

Governmental Affairs Committee
Rock Island County Board
February 11, 2013

The Governmental Affairs Committee of the Rock Island County Board met on Monday, February 11, 2013 in the conference room of the County Board Office. Chairperson Richard Brunk called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

Committee Members Present: Brunk, Jacobs, Mielke, Moreno and Vyncke

Committee Members Absent: Terry

Others Present: Phil Banaszek, Steve Meersman, Karen Kinney, April Palmer

Motion by Jacobs, second by Vyncke to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Carried.

Employee Manual and Procedure Manual Revisions
Encourages prompt payment of real estate taxes for county employees and obtaining three quotes for repair work. (Record)

Motion by Jacobs, second by Vyncke to lay on display. Carried.

Scholarship

Chairman Banaszek stated that we have had a scholarship in place for a number of years but each year, our applicants are very low. He is working on a reading initiative for area schools such as donation of books (that meet approval) as well as donation of funds for books. Personally, he is providing a subscription for a current events magazine to each of our area high schools.

Coordination with the Regional Office of Education will be necessary to ensure that the books are appropriate and needed for the various schools. There are currently 4 students with existing scholarships. Mr. Meersman suggested a newspaper subscription to reach more students. This will be brought up at the March meeting with further information.

Procedure Manual Revision re Sale of vehicles

Motion by Vyncke, second by Jacobs and Moreno to remove from display and approve. Carried.

HB1229 Minimum EAV Legislation

This is a piece of legislation from 2009 from this committee. There are approximately 600 parcels in Rock Island County that do not pay property taxes because of the number of exemptions. It would not be a huge revenue bump, just the principle of paying something for the services they are receiving. Our Chief County Assessment Officer is also aware of the legislation.

Non-Binding Referendum regarding Reduction

Included in the packet was a copy of the request that was sent to States Attorney McGehee regarding the request to update the Attorney General's opinion. (Record)

Motion by Mielke, second by Jacobs to approve sending the request to Mr. McGehee for the updated opinion. Carried.

Motion by Vyncke that until there is an opinion from the Attorney General that this action be tabled. Second by Jacobs.

Mielke questioned the time table that the AG's office may have - Mielke thought that perhaps further action may require additional deliberations of the committee.

Vyncke amended his motion to revisit in 6 months for potential follow-up. Jacobs amended his second. Carried.

Moreno asked if you don't hear anything, what are you going to do. Nothing. Mielke stated that the Board could go forward to reduce the Board. Chairperson Brunk was not willing to open himself or this Board up for legal action. Any action taken by a reduced board could come into legal concern.

Motion to approve one transfer of appropriation by Jacobs, second by Moreno to approve. Carried.

Motion by Moreno, second by Vyncke to approve the claims. Carried.

Condition of Funds

Ms. Palmer presented the routine monthly reports. (Record) Funds should be at 83% left, the GF County Clerk is above that with 89% left and the Document Fund is slightly lower at 60%. Cash balances are very low. She encouraged to watch spending and resolutions for new money. County Clerk Document is down slightly from last year, but up from prior months. Fund Balances are down as well. County Clerk Document has revenue and expenditures that are very similar to previous years. State of Illinois payment report was also provided. It is early in our fiscal year, but she stressed watching our balances.

Motion by Jacobs, second by Vyncke to approve the report. Carried.

County Clerk

Ms. Kinney presented the routine monthly vital report. (Record) They are down about \$8,000 from this period last year when reviewing the reports. Deaths are up, births and marriages are down. Ms. Kinney reviewed the vital report with the committee which showed revenue totaling \$41,466.28 with \$38,442 staying in the General Fund, \$2368 going into the Document Fund and the remaining \$656 being sent to the State.

Early voting started today for the February 26th election, they have had 8 voters so far. Grace period started January 30th for the jurisdictions, but they have not seen anyone for that yet. There are just a very few races for the municipal election. There will be 18 polling places open on February 26th.

Motion by Jacobs, second by Vyncke to approve the report. Carried.

Economic Development

Chairman Banaszek reported on the proposed new Jumer's Project with the City of Rock Island.

Safety Manual Revisions

Laid on display last month of Lockout/tag-out, hazardous materials and exposure control plan - motion by Vyncke, second by Moreno to remove from display and approve. Carried.

Lay on display a revision regarding space heaters - this is a recommendation from the Department of Labor inspections.

Motion to lay on display by Vyncke, second by Moreno. Carried.

IACO Education and Updates

Zone Meeting March 2 in Utica 9a to noon - any interested persons let Chairman Banaszek or Chairperson Brunk know. They will be leaving the County Building about 7am.

Hydraulic Fractioning seminar on March 4th

Other Matters

From Finance Committee - review hiring freeze resolutions. (Record) The last resolution adopted is dated February 16, 2010. By leaving it the same, we are requesting the cooperation of the Elected Officials when it comes to hiring replacements for their offices.

Recommendation of the Governmental Affairs Committee is to keep the action of February 16 2010 motion by Jacobs, second by Moreno and Mielke. Carried.

Counties at the Capitol

Number of legislation that has an effect on the County. HB150 should also be watched as it greatly increases the annual income level. Would go from \$55,000 to \$75,000 with a requirement of living in the home for a minimum of the previous 5 years. Chairperson Brunk will review closely and may make recommendations for support or opposing. HB182 Open Meetings Act seeks to remove the exemption for collective bargaining agreements. SB 1222 requires a public hearing for increases over 6% to county employees. Letters to our state delegation? Areas of concern

In support of the GIS Fund increases as well as the Elevator Safety

The committee was asked to review all legislation and it will be discussed next month.

Adjourn at 243pm

Shelly Chapman