

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT:

☒ John Lang
☒ LaDon Trost
☒ Dianne Allendorf

☒ John Creighton
☐ Diane Gallagher
☒ Don Zillig

☒ Steve McIntyre zoom
☒ John Schultz

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Joseph Heitkamp appeared via Zoom.

Others: Sheriff Kevin Turner, State's Attorney Chris Allendorf, Steve Ohms, Tom Ohms, Mike Dittmar, Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot, Randy Harden of WATV and Todd Greer of ICRMT.

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Minutes of the December 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting – **Creighton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023 Executive Committee meeting as presented. Seconded by Schultz and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

2. Citizens' Comments – None.

At this time, Chairperson Lang moved onto New Business.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee did not review their strategic goals and plans at this time.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA requests – The committee reviewed the updated FOIA request report.
- c) Courthouse Project Update and possible action – Scott Toot, County Administrator, said there was a final document meeting with the architect and we had a meeting with the moving company last week. The move will start the week of January 22nd for the first floor offices. Toot is confident that the company will take care of everything getting moved.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on a Professional Services Agreement with Mid-West Moving & Storage at a cost not to exceed \$139,627.00 – Lang explained to the Committee this is approving the contract with Mid-West Moving & Storage. What was approved at the County Board meeting was their professional services proposal. Toot elaborated some of the contract. He mentioned that there were a few items that the company won't be moving, which will make the cost come in under the amount the contract is for. The County is required to pay prevailing wage. **Creighton made a motion to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Mid-West Moving & Storage at a cost not to exceed \$139,627.00. Seconded by Allendorf and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.**

- b) Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance Authorizing the Operation of Non-Highway Vehicles on County Roads – Creighton said that this has been part of the Public Works Committee’s discussion for about a year now. He pointed out that he provided an informational packet which included seven (7) Ordinances from other Counties in Illinois that have approved the use of UTV’s on their roads. Creighton invited Randy Harden, from WATV (Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association), to explain the economic impacts of side-by-side sport riding, which is in excess of a billion dollar asset in Wisconsin’s economy. Harden is the president of WATV. He explained how that it’s not just a sport and recreation, it’s an industry. Harden reviewed some statistics that he read to the Committee. He explained the studies that agencies have done and their credibility. Creighton asked Harden to go over the safety issues of UTV use on public roads. He mentioned that seatbelts were an issue and how they are constantly working to enforce them. He also talked about the requirement of a helmet for anyone under the age of 18. There was more discussion. Lang welcomed Todd Greer, COO of Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust, to the meeting. He asked Greer to explain what effect this possible Ordinance would have on the County’s insurance. The area where they would have a concern is if the UTV’s were being driven on roads that have over a 35 mph speed limit. If the vehicles were driven on a road that had a speed limit over 35 mph, then it would be breaking State law. From a public official’s standpoint, it would be excluded. If someone is injured, they can go after each Board member personally, since punitive damages are not covered. Our ordinance is complying with state law so as written we look like we are fine. Steve Keeffer talked about lowering the speed limit and the need for a speed study. Dual speed limit is more of a State’s Attorney question. Keeffer is not aware that that is a legitimate thing. We could certainly put signs out but he doesn’t know how you would go about that. It was suggested to contact UCCI to see if they could do lobbying on our behalf. Chris Allendorf clarified that you can’t have a dual speed limit for vehicles that are not capable of driving on interstate highways. That is not what dual speed limits means here. As the mayor of Elizabeth, Mike Dittmar is enthusiastic for this. He would like to see no fee or a very small fee. We want people from Wisconsin to come here and spend money. Obviously local people as well. The Village of Elizabeth has a \$25 fee. If the county does a fee the Mayors Association would ask that it be reciprocal. They would do the same so that license would be good on the County roads. They would pass an ordinance, too. The County ordinance is excellently written. He asks that the County would make it legal on township roads. The Elizabeth Chamber and Village of Elizabeth will go to the townships and argue for it if you want. You could ask GGMI to give money towards the signs. John Creighton added that the head of the Tri-County ATV group informed him that Lafayette County is shaping up to be in excess of \$40 million dollars in economic impact directly associated with UTV’s. There were more comments from members of the audience that were in favor of the Ordinance. Trost mentioned that there are too many ‘what-if’s’ and that we have to look at these things before we actually pass this. We have to know what our liabilities are going to be; not only for the County, but for each of the members of the County Board. He stated that he wants to make this work but we need more time. Sheriff Kevin Turner commented that he felt there was a lot of good conversation tonight. A lot of the Economic Development we’re talking about right now is at the Northern part of the County, near the State line. He mentioned that a lot of these communities have little to no law enforcement, and that means they rely on the County’s law enforcement services, and to please consider that if they vote on this tonight. State’s Attorney Allendorf commented that as the Ordinance is written, with the 35 mph limit, is fine as far as the State law goes. The 55 mph draft would be clearly in contravention of state law and our insurance representative is 100% accurate that it does open the Board up to liability, both personal and for the County, but as its written here, it adheres pretty closely with State law. The real issue is township roads. Kimball Willis of Derinda Township expressed his concern over changing the speed limit to 35 mph on his township’s roads. There needs to be a speed study done in order to do that, and he is certain that the majority of people traveling those roads are going to want to drive 55 mph in a car. Allendorf said that this Ordinance would only cover township roads and

that the townships will need to also pass Ordinances themselves. **Creighton made a motion to postpone action on this item for 60 days. Seconded by Schultz and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) County Clerk/Recorder – Angela Kaiser, County Clerk & Recorder, was not in attendance at this time.
- b) County Administrator – Scott Toot, County Administrator, gave his report earlier in the meeting during his Courthouse Renovation update.

6. Summary of Committee Activities

- a) Don Zillig: Law Enforcement & Courts Committee – Zillig said that they had the ETSB at their last meeting brought to their attention a new system that will streamline a lot of things for the communications department.
- b) John Creighton: Public Works Committee – Creighton said Public Works did not meet this past month. He has had a number of phone calls and concerns over what has been happening with the Health Department implementing their new fee structure.
- c) John Schultz: Finance Committee – Schultz reported that the Finance Committee meeting was postponed to Tuesday, right before the County Board meeting.
- d) John Lang: Legislative Committee – Lang reported that the Legislative Committee is attempting to set up a meeting where Senator Chesney and Representative McCombie can attend.
- e) Dianne Allendorf: Social & Environmental Committee – Allendorf reported Social & Environmental discussed their kitchen inspection fees set by the Health Department. That is something that she thinks needs to be discussed further.
- f) Diane Gallagher: Development & Planning Committee and Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee – Gallagher was not in attendance to give a report.

7. Citizens' Comments – Mike Dittmar expressed concern over the liquor license fees. He asked that they be lowered for small businesses like his that are seasonal.

8. Board Member Concerns – Trost said things are moving forward nicely with the Courthouse move. McIntyre wanted to thank the Board members and County staff that reached out to him regarding his mother's passing.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. following a motion made by Schultz. Seconded by Zillig and the motion carried by voice vote.