores.

MOTION by Putman to appoint Brenda Molano-Flores to the Forest Preserve Board to fill the term left vacant by the resignation of Ruth Green, commencing May 25, 2007 and ending June 30, 2010; seconded by Hogue.

Moser said he would like to see the other candidate, Kyle Krapf, on the Forest Preserve Board because Mahomet has not had a representative on the board since Bill Hodge left. He felt the facilities in the Mahomet area warrant someone from that area to be a trustee of the Forest Preserve Board. Weibel stated Krapf would be an asset to the Forest Preserve and he will encourage him to reapply in the future. The committee discussed the candidates' qualifications and the makeup of the Forest Preserve Board.

Motion carried with two no votes from Schroeder and Moser.

Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District

Weibel summarized the qualifications of the candidates and nominated Christopher Alix to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District. Weibel chose Alix because he has served on the board for 2 years filling out a vacated position. He has an engineering background and has done a good job on the board.

MOTION by Putman to appoint Christopher Alix to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District for a term commencing June 1, 2007 and ending May 31, 2010; seconded by McGinty.

Knott asked about the political balance of the board. McGrath stated she reviewed the statute and ascertained that there is no political affiliation balance required for a 3-member sanitary board, such as the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District. According to 70 ILCS 2405/3, political affiliation balance is required for a 5-member board or larger. Weibel concurred with McGrath. Betz stated the only the Board of Review's political affiliation balance is determined by the top vote-getter in the County, all other boards' political balance is based on the party in control of the County Board. McGinty commended the appointment of Alix, who he believes has been an excellent member of the sanitary district and will continue to take the job seriously. Betz ordered a roll call vote. Putman asked why Alix did not submit an application earlier, as his application was listed separately from the other candidates on the addendum. Betz stated Alix was under the mistaken assumption that he could not apply because the appointee needed to be a Republican.

Motion carried with a vote of 9 to zero. Gross, Hogue, Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Moser, Putman, Schroeder, and Betz voted in favor of the motion.

Penfield Water District

Weibel nominated Mark Richardson to the Penfield Water District.

MOTION by Hunt to appoint Mark Richardson to the Penfield Water District for a term commencing June 1, 2007 and ending May 31, 2012; seconded by Moser.

Hunt stated he has known Richardson for a number of years and served with him on a number of boards. He thought Richardson would be a tremendous asset to the Penfield Water District.

Motion carried.

Sangamon Valley Public Water District

Weibel nominated Jay Dingee to the Sangamon Valley Public Water District.

MOTION by Knott to appoint Jay Dingee to the Sangamon Valley Public Water District for a term commencing June 1, 2007 and ending May 31, 2012; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

ADDENDUM

Appointment of Performance Appraisal Teams for Annual Department Head Evaluations

Weibel explained he had not had time to work on the appointments for the Performance Appraisal Teams for Annual Department Head Evaluations. In discussion with Knott, Weibel requested this item be deferred to the full County Board meeting.

MOTION by McGinty to forward appointment of Performance Appraisal Teams for Annual Department Head evaluations to County Board without recommendation; seconded by Knott.

Busey explained the Performance Appraisal Teams are mostly defined by either contract or policy; the issue at stake is who the minority party representatives are for those teams.

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Vacant Positions Listing

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only. Busey stated that Court Services will be offering testing twice in the next two weeks to begin filling some of their open positions.

Public Internet Access in Lyle Shields Meeting Room

A memorandum and recommended acceptable use policy was available in the agenda packet. Busey said this was an initiative undertaken by the IT Department after requests from the public and County Board members that there should be Internet access in the Lyle Shields Meeting Room when meetings are being conducted. Tim Breen set this up and was present to answer any questions. Hunt asked if this would be available on election night. Busey said it would. Putman asked where the public would plug in their equipment for Internet access. Breen explained the system is designed to be used with wireless laptops and any wireless-capable system should be able to access it within 100 feet of the room. Betz asked if the access was intended for the audience or for County Board members. Busey explained the County Board has had Internet access in the Lyle Shields Meeting Room for over a year, the individual Board members only had to inform IT to have their laptops registered. The only two Board members who requested the access were Deb Frank Feinen and Greg Knott. This new policy allows the public observing the meetings to access the Internet during meetings. Betz asked what the purpose was of accessing the Internet during a meeting. Busey gave live blogging and media reports on election night as examples. Knott said he understands the request was for the Illini Pundit respondents have live access. McGinty thanked Breen for setting this up.

MOTION by McGinty to approve the resolution establishing the acceptable use policy & disclaimer for public Internet access in the Lyle Shields Meeting Room; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried with one no vote from Betz.**

Revision of County EEO Ordinance

Gremore stated the primary objective is to update the County's EEO policy, which, in a sense, compliments the County Board's approval of the EEO/Affirmative Action Policy a year ago. This revision brings the ordinance into concurrence with state and federal laws. Gremore described the revisions to the ordinance.

Betz asked if people, who do not want to use the procedure that Gremore has developed, are precluded from going to the state level if they refuse the local proceedings. McGrath explained the applicant or employee has to exhaust all administrative remedies prior to being eligible for assistance either at the state or federal level according to the terms of the Human Rights Act and the EEOC Act. At the local level, internal remedies are available. Betz asked if there is a timeframe under which the County has to act on a complaint. McGrath said it is outlined in the ordinance and it is a pretty fast track for the benefit of the person who files a complaint.

MOTION by Putman to approve the revised Champaign County Equal Employment Ordinance; seconded by Moser.

The committee discussed the EEO Ordinance and future reviews.

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Gross Receipts Tax

Moser requested the gross receipts tax be placed on the agenda for discussion. Moser stated the cost of this tax will hurt Illinois and Champaign County because he has spoken to businesses that will move their headquarters to Indiana. The costs will be passed onto the consumer. Moser stated it was unfair to the business people in the state to stick them with this tax. Betz felt the gross receipts tax is a strawperson that was created so it could be defeated and the state legislature could then have an excuse to raise the state income tax. The committee discussed the tax structure in Illinois. Knott asked if he could make a motion requesting the County Board Chair to write a letter in opposition to the gross receipts tax. McGrath said the item is listed on the agenda and thought the motion was appropriate.

MOTION by Knott to send a letter to legislators from the County Board Chair urging them to not support the gross receipts tax; second by Hunt.

Betz stated that he wanted any letter to include that the County Board supported proper funding for education though income tax and shifting away from property tax in a graduated system. Betz wanted to propose an alternative instead of only opposing the tax. Betz said he cannot support opposing the gross receipts tax. Putman said she could not just oppose the gross receipts tax. She supported a fair inheritance tax and a graduated income tax.

MOTION by Putman to amend the motion to include language in the letter about alternatives the County does support to provide the necessary funding for education and healthcare, such as a graduated income tax and a tax on inheritance; seconded by Gross.

McGinty stated he supported the original motion instead of suggesting alternatives. The committee discussed the language of a letter to legislators.

Putman offered a friendly amendment to replace her motion for the County Board Chair write a letter to the legislators in opposition to the gross receipts tax and in support of consideration of increased equitable funding for Illinois schools and healthcare for citizens. Betz ordered a roll call vote.

Motion carried with a vote of 8 to 1. Betz, Hogue, Hunt, Knott, McGinty, Moser, Putman, and Schroeder voted in favor of the motion. Gross voted against the motion.

Counties at the Capitol 4/24/2007 edition

The committee discussed various House and Senate bills.

MOTION by Putman to oppose Senate Bill 766 reducing the percentage of monies paid to the county for traffic convictions and increasing the percentage paid to the state; seconded by Hogue. **Motion carried.**

Moser inquired about the status of House 613. Knott said there was some talk at one point of placing a fee on private sewage systems. Knott was pretty sure this bill was to exempt homeowners and register their system, but not impose the fee.

MOTION by Knott to oppose House Bill 613 requiring every owner of an off-lot discharge private sewage disposal system must file a notice of intent; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried.**

Busey pointed out that Senate Bill 488 has passed out of the Senate and is on to the House. This bill will have a significant impact on Champaign County's finances. She encouraged any Board members who

regularly talk to members of the House to indicate their concern about this bill. Betz asked what the rough financial impact the bill would have on the County. Busey anticipated it would cost the County an additional \$210,000-\$235,000 in the first year in increased IMRF costs.

Response from Rep. William Black Re: Juror Wage Bill and Wireless 911 Fee Bill

Provided for information only.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Move July County Board Meeting from July 19th to July 26th

Weibel stated he will be attending the NACo Conference, which will end on July 18th and it would be difficult for him to return in time to chair a meeting on July 19th. Weibel said the alternative would be for Betz to chair the meeting in his role of County Board Vice-Chair. Betz stated he would be in Santa Fe, New Mexico that day. Weibel requested the July County Board meeting be moved to July 26th.

MOTION by Hogue to move the County Board meeting from July 19th to July 26th; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

Decision Regarding Cancellation of July Committee Meetings

MOTION by Hogue to cancel the July committee meeting; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

Betz noted the committee would hold a meeting if any urgent business arose.

OTHER BUSINESS

Moser inquired about a miscalculation that occurred on about 2,400 tax bills. Busey believed the Board of Review would be meeting again this week regarding issuing new tax bills. Betz asked about the nature of the problem. Moser said the drainage levy was miscalculated, so the tax bills were higher than they should have been. Moser noticed because he has five farms in the affected area.

Consent to Change Control of a Cable Television System

McGrath explained this resolution is necessitated by the fact that Insight is going to be selling a part of its franchise to Comcast. By FCC rules, the local franchising authority is allowed to say whether it thinks this is a good idea or not. The local franchising authority is the County. The FCC has already made a preliminary decision to approve this matter. The FCC has to ask the County its opinion, but the FCC is not bound by the opinion. Comcast sent a large binder of information with the resolution to state all the good things they are doing as a result of their purchase of the system. A copy of the binder was available at the meeting. The State's Attorney's Office has not received any complaints about this particular franchise.

Weibel asked if there was any chance that Insight will improve the quality of its services. McGrath said while Insight is selling a portion of its franchise to Comcast, it is not the franchise in the cities. Gross asked if one bad cable company mattered from another bad cable company. She does not think this is relevant. Betz asked if the County Board had to take action. McGrath said the Board could simply take no action. Busey asked about the franchise agreement and noted that the County receives \$200,000 in revenue annually from the cable franchise agreement. McGrath said she did not see anything in the franchise agreement that requires the County to approve this type of action.

MOTION by Knott to approve the Resolution for Consent to Change of Control of Cable Television System; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Betz designated items VII A 1, 3, 4, 5, VIII C, IX B, and XI A for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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.