

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME November 10, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.
PRESENT:

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

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None.

Others: Scott Toot and Kevin Turner

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lang called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Legislative Committee meeting – John Lang commented that we need to remember the words of Cal Cain when we look at the legislation today so that it includes any department that expends medical emergency services to be fair and to get support from the whole community. **John Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 Legislative Committee Meeting. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried.**
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
4. **Unfinished Business:** None.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Election results and implications for the County
 - i. Local elections – John Lang commented that it is with great sadness and disappointment that we are going to be losing Don Hill. Hill has been a fabulous chairman. He has put the work in and he has my deepest appreciation for all he has done. Don Hill thanked Lang for his comment. He has enjoyed being chairman the last couple of years.
 - ii. State and Nation elections – Lang commented that he didn't think the election was any surprise at the state level. There was a considerable amount of discussion on abortion. We got the vote for the advisory referendum which was great! Lang owes a big thank you to LaDon Trost for his letter in the newspaper. That was a big help at the last minute. With the committees permission Lang would like to write a letter to Representative Chesney and Representative McCombie telling them that the referendum has passed in the County and now it is time for them to do their part downstate. A brand new legislative session will be starting in January. Everything will start over then and runs on a two year cycle. LaDon Trost suggested that we invite Chesney and McCombie to our next meeting and then promote this as an elected agenda. It has been a crazy poll on the National side. They still don't know who will control the House and Senate.
 - b) Upcoming Legislative Session
 - i. Veto override – November 15 to November 17 and November 29 to December 1 – possible bill SB4228 on the Safe-T Act – John Lang does not think there are a lot of bills

vetoed that the government will have to worry about. The committee discussed SB4228 which is a bill that is supposed to modify the Safe-T Act that was passed with this no bail bond provision which was passed in the lame duck session two years ago. When you pull it up on the Illinois General Assembly website you get nothing. Lang was able to find a summary of it elsewhere. There was much discussion on SB4228. Lang commented that if they modify that Safe-T Act he expects it will be done in the veto override session because they want to get it done before January 1st. That was a primary contention in the election. Don Hill stated that the State Attorneys from all but two counties have filed a lawsuit that it is unconstitutional and needs to be a constitutional amendment to be able to do this.

- ii. Lame Duck – 4 or 5 days prior to Jan 10, 2023 – possible bill HB5522 – The lame duck session is probably the most dangerous session of the Illinois General Assembly because that is the last couple of days before they go into the new session. That is when two years ago that the Safe-T Act passed. There is a lot of trade off on votes then. One of the bills is HB5522 - assault weapons ban. Anyone that has a capacity magazine over ten will be illegal. A synopsis of the bill was read by Scott Toot. John Lang stated the reason they didn't push it at all during the legislative session was because of generating opposition. When you can do it in the lame duck session which is the last couple of days before the new session starts which is the way they did the Safe-T Act. There won't be any time for opposition. There won't be any hearings. It will be run the same way. And if you do own an assault style weapon which is anything that has a capacity over ten, which most semi-automatic pistols have a capacity over ten, the weapon will be illegal. There was a brief conversation on the Illinois FOID card. These are two bills to look for coming up in the override session. The new legislative session starts January 10, 2023. There was considerable discussion on the Safe-T Act.

- iii. Other gun legislation - There was considerable discussion on the Safe-T Act.

- 6. Bills committee members or County officials want to discuss or propose – Diane Gallagher made the committee aware of an issue relating to economic development. She shared an email from Andy Laurent, Senior Business Development Manager of Traverco, we used to know it as IEI Barge Services, the barge terminal. One problem is that Iowa grain shipments in trucks are allowed to weigh up to 90,000 pounds gross. Illinois limits to 80,000 pounds gross. Iowa farmers and truckers don't want to bring loads to East Dubuque because they would have to carry 5 tons less than what they can deliver to Dubuque. Diane said that Joe Bitter, their GM, said that Illinois doesn't allow any Iowa, Wisconsin or Missouri trucks for hire or farmer-owned, to travel into the state, with a 25% weight allowance. All of these states allow the others to do this. Illinois does not reciprocate. Illinois requires those state truckers to have IFTA credentials in order to enter into any part of Illinois. Those other states do allow travel without the IFTA, as long as they stay within 30 miles of the border. If you're a small farmer from Iowa or Wisconsin, you don't want to deal with IFTA. It's super complicated and the reporting is messy. Regez stated that we don't want heavier trucks going over the bridge than we already have. Gallagher replied that they'd just go to Wisconsin and she doesn't know why Wisconsin bridges would be stronger than our Illinois bridges. Trost commented that he and Toot had gone to the same truck enforcement class, and that one 80,000 pound truck is equal to 64,000 cars, regarding the damage it will do to the roads. Regez mentioned that there is also reduced traffic on the river right now for the foreseeable future, because the river is a lot lower than usual. The barges cannot be loaded as much, so they are weighing 25% less than usual. Toot mentioned that the whole purpose of these

weight laws on the road, is because these trucks tear up the road so terribly, but we have to have commerce too. There's something called uniform traffic code so they have to all be somewhat similar. Hendrica said she wanted everyone to keep in mind the UTV issue. She questioned whether the speed limits on certain rural roads could be lowered to accommodate the UTV's. Toot replied there has to be a traffic study done to consider lowering speed limits, and then, you still couldn't put UTV's out there because this has to be done at the State level.

7. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
8. **Board Member Concerns:** Darcy Wild commented that she wants the UTV topic to go further and that she has a lot of people who would like that in this area also, and she's concerned with 4228 – especially come January to see how that's going to turn out. Diane Gallagher heard from a new resident in the County who is an active biker, that Stagecoach Trail was a bit dangerous. Her friend had asked her if there was some sort of barricade or fencing along the side of the road that they could add. Gallagher said it would be really nice if somewhere down the road, that they could widen Stagecoach Trail to allow UTV's to safely ride on part of the road. Don Zillig said that Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation is doing a study on bike routes and he will get that information to them. They do a tristate study on the area. Don Hill said he appreciates everything John Lang does on the Legislative issues. He likes people that have interest such as Diane and John, and they help him to always learn. He's enjoyed working on the committee and hopes to someday come back.
9. Next regular meeting will be held on December 8, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.
10. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m. following a motion made by Don Zillig. Seconded by John Schultz and motion passed.