

Approved 4/15/2014

## **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

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**Finance; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments; Justice & Social Services  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Astrid Berkson, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, Stan Harper, Josh Hartke, Stan James, John Jay, Alan Kurtz, Ralph Langenheim, Gary Maxwell, Jim McGuire, Max Mitchell, Patti Petrie, James Quisenberry, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Jon Schroeder, Rachel Schwartz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Jeff Kibler, Diane Michaels

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Van Anderson (Deputy County Administrator/Finance), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Susan Chavarria (RPC Planning & Community Development Manager), John Farney (Auditor), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), Dan Welch (Treasurer)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Rhodes called the roll. Berkson, Cowart, Esry, Harper, Hartke, James, Jay, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGuire, Mitchell, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Rosales, Schwartz, and Schroeder were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Rosales to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 11, 2014; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

**MOTION** by Cowart to approve the Agenda/Addenda; seconded by Berkson. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Becky Roach, a member of the Local Foods Policy Council, supported the continuation of the Council.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Kurtz pointed out an update on the Senate Bill amending the property tax code to provide relief for commercial and industrial property following a natural disaster received from State Representative Chad Hays. Kurtz explained that the SB had support from Senator Mike Frerichs and Representative Hays.

Kurtz also pointed out communications from Congressman Rodney Davis regarding reliable rail transportation, hazardous chemicals in the Clinton Landfill, and the Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act 2014.

Kurtz said that County Board members Alix, Carter, Michaels, and Kibler had notified him that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

## **JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

### Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** by James to approve the RFP 2013-006 Evaluation Committee minutes of February 3, 2014; seconded by Petrie. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### Monthly Reports

Berkson announced that she would ask the Emergency Management Agency to provide a full report in April to the Committee of the Whole.

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mitchell to receive the Animal Control-January 2014; Emergency Management Agency-February 2014; Head Start-February 2014; Probation & Court Services-January 2014; Public Defender-January 2014; and the Veterans' Assistance Commission-February 2014 reports and place them on file; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

There was no other business or Chair's report.

### Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

**MOTION** by Jay to release the Justice & Social Services Closed Session minutes of September 17, 1990 concerning litigation related to a roofing warranty and all others remain closed pursuant to Resolution No. 7969 establishing procedures for semi-annual review of closed session minutes by the Champaign County Board; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## **FINANCE**

### Treasurer

**MOTION** by Quisenberry to receive the Treasurer's February 2014 report and place on file; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Auditor

**MOTION** by Mitchell to receive the Auditor's February 2014 report and place on file; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Nursing Home Monthly Report

**MOTION** by Hartke to receive the Nursing Home Monthly Report and place it on file; seconded by Maxwell. Petrie was concerned about the equipment to be purchased shortly and the contract for dietary services.

Maxwell responded that the equipment, costing approximately \$43,000 would expedite meal delivery for the residents and the Nursing Home Administrator as well as Mr. Gima had assured him that it is a reputable vendor. Maxwell explained that MPA was in contact with the States Attorney to identify the County's rights within the contract for dietary services.

Hartke said the candidate for the Director of Nursing position had accepted Champaign County's offer of employment. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendments/Transfers

**MOTION** by James to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing **Budget Transfer #14-00002** for Fund/Dept. 080 General Corporate-141 States Attorney Support Enforcement in the amount of \$2,000 to take advantage of lower than expected salary expenses; seconded by Berkson. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing **Budget Amendment #14-00010** for Fund/Dept. 080 General Corporate-028 Information Technology with increased appropriations of \$9,850 and no increased revenue to allow payment for UPS System at the Courthouse; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Mitchell to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing **Budget Amendment #14-00011** for Fund/Dept. 080 General Corporate-077 Zoning & Enforcement with increased appropriations of \$20,600 and increased revenue of \$3,000 to complete the Wilber Heights Preliminary Engineering Report contract; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried.**

County Clerk

**MOTION** by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing an Acceptance Agreement Between Champaign County and the Illinois State Board of Elections for the 2014 Voter Registration State Grant; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## County Administrator

Busey explained that General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Projection and the General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Change reports were somewhat challenging this fiscal year because the model for past reports was based on a 12-month year and this fiscal year would be a 13-month year. Busey added that the way revenues are posted had also changed due to the 60-day closeout. She explained that in order to compare past fiscal years with this year that she adjusted them to 13-month years.

Busey said revenue was stable in most areas. The year-to-date one-cent sales tax was up 16.5%, projecting the revenue for the year at \$231,000 above budget. However, there is a projection of over \$1 million shortfall for revenue from government fees. The Sheriff, County Clerk, and Recorder fees are all up, but the Criminal Justice System fees continue to decline. Busey said the new program administered by the Comptroller's office collects past due fees from income tax reimbursements. Thus far, Champaign County has collected \$11,000 and the goal for the year is \$88,000. Overall, revenues are expected to come in at 98.5% of total budgeted.

Busey said the County is projected to underspend in General Salaries and Wages, as well as SLEP salaries. Although, when the Sheriff fills some vacancies within his department the savings for SLEP salaries would dwindle. Gas Service expenditures are projected over budget at this point. Overall, expenditures are expected to come in at 97.5% of total budgeted.

Busey explained the Budget Summary sheet showed the Fund Balance at the start of the fiscal year at \$6 million, which is almost 16% and based on the budgeted numbers the County, would end the year at approximately a \$980,000 deficit. The County would end the year at approximately a \$560,000 deficit based on the projected numbers.

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Projection and the General Corporate Fund FY 2014 Budget Change reports; seconded by Hartke. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Cowart to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the award of bid for ITB 2014-003 for Portable Digital X-Ray Imaging System; seconded by Esry. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Petrie to recommend County Board approval of a resolution establishing elected official salaries for those elected in November 2014; seconded by Berkson.

**MOTION** by Maxwell to amend the motion establishing a salary increase for the County Clerk and Treasurer in the amount of \$1,250 per year for the next four years; the Sheriff's salary increase in the amount of \$1,550 for the next four years; and the County Board Chair salary increase in the amount of \$400 for the next two years instead of salary increases by percentages; seconded by James. Maxwell explained that the consensus from caucus discussion was to move away from percentage increases because percentages would continue to spread high and low salaries apart.

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Schwartz asked Maxwell to expand upon the reasoning behind the increase to the County Board Chair position because this position was already compensated above that of comparable counties salaries for board chair. Maxwell explained that the increase was in proportion to the proposed increases for the elected officials.

Schwartz stated that unlike other positions, the County Board Chair position is not something that someone runs for ahead of time, so the salary is not a factor in attracting good candidates for the position.

Schroeder stated that a recent bargaining unit contract was negotiated with these terms. Hartke supported the proposal of flat wage increases instead of percentage increases for elected officials.

Petrie asked if the Republican Caucus had also discussed the per diems earned by the County Board Chair. Jay explained that they did not discuss the County Board Chair's compensation in depth. Harper agreed with the proposed flat wage increases.

**MOTION by Kurtz to amend** the County Board Chair salary increase to \$0; seconded by Jay. Maxwell and James agreed to the friendly amendment.

Richards restated the **Motion to Amend** as: establishing a salary increase for the County Clerk and Treasurer in the amount of \$1,250 per year for the next four years; the Sheriff's salary increase in the amount of \$1,550 per year for the next four years; and the County Board Chair salary would remain the same with no increase for the next two years.

**Motion to Amend carried** with a roll call vote of 16-2. Berkson, Esry, Harper, Hartke, James, Jay, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, McGuire, Mitchell, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Schroeder, and Schwartz voted in favor of the amendment. Cowart and Rosales voted against it.

**MOTION** by Hartke to defer the establishment of elected official salaries for those elected in November 2014 until the April 15, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting; seconded by Quisenberry. **Motion to Defer carried** with a roll call vote of 14-4. Berkson, Cowart, Harper, Hartke, James, Kurtz, Langenheim, Maxwell, Mitchell, Petrie, Quisenberry, Richards, Schroeder, and Schwartz voted in in favor of deferral. Esry, Jay, McGuire, and Rosales voted against it.

Busey requested that board members notify her about any additional information they would like to see before the April 15 meeting.

### Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

**MOTION** by Esry to release the Finance Closed Session minutes of December 12, 1990 and December 13, 1995 concerning litigation related to a worker's compensation claim pursuant to Resolution No. 7969 establishing procedures for semi-annual review of closed session minutes by the Champaign County Board; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Designation of Items for the Consent Agenda

Items D1-3; E1; and F3 were designated for the County Board Consent Agenda.

**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS**

Appointments/Reappointments

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the appointment of Meghan Hennesy to the Sangamon Valley Public Water District for an unexpired term ending 5/31/2016; seconded by Mitchell. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the appointment of Tim Huls to an unexpired term ending 8/31/2015 for Drainage District #10 Town of Ogden; seconded by Harper. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Quisenberry noted the resignation of Elvin Huls from Drainage District #10 Town of Ogden for information only.

Local Foods Policy Council

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution extending the term of the Local Foods Policy Council for two more years; seconded by Hartke. Hartke stated that the Council has been a great advantage for Champaign County and he fully supported the term extension.

Petrie updated the board members on the latest projects of the Local Foods Policy Council: 1) the community is using some of the vacant land at the old Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul and also utilizing a couple of the buildings for a food hub and a fish farm; 2) the council held a focus group with various entities and they agreed to increase the use of local foods by 10%.

Maxwell felt the Local Foods Policy Council had done an excellent job and he supported the extension of the council term.

Busey asked if the resolution to continue the work of the council should have the same language or if board members wished to add more parameters. She also asked if board members intended for the same members to continue their service for two years on the Local Foods Policy Council.

Hartke felt that the present members should continue on the council and the current mission statement had good results so it should continue to be the same as well. Quisenberry recommended that board members review the mission statement and notify the Administrator if they would like to make any changes or additions. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

County Clerk

**MOTION** by Berkson to receive the February 2014 report and place it on file; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

County Administrator

**MOTION** by Berkson to receive the Administrative Services February 2014 report and place it on file; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Legislative Review

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend County Board approval of a resolution opposing SB3263; seconded by Schroeder. Kurtz explained that the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners brought this Senate Bill to their attention via conference call with the Metro-City Lobbying Group and ten other county board chairs. Kurtz explained that this SB takes the power away from all counties to produce and develop wind farms and places it in the hands of the agriculture. Kurtz stated that Mr. John Hall, Director of Planning and Zoning performed a thorough review and of this Bill and its implications to Champaign County. Kurtz explained that it was unanimous decision of everyone via telephone conference to oppose SB3263. He explained that each county has its own way of managing wind farms. Kurtz said it would also probably take away the County's revenue stream.

Berkson stated that this Senate Bill gives wind farms more power and is a way of getting out from under the County's regulations. She added that once the State of Illinois gets this regulation, then it would inevitably start taking the taxes as well. Schroeder agreed and recalled that the same type of situation occurred with the regulation of cellular towers. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

**MOTION** by Kurtz to appoint Lorraine Cowart as County Board Liaison to the Community Action Board to replace Giraldo Rosales, term ending 11/30/2014; seconded by Schroeder. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Chair's Report

Discussion of County Board Rules

Quisenberry invited comments from board members on the suggested changes and additions to the County Board Rules. He explained that no action would take place at this meeting.

James was concerned about the use of technology to attend meetings via Skype or conference call. He did not believe that board members should be compensated with per diems if they were not physically present at the meeting.

Quisenberry pointed out that the rule requiring more than twelve votes to elect a chair is more stringent than the state statute and they were waiting on an opinion from the States Attor-

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ney. Busey said they would have that opinion by the April Committee of the Whole meeting as well as an opinion on whether or not the board has the ability to remove a board chair.

Schwartz supported the suggestion of no per diem compensation for board members who were not physically present at meetings. She also wanted to limit the amount of time allowed for board chair candidates to speak to the board prior to the position election. Jay stated that he would like to eliminate Item 6-G (rule regarding use of technology to attend meetings) altogether. He felt it had the potential for abuse and set the wrong precedent. Kurtz agreed with Jay because there were too many variables.

Rosales supported the use of technology for meeting attendance and used the example of the extended absence due to illness of County Board member Carter as an example where the use of this type of technology was warranted.

Richards also supported the inclusion of Item G-6 in the County Board Rules. He underlined that the board could place limits on the type of situations where this type of attendance would be permissible. Berkson agreed with Rosales and Richards. McGuire felt that Item G-6 added too many complications to the business of the County Board. Mitchell agreed with Jay and McGuire.

Petrie offered a compromise on Item G-6 suggesting that it could apply to committee meetings but not to County Board meetings. She questioned the intended meaning of Statute 55 ILCS 5/2-1005; Section 2-1005: ... *A majority of the members of any county board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and all questions shall arise at meetings shall be determined by the votes of the majority of the members present...* Quisenberry explained that they were waiting on the opinion of the States Attorney.

Petrie suggested that under Item maybe 2-F, regarding the Biennial Organizational Meeting the word “*may*” should to be exchanged for the word “*shall*”, in order to allow more time if needed.

Quisenberry supported the inclusion of Item G-6 in the County Board Rules. He pointed out that other entities had added this rule many years ago without repercussions. Kurtz was concerned about the cost and details. Busey explained that the County already had the ability and equipment to teleconference so there would be no added cost involved. She said the option of video conferencing had not been explored yet, but would require an investment.

Quisenberry noted that the update to the County Board Rules adjusts the number of votes required to suspend the rules. He explained that at some point in the past the number of votes required to suspend the rules was changed to 50% of the vote, but Robert’s Rules of Order states that it should be two-thirds vote, so the update to the County Board Rules includes this change.

Busey pointed out that if the County Board Chair is not prepared to appoint committee members at the Biennial Organizational meeting it creates a logistical issue for the timely preparation and distribution of committee agendas. She suggested that during the biennial year during the



month of December that the business of the board should come directly to the board without committee.

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

**MOTION** by Langenheim to release the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Closed Session minutes of May 14, 1993 and May 21, 1993 concerning job applicants and all others to remain closed pursuant to Resolution No. 7969 establishing procedures for semi-annual review of closed session minutes by the Champaign County Board; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Designation of Items for the Consent Agenda

Items A1-2; B1 were designated for the Consent Agenda.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes  
Administrative Assistant

*Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*