

APPROVED 3/27/19
MINUTES
Ways and Means Committee
February 27, 2019
@ 2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Allen Mayer – Chairman; Steven Rieker – Vice Chairman; James Fennell, Rachel Reliford, Phillip Salzer, William Watkins, Jr., Sharon Williams
MEMBERS ABSENT:	
OTHERS PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel - County Administrator; Shauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Larry Evans - State's Attorney's Office; Andrew Rand – County Board Chairman; Kate Pastucha, Jimmy Dillon – County Board Members; Randy Brunner – Interim Chief Financial Officer; Wade Alig, Julie Ciesla, Kimberly Hudson, Paul Letcher, Jim Smith – Finance; Angela Loftus – Asst. Director of Human Resources; Judge Paul Gilfillan, Rena’ Parker – Courts; Jessica Thomas – County Auditor; Nicole Demetreas, Kelly Van Middlesworth – Treasurer; Tom Bride – Election Commission; Elizabeth Crider – Regional Office of Education; Steve Sonnemaker, Mike Deluhery – County Clerk; Dave Ryan – Supervisor of Assessments; Karen Raithel – Sustainability & Resource Conservation; Kathi Urban – Planning & Zoning; Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa – Sheriff’s Office; Steve Tarter – PJS; Cherri Cooper, Karen Hudson – Illinois Citizens for Clear Air and Water; Nic Anderson – Illinois Livestock Development; Joyce Blumenshine – Heart of IL Sierra Club

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayer at 2:23 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2018 was made by Mr. Rieker and seconded by Mr. Watkins. The motion carried.

Resolutions

- *Marriage/Civil Union License Fee Increase*

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Ms. Williams. Mr. Sonnemaker advised that a request to increase the fee from \$50.00 to \$75.00 has been received from Court Administration. He stated that Courts Administration has advised that the increased fee would be more in line with the fee charged in neighboring Tazewell County. He advised that the marriage/civil union license fee has not seen an increase since 2011. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Legislative Proposal for Livestock Management Facilities

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mr. Fennell. Mr. Sorrel advised that discussion in several County Board standing committee raised four primary concerns, those being: 1) the minimum setback of ½ mile from the corporate limits of a municipality is too close to denser development; 2) the Act defines a New Facility in such a way that an existing facility can significantly expand without a trigger mechanism that would require the operator to seek a new application from the Department of Agriculture (DoA); 3) the process to site and construct the facility, or expand an existing facility, is not transparent when the size is less than 1,000 animal units. When below the 1,000 unit animal threshold, there is no requirement from the DoA to notify the county board of a proposed facility nor a provision allowing the county board to

conduct a hearing; 4) No process or procedure within the Act that examines the impact of supply and quantity of ground water in the facility location.

Mr. Sorrel advised that staff has fashioned six proposals to legislators on modifications to the Livestock Management Facilities Act in response to these concerns:

1. Increase the minimum distance of a facility from its current ½ mile to 1 ½ miles from the corporate limits of any municipality that has an adopted Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance
2. The Department of Agriculture should notify the County Board of the county in which a facility will be located regardless of the size of the proposed facility
3. Regardless of size of the proposed facility, allow County Boards to conduct a public hearing for the purposes of soliciting critical input from the community
4. For facility applications in any county with a population greater than 150,000, create provisions in the Act that are substantially similar to the pollution control facility process found in the Environmental Protection Act
5. Regardless of size of the proposed facility, require the Department of Agriculture to solicit an evaluation of impacts to ground water supply and quality from the Illinois State Water Survey
6. To address the issue of existing facilities expanding without triggering a new application, the Act should be amended to close this loophole, specifically reviewing the definition of a facility in the Act, and remove or restrict an operator's ability to increase the size of the current facility without first requiring the operator to file a new application for facility expansion

Mr. Mayer emphasized that Peoria County is not advocating for or against these facilities, but has an overall goal focusing on local control of the process. Mr. Rieker questioned the urgency of the resolution and suggested soliciting additional input and a more thorough review of the topic before acting on the resolution. Mr. Mayer advised that there is legislation in Springfield in the Senate Agriculture Committee which could be posted as soon as next week, and the county is desirous of providing initial direction to government representatives and elected officials as negotiations of the bill proceed. Mr. Rieker commented that any action taken at this meeting of the committee would not address the immediate concerns and reiterated his stance on deepening and refining the discussion.

Surrounding area landowners and concerned citizens addressed the committee to present opposition and/or concerns, and a representative from the Illinois Livestock Development Group addressed the committee to present support regarding the facility and its proposed location.

The motion to approve carried 6-1, with Mr. Rieker voting nay.

- Monthly Delinquent Taxes

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Salzer and seconded by Mr. Watkins. The motion carried unanimously.

- Establishment of Public Official Bond Requirements

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Ms. Williams. Mr. Sonnemaker advised that state statute requires that various district trustees, when appointed by the county board, file a bond in an amount set by the county board. He stated that the bond amount has not been addressed in nearly forty years and recommends increasing the bond amount from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

County Auditor

Ms. Thomas advised that in the past month, 737 checks have been written in an amount totaling \$2,766,029.15. She stated that an appraisal of active vendors operating without contracts was conducted, and she worked with the County Administrator and Facilities Department in resolving deficiencies. She remarked that the janitorial contract for the courthouse and Gift Avenue, noting that the contract will be going out for bid by the end of March. She has also worked with various departments on resolving pre-payment audit deficiencies.

County Clerk

Mr. Sonnemaker advised that tax levy confirmations have been mailed, and tax extensions will be completed near the end of March. Mr. Deluhery advised that beginning next week, Statements of Economic Interest may be filed online. He also advised that the Statements of Economic Interest, with redacted addresses, will also be available to search and view online.

Peoria County Election Commission

Mr. Bride noted the consolidated primary election was held yesterday, with 10.7% turnout, a slight increase from the last city-wide at-large election 12 years ago. He noted the increase of 1,000 voters is due to an increase in voter registration. He stated that there were no issues with the newly installed electronic pollbook software.

Finance

Mr. Brunner advised that staff are in the process of completing 2018 financials and appropriations for the annual audit. He stated that a Budget in Brief document is being prepared for distribution.

Regional Office of Education (ROE)

Ms. Crider provided an update on the activities of the Regional Office of Education:

- An individual may obtain an expedited GED by being given credit for any accumulated high school credits
- The annual Gerald M. Brookhart Spring Celebration of the Arts begins April 15th. She asked that any committee member interested in sponsoring a stage contact her directly.
- The ROE is partnering with the Peoria Riverfront Museum for International Jazz Day on April 15th
- "Journey Like No Other" a signature event and fundraiser for the Peoria Regional High School located at Wildlife Prairie Park will be held in March.
- The author of "The Body Keeps the Score", discussing the impacts of trauma on the mind and body, will attend the April 17th Bradley Brain Summit
- A summer reading program will be initiated and supplemented by \$30,000.00 in available Pre-School for Expansion funding

Supervisor of Assessments/Board of Review

- **Tax Cycle**

Mr. Ryan advised that the final Abstract has been sent to the Department of Revenue will be forwarded to the County Clerk's Office when returned.

Treasurer

Report deferred to the April meeting of the committee.

Veteran's Assistance Commission

Mr. Mayer advised that the Commission surpassed \$20 million in benefits in 2018.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mayer at 3:40 p.m.