

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee

CHAIRPERSON: John Lang

DATE/TIME March 11, 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: Dan Reimer and Sheriff Turner

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2. **Minutes Approval:** None.

3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

4. **Unfinished Business:**

- a) FY2019/FY2020 Strategic Goals and Plans – At last month's meeting the committee reviewed their strategic goals and plans as follows: Promote more passing lanes for Highway 20 is ongoing. Implement 1% service tax is ongoing. There has been no action to establish Home Rule for the County. Restore funding from the distributive fund is on the watch list. There has been no action to investigate hiring a part-time or full-time lobbyist. Find options for other municipalities to supply law enforcement assistance for the County is in place with mutual aid.
- b) Thoughts on meeting with Senator Stewart and Representative Chesney – Don Zillig commented that he thought it was nice that they showed up and listened to us. Mr. Chesney understands what we need to get done especially that 1% service tax. He realizes what is important to us. He really takes an interest in us and any one of us could call him and he would call you back or talk to you at the time. With all that is going on in Springfield, Zillig was really please that they took the time to join in our meeting. Lang agreed. Schultz echoed Zillig. It is not often that we get a chance to talk to Mr. Stewart and he appreciated that he was in our meeting along with Mr. Chesney.

5. **New Business:**

- a) Review how to enter a witness slip – Dan Reimer pulled up the Illinois General Assembly website. John Lang reviewed how to enter a witness slip.
- b) Review of legislation introduced relevant to County government and possible action to oppose or support – On the Illinois General Assembly website on the left hand side of the screen you can enter bill numbers to review. The committee reviewed 23 bills. Those bills that are supported by the committee are as follows: HB42, HB198, HB314, HB315, HB372, HB546, HB593, HB720, HB784, SB103, SB120, SB150, SB482, SB503, SB508, and SB575. Those bills that are opposed by the committee are as follows: HB181, HB447, HB1727, HB1735, and SB193. The committee took no position on the following: HB578 and SB2278.

- c) SB1666 – Changes time lines for reapportionment deadline due to census delay – Lang commented that one of the bills that was not on the list that was introduced and we have discussed as a County Board is the reapportionment. Right now the census figures are not supposed to be out until September. This bill would extend the County's timeline to do the reapportionment. The Executive Committee has talked about having individual board districts again. Dan Reimer added that right now the deadline is July 1st or the July County Board meeting. Each County has to have their reapportionment plan approved and adopted. The County Clerk sends it down. If we don't do that, there is a commission that will do it for us. Normally as a County you want to do it yourself. This legislation would give us a few more months to get that accomplished because we don't have the census. There are certain decisions that you are still going to be able to make like your districts and elect a County Board chair, but reapportionment itself, drawing the lines; you are not going to be able to do that for your districts until you know what the population is in each area of the County.
- d) Legislation that committee members want to bring to the attention of the committee and possible action – Hendrica Regez wanted the committee to review SB1718. It is the Clean Energy Jobs Act that she has been talking about for years. Create clean energy jobs without affecting our taxes or energy bills by creating a different way to purchase energy for the state. They are building job centers throughout the state and Regez would like to see us get one of those here. John Schultz, Don Zillig and John Lang oppose this bill citing social injustice. Lang feels that as a committee we don't know enough about this bill to support. HB2615 is in regards to cottage food service. Schultz and Toot commented that this bill they could support. The other is HB720 which the committee discussed earlier.
- e) The effects that the enactment of HB3653 has had on law enforcement – Sheriff Turner has brought to the attention of the committee the effects of HB3653 on law enforcement. Lang commented that this bill shows the devastating effect on law enforcement in the state. Scott Toot commented on a survey that was taken by the Sheriff's Association of 122 police chiefs, sheriff's executives that participated in the state. That is only about 10%. There are 102 counties and over 1,000 police departments in the state. Toot reviewed the survey with the committee. This does not represent all of law enforcement but it does represent a snapshot of police that are responsible for directing law enforcement in the state. It is not a good report. Lang feels we are going to have a difficult time hiring future police officers and a lot of departments are going to be undermanned. Toot and Trost expressed their personal opinions.
- f) Committee member suggestions for future legislation – Hendrica Regez asked if we could look through the list of bills again and look for those that are economic related. Lang responded that we are looking for bills that are of County Board interest. There are almost 2,000 bills that have been introduced and Lang doesn't have the time to research all of them. Regez also asked if we were giving up on the 1% service tax. We will continue to pursue it, but not in this session.

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

7. **Board Member Concerns:** LaDon Trost commented on a candidate for governor who is very influential in Chicago and owns property in the county. John Lang commented that Robin Kelly,

who is a federal representative from the Chicago area, is now the new Democratic chair. She took over the Jesse Jackson legislative district. The State of Illinois is going to be well represented. Scott Toot reminded everyone of the CDC guideline that two weeks after you have had your second vaccine we can all sit together in this board room and not have to wear masks. Also, everything is going very well at the call center and Hendrica Regez has been volunteering there.

8. Next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
9. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m. following a motion made by LaDon Trost. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed following a roll call vote that resulted in all ayes.