

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Betz (Chair), Matthew Gladney, Kevin Hunt, Greg Knott, Alan Nudo, Jonathan Schroeder, C. Pius Weibel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carol Ammons, Brendan McGinty

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jan Anderson (County Board Member), Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator), John Hall (Planning & Zoning Director), Amanda Tucker (HR Generalist), Fred Wilkinson (Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk), Barbara Wysocki (County Board Member)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Betz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Bork called the roll. Betz, Gladney, Hunt, Knott, Nudo, Schroeder, and Weibel were present at the time of the roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum. Betz stated Ammon's absence was excused due to a sick child.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Knott to approve the agenda and two addenda; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tom Fiedler spoke in favor of and distributed information about video gaming. He represents the Illinois Coin Machine Operators Association and provided highlights of the bill. The maximum bet is \$2 with a minimum bet of a nickel in the video game style machines. The maximum win per hand is \$500. Fiedler emphasized this amount is not a life-changing event like the lottery and compared it to a gray area games available in bars about the county. The video gaming would be an online system regulated by the Illinois Gaming Board. These gaming devices would be available in establishments that possess liquor licenses, so it would be a strictly an age 21 controlled situation. Fiedler stated this represents a third of the \$31 billion capital bill and 5% of

the funds generated will stay in the area (county or municipality) where they are generated. Betz asked Fiedler questions about the revenue generated by video gaming.

**MOTION** by Nudo to suspend the rules; seconded by Knott.

Betz asked the video gaming would be regulated to comply with the 21-years age requirement when 19-year-olds are allowed in bars in the Cities of Champaign and Urbana. Fiedler said the Illinois Gaming Board has a lot of latitude in the legislation. In other states, establishments have separate age 21 only rooms. Similarly restaurants have separate areas for bars versus family dining. Betz asked whether the liquor establishment's license would be in jeopardy for a rules violations or would the operator's license be impacted. Fiedler understood only the location's license would be suspended. The operators, like him, would lose the investment because the machines would be returned to the operator. The machines cost from \$15,000-\$20,000. Betz asked if the proposal was to allow video gaming in campus bars. Fiedler answered those establishments could have the machines as long as they meet the gaming board's criteria. He noted the gaming board has not yet written the regulations governing this practice or developed a licensing procedure. Betz asked about the rate of addiction in terms of video gambling. The studies Fiedler has seen indicate problem gamblers represent 1% of the total users. The bill was written with 25% of the licensing fees going to the Department of Human Services to help with all types of problem gambling. He pointed out the riverboats, lottery, and off-track betting facilities do not fund help with problem gaming. Betz asked if there were any studies on the ancillary crime related to video gaming in small communities. Fiedler has researched Louisiana and West Virginia and learned the crime rates stayed level or went down. This type of gaming is low-impact for the casual adult player; it is not a destination type of recreation. Betz asked if the machines had any device to limit the amount bet during a set period of time to protect the patron. Fiedler said they did not, but the machines have a \$2 maximum bet per hand and a 90-92% pay rate of return. Betz asked if Fiedler anticipated the state will remove the maximum bet limit. Fiedler answered no, emphasizing this is low impact, casual gaming. West Virginia has had video gaming for 10 years and the maximum bet is \$4. The opt out feature is available at any time if the County Board felt the gaming was detrimental to the community. Fiedler assumes it will at least be one year before the machines will be close to being up and running, so there is plenty of time to gather information.

Nudo inquired about the pay out amount. Fiedler stated the minimum by law is 80%, but the machines in other states that are played the most run in the 90-92% rate. The gaming board can set the rate at a higher number. Nudo asked what was happening with gaming machines now. Fiedler expressed that it was currently a gray area; a machine is not illegal, however paying off players is illegal. This legislation would allow control and taxing over an existing structure.

Gladney asked if establishments would be required to have a separate room for the machines. Fiedler said it would depend on the regulations set by the gaming board. Fiedler continued to answer the committee's questions about the gaming machines.

John Kindt spoke in opposition to video gambling. He compared video gambling machines to crack cocaine in the creation of new addictive gamblers. He argued against the type of convenience gambling represented by the machines with stories from other states.

Knott asked about the revenue generated by these machines. Kindt estimated the net revenue would be \$10,000 or \$11,000 annually per machine. He stated the gambling revenue would be money not spent in other areas of the local economy and would lessen sales tax revenues. Knott asked how the local revenue would be lost if the machine was paying out 90%. Kindt said that was misdirection by the industry and the net total was \$100,000 at year's end.

Nudo said, to be fair, there are those who gamble and quit when they are ahead. He stated the percentage of revenue generated by machines that goes to the bar owner and operator will stay in the community. He did not think it was fair to equate the loss at 100% and suggested Kindt refine his position. Kindt said he was trying to simplify the national statistics and acknowledged there was a multiplier effect with the gambling revenue. He felt it was a net loss to the community.

Betz was concerned about the campus area, although it is outside of the County's jurisdiction, because the cities do not actually control the drinking age in campus bars. He remarked that students can already use credit cards for Internet gambling and community does not receive any tax revenue from these activities. Kindt quoted statistics that 1% of the population will develop a gambling addiction and another 2% will be problem gamblers. The committee continued to discuss the topic of gambling machines in liquor licensed establishments.

Nudo asked how Kindt differentiated between gambling and the lottery. Kindt called the lottery the marijuana of gambling and referred to video gaming machines as crack cocaine because of the speed of the gambling. Betz asked Kindt to provide a list of studies and information about this issue, with links to the studies he quoted. Kindt nodded and referred the committee to the documentation distributed by Jan Anderson.

Anita Rohwedder spoke against video gambling and the easy way it offers people to become involved in gambling.

#### **APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

##### **Beaver Lake Drainage District**

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint Lyle Brock to the Beaver Lake Drainage District for a term commencing September 25, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

##### **Blackford Slough Drainage District**

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint John Murray to the Blackford Slough Drainage District for a term commencing September 25, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

##### **West Branch Drainage District**

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint Richard Peavler to the West Branch Drainage District for a term commencing September 25, 2009 and ending August 31, 2012; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

East Lawn Memorial Burial Park Association

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint David Short to the East Lawn Memorial Burial Park Association for a term commencing September 25, 2009 and ending June 30, 2015; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

East Central Illinois Economic Development District Board

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint J. Chris Kaler, Seamus Reilly, and Barbara Wysocki to the East Central Illinois Economic Development District Board for terms commencing October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010; seconded by Knott.

Weibel thanked the Board members who expressed interest in the appointed position. According to the rules, each member appoints a proxy. Wysocki will appoint Ron Bensyl as her proxy.

**Motion carried with all ayes.**

**ADDENDUM**

CSBG Community Action Board

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint Cheryl Bullock to the CSBG Community Action Board for a term commencing October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2012; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

**CIRCUIT CLERK**

Approval of Award of Bid for File Folders

Wilkinson explained the Circuit Clerk's Office needed to purchase the file folders that hold legal filing in court cases, specifically 16,250 for criminal cases and 30,000 for traffic cases. The office sent three bid packages out and received two responses, one for each type of folder. He requested the committee's approval to award the bid for the court case file folder to Byers Printing in the amount of \$20,312.50 and to File Mart for the traffic jackets in the amount of \$18,565.50.

**MOTION** by Knott to approve the award of bids to Byers Printing in the amount of \$20,312.50 for 16,250 court case file folders and to File Mart in the amount of \$18,565.50 for 30,000 traffic jackets; seconded by Weibel.

Betz asked if the file folders were made of recycled paper, which Wilkinson confirmed. Nudo inquired why this item did not go directly to the Finance Committee. Busey explained the County Board's Purchasing Policy requires bids be approved at the Policy Committee. Betz asked about the folders' life expectancy. Wilkinson stated the folders use low acid paper because some items have to be kept forever.

**Motion carried with all ayes.**

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Vacant Positions Listing**

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only. Busey noted the zeros are positions that have been eliminated from the FY2010 budget. More positions on the list maybe eliminated in the budget next year as the General Corporate departments continue under a hiring freeze.

### **Update on Annual Employee Recognition Event**

Tucker stated the Regional Planning Commission moved its Employee Recognition Event date to November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Urbana Civic Center event is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> and the Nursing Home event is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>. Everything is going well in preparation for the events. The event for staff at the Urbana Civic Center will only invite those 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 year employees who are being recognized. This is a change from prior years. The retirees' invitations will be sent next week. Busey stated the department heads of the employees who are being honored are also invited to the event. The event was cut back when the budget was cut in February and they plan to pay close attention to feedback because all of the employees are accustomed to being invited to the Employee Recognition Event.

### **Recommendation for Employee Health Insurance for FY2010**

Busey requested this item be deferred to October because there are significant changes that may occur amongst providers in the community. The committee agreed to address employee health insurance in October.

## **COUNTY CLERK**

**MOTION** by Schroeder to receive and place on file the County Clerk fees report for July 2009; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

There was no legislative report.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no Chair's Report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Resolution Pursuant to Public Act 96-0188 To Retain Jurisdiction on Properties Subject to Municipal Annexation Agreements**

**MOTION** by Schroeder to approve Resolution to Retain Jurisdiction on Properties Subject to Municipal Annexation Agreements; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Resolution to Support Upcoming Legislation to Reduce the Costs of Publicizing Tax Assessment Information by Allowing County Assessment Offices to Publish the Data on the Internet Instead of Publishing in Local Newspaper(s)

Documents were distributed by Weibel. He did not have a formal resolution yet, but requested the issue be considered because it could save the County money. Busey estimated the possible savings at \$60,000 in a quadrennial assessment year. Betz wondered about the newspaper lobby's position on this issue. Nudo asked about the reach between the two types of media. Weibel stated a website can be more accessible and the notice can be printed off a website, whereas newspapers are thrown away or readily lost. Stan Jenkins suggested trying this approach because of budget constraints. Gladney asked if the proposal was to publish in either the newspaper or on a website. Weibel said it would be up to the County if they wanted to publish the data on one or both. Schroeder asked what the County spent on publications. Busey said, in the Supervisor of Assessments' publication budget line, it was believed the savings could be \$60,000 in a quadrennial assessment year and \$40,000 in other years. She offered to obtain the exact figure from the budget in her office, if the committee so desired. Schroeder declined to know the exact amount and wondered if publishing notices online would include other legal notices besides tax assessment information. Busey stated the General Corporate Fund spent \$80,000 on publications in 2008, a non-quadrennial assessment year. That figure did not include the RPC and Nursing Home. Weibel said the bill would not affect other notices.

**MOTION** by Weibel to support the upcoming legislation. **Motion failed for lack of a second.**

Discussion of Prohibition of Video Gaming

Anderson distributed documents in opposition to video gambling and talked about how she was contacted about the bill by someone who opposes it. She noted some counties and cities have made the decision to opt out of allowing video gaming and shared her concerns with the legislation's effect on communities and families. She stated the legislation makes no provision for funding enforcement activities, while the revenue generated from gaming seems to be outweighed by more stress on social services agencies created by gambling.

Weibel estimated there were eight bars under the County's authority that have gambling or music devices. Nudo asked if the County Board would have any control over the number of machines. Betz guessed that control would be in Springfield. Nudo wondered if a county who opted out of allowing gaming devices would not receive any money from the state's capital plan, since gaming expansion is a funding source. Betz did not think opting out of gaming would affect the capital projects that might occur in Champaign County. Nudo thought it made sense to delay any decision until the licensing guidelines are developed. Betz spoke about the number of liquor-pouring establishments in the Champaign-Urbana area and the effect gaming could have on the campus area.

Gladney asked for the Sheriff to attend the next discussion in order to give his opinion on enforcement. Betz wanted to hear from the Sheriff, local Champaign-Urbana residents, the University of Illinois, and the chiefs of police. Anderson hoped this discussion would stimulate other entities towards discuss video gaming. The committee discussed the prospect of video

gaming in the community and the need for input from other municipalities. Weibel agreed to check with the County's legal counsel for more information on the statute. The committee concurred with continuing the discussion to the November meeting.

#### Review of County Board Chair Position as Part of County Government Reform

Betz asked if the committee wanted more materials about the County Board Chair position or if they were ready to have the discussion tonight. Gladney inquired about the options. Betz stated the possibilities included having a county-wide elected Chair, a Chair elected by the County Board, and other possibilities. Nudo said he would like more information gathered, starting with the options offered by the state constitution offers. He suggested listing the pros and cons of each option and bringing in people from other counties who have the different types of Board Chairs in the beginning. Weibel asked what nearest county had a county-wide elected Chair. Busey noted Rock Island County has an elected Chair and Wysocki listed LaSalle County. Knott added Will and Winnebago Counties to the list. Busey stated Will County is closer and Rock Island is a comparable to Champaign County. Betz suggested putting together the various structural options, including the background and salaries of Chairs. Gladney asked if a county-wide elected Chair increase the County Board's size by one person. Betz said it did not necessarily mean a size increase, but there is more than one option. Busey explained that counties with a county-wide elected Chair typically have single member districts and the Chair is elected at-large. The committee agreed to revisit this issue in November so comparable information could be collected.

#### Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Busey stated the recommendation from legal counsel was for all the closed session minutes to remain closed.

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

#### ADDENDUM II

##### Resolution Expressing Gratitude to the LRMP Steering Committee

**MOTION** by Schroeder to approve the Resolution Expressing Gratitude to the LRMP Steering Committee; seconded by Weibel.

Weibel asked if the resolution included all committee members, even those who dropped out. Wysocki stated the resolution included the members who completed the process. A few members were replaced in the early stages of the project. Betz thanked Wysocki for doing a yeoman's job chairing this committee.

**Motion carried with all ayes.**

#### DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Betz designated agenda items 5A-F, 6A, and 11F for the consent agenda.

Betz asked Busey to announce to the full Board that the employee health insurance was still being negotiated. Betz wanted the municipal annexation resolution on the regular County Board agenda though it unanimously passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 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.*