

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** John Lang  
**DATE/TIME** May 12, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.  
**PRESENT:**

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

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Bill Bingham

Others: Kevin Turner, Ben Petitgout, and Scott Toot

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
  - a) Minutes of the April 14, 2022 Legislative Committee meetings – No minutes were included in the packet for approval.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a) Discussion and possible action on what further action needs to be taken on the 1% advisory referendum – John Lang commented that on Tuesday night the County Board approved the question. Mr. Petitgout is in attendance and we are going to try to answer his questions and to give us any help. Petitgout did not have any questions at this time. Lang continued that the biggest thing we need to do is send a letter out to all of the EMS agencies. A draft letter was included in the packet for review. Lang can possibly put out a letter under his own signature, but he cannot do it as a county letter. Petitgout commented that he thought the letter covered everything, both the hand written copy and typed copy afterwards. Petitgout personally believes that the tourism industry and the visitors who come to Jo Daviess County need a financial investment in emergency medical services. John Lang responded that given the County Boards vote, they believe that as well. Petitgout continued to place any more taxes on the property owners is wrong. It needs to be focused on the tourism industry and visitors, period. Lang would like to get this letter out to all of the EMS and fire services in the County first. Then possibly do a letter to the editor that explains some of it if they will give him the space. Petitgout added the Galena EMS board of directors have discussed doing public service announcements, articles educating the people where we are at with emergency medical services, where we have come from, where we are at today. Overall 28% of all of the Galena EMS calls are non-billable due to refusals, cancellations, nobody on scene when they get there. The ones that the insurance company do not pay, Medicare, Medicaid and the private carries they only pay so much and then the individual has out of pocket which they may not pay. Last year they wrote off \$143,000 in uncollected insurance money. That is on top of the 28% calls that they cannot bill. Don Zillig asked if Greater Galena Marketing is for, against or neutral on this issue. Scott Toot responded that the last he heard from them they came back with other questions about other issues. Petitgout believes we need to educate those in the tourism industry that have the overnight guest accommodation. If EMS goes by the way side, and you have two white papers out there, one two years

ago on the sustainability of emergency medical services in Jo Daviess County and four years ago there was one about the recruitment and retention of EMS members in Jo Daviess County. There are a lot of parts moving in this and Petitgout thinks we need to get the word out to the public and to those that feel they will be adversely affected. Zillig asked if we were mandated to provide the service. Lang responded that the State of Illinois does not consider EMS to be an essential service. The Special Service Area contracts state that if any of these services would cease to exist all of their assets would return to the County. Lang would like to come up with some kind of a tentative action plan. Toot feels there needs to be a committee to address this issue.

**5. New Business:**

- a) Further review of Spring Legislative Session – The committee reviewed the list of eighteen bills which was included in the packet as presented by John Lang.
- b) Bills committee members or county officials want to discuss or propose. – Hendrica Regez asked about HB3922 which is in regards to the June 19 holiday. Scott Toot responded that will be up for discussion. John Lang added that the County policy is to only have 15 holidays, but we may have to change it for this coming year. Regez thought it is a state holiday and we would have to observe it. She would like to see it observed again.

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

- 7. **Board Member Concerns:** Diane Gallagher expressed a concern if a separate committee is set up that they discuss having an identified spokesperson and have materials that everyone responds with the same answer.
- 8. Next regular meeting will be held on June 9, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed.