

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

**Meeting Room 2, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Betz, McGinty, Moser

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

CALL TO ORDER

McGinty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Betz and McGinty were present, establishing the presence of a quorum. Moser had telephoned to say he was in Minnesota.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Betz to approve the agenda; seconded by McGinty. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

McGinty distributed the materials prepared as a result of the discussion from the last meeting concerning the statistics and makeup of committees in other counties. Job descriptions for Administrators and managerial positions from Peoria, Rock Island, McLean, and Sangamon Counties were provided so the subcommittee could see what comparable counties did. McGinty reviewed what the subcommittee has discussed at past meetings. In other counties, the size of the County Board varies. The only full-time Board Chair is in Rock Island, which does not have a County Administrator. The subcommittee discussed a single Administrator, the accompanying administrative structure, and the role of the Board Chair. Weibel gave input on the amount of time expended as the current County Board Chair. He noted a full-time Board Chair would necessitate an individual being retired, unemployed, or taking an extended leave of absence. This would limit which the County Board members who could be County Board Chair. Time constraints already play a part in which County Board members are willing to put their names in for nominations as Board Chair. Weibel and the subcommittee discussed how much time it takes to fulfill the Board Chair duties. Betz stated a lot of the Board Chair's job is ceremonial and Weibel agreed. McGinty confirmed the subcommittee is proposing moving to a single County Administrator, adding a Facilities Director, and continuing to have the Board Chair as a part-time position.

The subcommittee discussed the size of the County Board. Betz described how he was in favor of shrinking the County Board when he was first elected, but he has seen situations with local City Managers and City Councils that he caused him to change his mind. He felt the large size of the County Board enabled more diversity and slowed things down. The subcommittee discussed single member districts and a variety of ways that the County Board could potentially be restructured. Betz suggested the County Board resume holding two full Board meetings a month. McGinty suggested looking at the option of having an Executive Committee of the County Board instead. The Executive Committee would essentially be a collection of all the committee chairs and vice-chairs so the full County Board could deal with business more aggressively at the full Board meeting. McGinty agreed about the inclusiveness that results from a large County Board, but the Board needs to have a way to process business more efficiently and professionally. Often County Board meetings are long and members begin to tire after 10:00 p.m. Betz did not consider efficiency as something important in government and gave the pension plan as an example. The subcommittee continued to discuss the possibility of having an Executive Committee as an alternative to reducing the size of the County Board. Betz suggested all closed sessions for the County Board be done at a monthly study session instead of being held at the public meeting. Betz described past practices of the County Board's decision-making process.

The subcommittee agreed the County Board size, an Executive Committee, or more study sessions would be a great conversation to have at the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee. The subcommittee discussed the size and makeup of City Councils and County Boards. Betz said the County Board can change its census without voter approval. McGinty preferred an advisory referendum to know what the voters are thinking. Betz suggested holding public hearings about the size of the County Board. The subcommittee discussed public hearings.

McGinty suggested the next Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee meeting include a discussion. The subcommittee concurred on reviewing the materials more closely and nailing down the single County Administrator role, Facilities Director role, and the structure underneath the County Administrator. Betz said they would need a bottom line on how much it will cost because that will be the first question asked.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 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.