

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Babb, Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Anthony Arnold (Committee Alternate), Kat Bork (Recording Secretary),
Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney)

CALL TO ORDER

Weibel called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Babb, Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, and Weibel were present at the time of the roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Burnison to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Schmidt. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Burnison to approve the Public Aid Appeals Committee minutes of September 12, 2006; seconded by Starwalt. **Motion carried.**

DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The committee discussed whether to schedule the regular monthly meetings for the next calendar year at 4:00 p.m. or in the morning of the second Tuesday of the month. The committee preferred morning meetings and discussed whether to hold the meetings at 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. McGrath noted most township offices do not open until 9:00 a.m.

MOTION by Schmidt to set the time of the regular monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. for the next calendar year; seconded by Babb. **Motion carried.**

The next Public Aid Appeals Committee meeting will be held on January 9, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications for the committee.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION

Michael Babb and C. Pius Weibel are the new committee members. Anthony Arnold is the new alternate. Burnison recommended the new members read the Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules & Procedures.

McGrath explained there is a difference between public aid and township assistance. Public aid is available for individuals who have dependents or meet some other special criterion in order to be eligible for public aid. Public aid is not available for single people. Township assistance is general assistance grants offered by the townships with no food stamp or any other specialty programs. Medical assistance and emergency assistance is available through the townships. Though this committee reviews township assistance, it is titled the Public Aid Appeals Committee by statute. Both public aid and township assistance operate under the rules of the Department of Human Services (formerly the Department of Public Aid). If an appellant wants to appeal the decision of the Public Aid Appeals Committee, he/she must appeal to the courts. Weibel asked about medical assistance. Burnison explained the townships offer a maximum assistance. If an appellant has dependent children, then he/she can apply for additional medical assistance. The township has to take out catastrophic insurance to protect itself from being bankrupted by a large public aid medical case. The committee functions to perform administrative review. Weibel asked how many public aid appeals are brought before the courts. McGrath said it is rare and has been approximately four years since the last time a case went before the courts. Weibel asked about the role of the committee alternate. McGrath explained the alternate serves on the committee if one of the standing members has a conflict of interest with a particular appeal. Arnold requested as much advance notice as possible if he is ever needed for a case. McGrath and Schmidt concurred no standing committee members have had a conflict of interest for several years. Most public aid appeals come from one of four big townships: the City of Champaign Township, Champaign Township, Cunningham Township, or Urbana Township. Schmidt said it is not uncommon for appellants to fail to appear at their assigned hearings. The experienced committee members described some past cases to give the new members an idea of the types of cases to come before the committee.

APPROVAL OF FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING APPEALS

McGrath explained these are the written decisions she prepares after the committee has made a decision on a case. The committee's decisions are announced in open session at the hearings. The committee reviewed the written decisions.

MOTION by Starwalt for an omnibus motion to approve the final decision made at the August 8, 2006 meeting regarding Appellant #01.3 from the City of Champaign Township, final decision made at the August 8, 2006 meeting regarding Appellant #01.6 from the City of Champaign Township, final decision made at the August 8, 2006 meeting regarding Appellant #01.7 from the City of Champaign Township, and the final decision made at the September 12, 2006 meeting regarding Appellant #01.9 from the City of Champaign Township; second by Burnison. **Motion carried.**

The committee members signed the decisions. Copies of these decisions will be sent to the appellants via certified mail and to the township supervisors and their attorneys.

OTHER BUSINESS

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

McGrath explained the Open Meetings Act requires the committee review its closed session minutes every six months to determine whether or not any should be opened. This committee typically only goes into closed session to consider the evidence presented for a case. The committee reviewed the binder of closed session minutes. McGrath recommended all the closed session minutes remain closed to protect the privacy of the appellants.

MOTION by Starwalt for all closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by Schmidt. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Recording 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.