

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang
DATE/TIME December 9, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
PRESENT:

☒ John Lang ☒ Hendrica Regez ☒ LaDon Trost ☒ Darcy Wild (3:03 p.m.)
☒ John Schultz ☒ Diane Gallagher ☒ Don Zillig

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Don Hill

Others: Scott Toot

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:**
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Adoption of the 2022 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule – LaDon Trost made a motion to adopt the 2022 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule as presented. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed.
 - b) Limited general assembly scheduled
 - a. Primary election June 28th instead of March 15th
 - b. Session starting January 4th and will end in April instead of May which results in a very compact schedule. Don Zillig recommended to have Illinois State Representative Andrew Chesney and Senator Brian Stewart join a meeting to discuss County priorities and goals.
 - c) Possible County Legislative goals – Diane Gallagher suggested changing emergencies services to essential services. Scott Toot explained that this would help with getting the necessary funding for the emergency services. Discussion regarding the Illinois Police Reform and qualified immunity. John Lang discussed the 1% sales tax on guest housing for Jo Daviess County EMS services. Don Hill suggested the bill regarding ATV and UTV usage on County roads. He feels we are losing revenue as a border county with Wisconsin by not allowing UTV's. Don Zillig discussed prevailing wages. The committee tried to pick one or two of the suggestions to bring to the legislators. They decided to discuss further the bill regarding ATV/UTV usage in the County. To help with opposition it was suggestion to add a stipulation for counties under 50,000 population.
 - d) Meet with Legislators – Discussion to invite the County representatives to the next Legislative Committee meeting in January. The three items to discuss at that time would be ATV/UTV usage in the County, the 1% sales tax for EMS services, and a possible intergovernmental agreement for the tri state law enforcement cooperation.
 - e) Changing politics of general assembly – Nothing to report at this time.

- f) Review additional 2021 legislation from IACBM handout – Chairman Lang advised that all the bills listed on the IACBM handout have been passed and signed by the Governor. The lack of mental health services in our area was discussed. Hendrica Regez asked about HB2950 this house bill is in regards to Motorfuel tax. Lang advised that this bill only pertains to certain counties: DuPage, Kane, Will and McHenry. Jo Daviess County is not included. HB0056 was discussed. This bill amends the local government Officer Compensation Act. The County Board shall list separately each stipend an elected officer is expected to receive in addition to the compensation to be paid by the County. The cannabis sales tax was discussed. There are currently two cannabis dispensaries in Jo Daviess County, one in East Dubuque and one in Galena. The cannabis sales tax has generated over \$230,000 of income so far this year for the County. HB2454 was discussed. This bill amends the Counties code and Illinois municipal code. Due to Covid-19 this bill allows the County to waive or provide credit for certain fees if the establishment shows proof of financial hardship. Jo Daviess did participate in this and discounted and/or waived the inspection fees for restaurants, farmers markets, etc. SB0564 amends the school code. This adds January 17th (Muhammad Ali's birthday) to the list of commemorative holidays. SB1089 debris recovery facility. This bill amends the assisted living and shared housing act. Chairman Lang suggested review of SB2356 – this bill amends the Open Meetings Act. Requires review of minutes of all closed meetings no later than 6 months from the date of the last review of closed minutes. Emergency management is now expanded to included cyber-attacks. Broadband adopt fund act was discussed. This was established for the purpose of expanding availability of broadband internet connectivity throughout the State. This would provide financial assistance to anyone who is receiving SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid to have access to broadband internet. HB2554 was discussed – amends the property tax code under the Senior Citizens homestead exemption from \$5,000 to \$7,000. SB2244 was discussed this would raise the maximum income limitation for assessment freeze from \$65,000 to \$75,000 for people over 65. The legislation would also raise the income limit for real estate tax deferral.

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

7. **Board Member Concerns:** Diane Gallagher asked if the County Clerk and County Treasurer offices are notified when bills are passed that would affect their office operations. Scott Toot advised that they are notified promptly.

8. Next regular meeting will be held in January 13, 2022

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion passed.