

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME May 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
PRESENT:

☒ John Lang ☐ Vacant ☒ LaDon Trost ☒ Darcy Wild (2:40 pm)
☒ John Schultz ☐ John Creighton ☒ Don Zillig (2:40 pm) ☒ Mike Holt

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Gerald Podraza and Scott Toot

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the April 11, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting – Minutes of the April 11, 2024 Legislative Committee meeting were not included in the packet.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** Gerald Podraza spoke in regards to the County's relationship with DMATS and if we can get a special train to work on October 19th for some special events in the area. Can we request that they provide transportation into East Dubuque and Dubuque to the Loras Collage Campus? Scott Toot explained that Don Zillig is our representative on the DMATS Board and asked Podraza to reach out to him as well as Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Status of County Bills
 - (i) SB1746 – Jo Daviess 1% Service Tax – Assignments – There has been no action. This is on hold.
 - (ii) SB2141 – ATV/UTV – on Public roads – Assignments – there has been no action. This is on hold as well.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance on Campgrounds – LaDon Trost hasn't been able to complete it but has been working on this ordinance from other ordinances from other municipalities. He feels that we need to move that forward if we can. Hopefully he will have that prepared by the next Legislative Committee meeting. **Mike Holt made a motion to support developing an ordinance regarding campgrounds in Jo Daviess County. Seconded by John Schultz and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**
 - b) Discussion and possible action on supporting the Zephyr Train – LaDon Trost would like to support this because so many other municipalities throughout the railroad line have asked to be supportive. There are a lot of questions before this is complete. John Lang added that the viable option is special event trains. John Schultz agrees that the Burlington maintains their tracks very well. He is not a fan of the feasibility study but he is not going to oppose it. Schultz is interested in seeing what the numbers are when it is done. The feasibility study on the Canadian National certainly was not favorable. **John Schultz made a motion to draft a Resolution in Support of Studying the**

Feasibility of Reviving the Twin Cities Zephyr Amtrak Route from Chicago to East Dubuque. Seconded by Mike Holt and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes. This resolution will go to the County Board in June.

- c) Review of Legislation the Committee has been following – SB3669 – Wetlands & Small Streams is back in Assignments right now. A number of bills that were extended to May 3rd have now been extended to May 17th. These are the same bills we have seen a couple of times already. There was much discussion on HB4603 which bans most traffic stops.
- d) HB5395 Healthcare Protection Act – The bill would require health insurers to use generally accepted standards of care when deciding whether to cover treatments recommended by a doctor. It also bans a practice known as step therapy that is used in some prescription drug plans. And it also prohibits insurance companies from requiring prior authorization before covering the cost of in-patient psychiatric treatment..
- e) SB2421 – Child Welfare becomes a major Election Bill – The child welfare bill was gutted just moments before going to the Illinois House floor and replaced with an omnibus election bill. It places three non-binding referendums on the General Election ballot, eliminates the slating process to place candidates on the ballot in certain circumstances and moves up petition deadlines by 28 days.
- f) Climate Bills – The Climate and Equitable Jobs act includes provisions to phase out carbon emissions from the energy and transportation sectors. The Illinois EPA is directed in CEJA to establish rebate and grant programs for electric vehicles and charging stations and oversee the phase-out of fossil fuel-fired electrical generation units.
- g) Cost of providing migrant Health Insurance in Illinois – The estimated cost for Illinois to continue providing health care coverage to noncitizens who are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits has been revised upward to \$1.1 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. The new estimate represents a 400% increase from Pritzker's February budget estimate.
- h) The State of Illinois Proposed Budget – Gov. Pritzker said there's enough Illinois taxpayer revenue for his proposed \$52.7 billion budget. Republican budget negotiators question that with a month before the deadline. Pritzker said tax revenues are on track and that the big question is how the General Assembly prioritizes spending. He said he proposed a balanced budget.
- i) The constant rising State gas tax – The motor fuel tax will rise to 47 cents per gallon on July 1st. The state tax was 19 cents before Gov. Pritzker doubled it in 2019 to help fund \$45 billion in infrastructure.
- j) Teacher's Union electioneering students – The Chicago Teachers Union's 142-page list of demands includes codifying their most recent political rally where they took students out of class, hit them with propaganda and then marched them to the polls to vote.

6. Legislative issues Committee members or County Officials want the Committee to be aware of and take action on at another meeting – None.

7. Citizens' Comments: None.

8. **Board Member Concerns:** Mike Holt thanked John Lang for putting together an informative packet. John Lang commented that depending on how the legislative session ends we may or may not have the June meeting.
9. Next regular meeting – Thursday, June 13, 2024.
10. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. following a motion made by Mike Holt. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried by voice vote.