

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME January 14, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
PRESENT:

☒ John Lang ☒ Hendrica Regez ☒ Scott Toot ☒ LaDon Trost
☒ Darcy Wild ☒ John Schultz ☒ Diane Gallagher ☒ Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members:

Others: Brandon Behlke, Dan Reimer

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:** None.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:** None.
5. **New Business:**

- a) Governor's budget cuts due to the failure of the State income tax increase – John Lang discussed that one of the cuts he has noticed is in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity which will affect the Library project in East Dubuque. Diane Gallagher added that they had submitted the grant and it had been approved. They had the paperwork in to state officials prior to this and were told the money was set aside but she doesn't know if they can go back and put the funds on hold. The broadband webinar that Gallagher listened to today, which is funded through the Department of Commerce didn't mention anything. They are still under the idea that they will have money to spend for their broadband grant program. Lang commented that the governor has made broadband a priority in part because the schools are dependent upon it. Another thing is that these budget cuts are predicated upon negotiating new contracts with the unions.
- b) Legislation enacted during the Lame Duck Session – Lang sent a list to the committee of all of the bills that he knew passed. The bills that failed were real close but they ran out of time. Don Zillig commented on an article he read in the Telegraph Herald regarding HB 3653 and what a great bill it is and how important it is. Zillig phoned Sheriff Turner and told him he thought the Sheriff's Association should make a reply to the article. We have a lot of visitors come into the county and Zillig has never heard of a complaint about our law enforcement. We have great law enforcement in this county. This is a typical Chicago issue not a county or state issue. Scott Toot commented it's a good thing that the Village of Elizabeth is moving the village hall to a new building because a new bill will not allow police officers to be on school property unless there is an imminent threat. They want to do away with all school resource officers. As far as HB 3653 Toot has no problem with more training but strongly opposes the idea of anonymous complaints. Another interesting point in the bill is if there is some sort of disciplinary action or adjudication it will be held in courts in Sangamon or Cook County. LaDon Trost commented that this is the worst thing that has ever happened to the state not just for law enforcement but for people's safety altogether. Trost talked to Representative Chesney and watched the online

session. He did everything he could to make this not happen. This doesn't take effect immediately and has to go to executive summary. We will know more at that time. We know that many police officers that have time in are going to retire. What's happened is police officers will have to purchase their own insurance in order to protect themselves. They will not be able to bargain for this insurance under collective bargaining. The only thing they can bargain for is wages. John Lang added that the County insurance will increase as well. Toot added that they have delayed the qualified immunity until May. Lang explained the Black Caucus Education Reform and Black Caucus Economic Package. There is another provision to form a Reparations Commission. They are also going to study minority farming to try to find out why there is not more minority farmers in the state.

- c) Speaker of the House – Madigan? – Mike Madigan only got 51 votes on the first ballot. Emanuel Chris Welch will be the new Speaker of the House.
- d) Possible Legislative calendar – Lang didn't give the committee the full Legislative calendar. There aren't going to be very many days of legislative action in January and February. The important date to look at is February 23rd when the consolidated primary election is.
- e) A law that could be adopted to fund EMS – Lang included in the handout copies of the bill that he thought we could use for the EMS funding if the bill could be modified for small EMS services in small counties. This is a bill that Lang would like to talk to Senator Stewart and Representative Chesney about if they think this bill could be modified to help Jo Daviess County or not. Dan Reimer discussed the current EMS situation in Jo Daviess County and where we are at with our Special Service Area Commissions. The Ad-Hoc EMS Committee completed a report in 2020 on EMS Sustainability in Jo Daviess County. There are a number of issues and limitations that we are dealing with. Reimer explained the purpose of the Jo Daviess County Special Service Areas. There are currently two ambulance service districts that are not included in the SSA's – Stockton and East Dubuque. Scott Toot feels any solution that we come up with will be met with some resistance. LaDon Trost feels we need to leave this up to the voters to decide. There was considerable discussion on a possible referendum.
- f) 1% Service Tax on hold – The 1% Service Tax is on hold at this time.
- g) New terms introduced in the Black Caucus Legislation – The committee reviewed the list of new Illinois Legislative terms that was included in the packet.
- h) Committee meeting times and day – The committee discussed the meeting date and time for their committee meetings. The second Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. works for everyone. There will be no change to the current Legislative Committee meeting schedule.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

7. **Board Member Concerns:** Scott Toot asked everyone to please remember this. Always separate out the Illinois state government from the State of Illinois. Illinois state government is not the State of Illinois. Darcy Wild added that one of the reasons she moved on from the Department of Corrections after 28 years is because of the politics. John Schultz came to the meeting today with many concerns. He is leaving with many more.

8. Next regular meeting - Thursday, February 11, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

9. Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by Diane Gallagher and motion passed following a roll call vote that resulted in all ayes.