

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: July 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT:

☒ John Lang
☒ Don Hill
☐ Bill Bingham

☒ Diane Gallagher
☐ John Korth

☒ John Schultz
☒ LaDon Trost

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Hendrica Regez and Don Zillig

Others: Marc McCoy, Dan Payette, Dan Schulte and Scott Toot

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Minutes of the June 7, 2022 Executive Committee meeting – There were no minutes in the packet to act on at this time.

2. **Citizens' Comments** – Marc McCoy commented in regard to passenger rail that the Jo Daviess County visitors with no cars is kind of an awesome thought.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2022 Strategic Goals and Plans – Update status – The committee did not review their list of goals and plans.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA requests – The committee reviewed the updated FOIA request report.
- c) Update on a position classification and compensation study for Jo Daviess County - Scott Toot, County Administrator, reported that the Archer Co. has created a share file. Toot has given them documents on our current plan, position descriptions and we have a Zoom meeting with them along with Angie Kaiser and Melisa Hammer on July 7th.

4. New Business

- a) Presentation regarding Passenger Rail Feasibility Study – Dan Schulte, Quandel– Dan Schulte, Quandel engineer, gave a presentation on the Passenger Rail Feasibility Study results. We wrapped up this study in early May. Dan Payette asked him to come out to present the study to the committee. Payette added that he wanted the opportunity for Quandel that had put a lot of work into the 18 month study to present the work and what might be coming next along with some of the findings, costs and probability of the study itself. Schultz reviewed the presentation that was included in the informational packet. Numerous questions were answered that were posed by Committee members.
- b) Discussion on COVID-19 Disaster Declaration – Scott Toot explained the importance of the disaster declaration and it's relation to Zoom meetings. In order for us to continue with Zoom meetings, this declaration from the Governor allows us to do that. If we don't pass a disaster declaration each month we will be out of business via Zoom for people to vote or make up a quorum.

5. Closed Session

John Schultz made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:25 p.m. for Purchase/lease property section 2(c)5 *"The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."*

Topic of discussion: Possible additional County facilities

Seconded by Diane Gallagher. Roll call vote resulted in all ayes and the motion carried.

At 7:39 p.m., Diane Gallagher made a motion to reconvene to open session. Seconded by LaDon Trost. Roll call vote resulted in all ayes and the motion carried.

6. Possible action as a result of closed session – There was no action as a result of closed session at this time.

7. Staff Reports

- a) County Clerk/Recorder – Angela Kaiser, County Clerk & Recorder was not in attendance this evening. There was no report at this time.
- b) County Administrator – Scott Toot reported that 50% of the fiscal year has elapsed and we are going quite well with intergovernmental revenues and cannabis sales tax. The state did not suspend the motor fuel tax. This would have caused some major problems for our Highway Department to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but instead they suspended a \$0.022 increase through January, 2023. There will be a resolution for the Finance committee in August; Sheriff is running out of money for fuel. Transit is in good shape in that regard and Steve Keeffer says he is in good shape at the Highway Department as well. The budget software training was completed on June 15th and budgets were sent to department heads for revenue estimates. We are currently in the process of reviewing them. In regards to the Miner cemetery, Toot went to the state archives and they got back to him. He wants to see the petition of incorporation for the cemetery from 1927. He reviewed the county Board minutes from 1927 and 1928. Once Toot sees the petition he will make his recommendation to the County Board.

8. Summary of Committee Activities

- c) Diane Gallagher: Development and Planning Committee did not meet in June. The Zoning office did have several hearings that were successful.
- d) John Schultz: Finance Committee cancelled their June meeting due to a wave of COVID in the Courthouse and our committee is somewhat geriatric, so we decided it was not a good idea to hold a meeting.
- e) LaDon Trost: Public Works Committee talked about a proposed entrance onto Bethel Road for an expanding dairy operation. They approved a petition from Derinda Township for culvert repairs to two culverts on Plosch Road. They also discussed an opportunity to purchase updated seal coat equipment from Whiteside County. We are currently using 45 plus year old equipment to seal coat. There is also a more immediate need to purchase a different asphalt tanker since the current tanker has developed an unrepairable leak. Two township projects will be bid before the July County Board meeting and Steve Keeffer would like to have a special Public works Committee meeting before the County Board meeting to forward these bids to the County Board for approval. Nothing more was discussed on solar for the Highway facility because Keeffer is still waiting for quotes.

- f) Don Hill: Social & Environmental Committee is going to have a Transit public hearing before the County Board meeting for a grant. The Board of Health meets tomorrow night.
- g) John Lang: Legislative Committee did not meet in June. The UCCI Annual Meeting at the Galena Territory will be coming up at the end of this month. Lang encouraged committee members to sign up for the conference,

9. Citizens' Comments – None.

10. Board Member Concerns: Diane Gallagher commented that it was interesting to see on her travels to Oregon state and Washington state that some of them did have solar on their roofs. In particular the Oregon capital. NaCo does have the leadership training program which Hendrica Regez and Scott Toot are involved in. Gallagher highly recommends the face to face situation. Gallagher also reminded everyone that we all put a face on to our visitors. John Schultz commented that after tonight's presentation we have voted wrong in our support of the train. It just does not make economic sense. LaDon Trost commented that in Stockton on Saturday we had our Veteran's parade and memorial. It was a wonderful day. He wished more veterans would have been able to show up but we had a great memorial at our memorial commemorating veterans. Jim Sacia was our emcee and there were numerous speakers including Ernie Lieb who gave a very touching speech.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by LaDon Trost and the motion carried by voice vote.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.