

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

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Finance/Policy, Personnel, & Appointments/Justice & Social Services

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, Illinois

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Beckett, Ron Bensyl, Thomas Betz, Lorraine Cowart, Chris Doenitz, Matthew Gladney, Stan James, John Jay, Brad Jones, Greg Knott, Alan Kurtz, Ralph Langenheim, Brendan McGinty, Steve Moser, Alan Nudo, Steve O'Connor, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Larry Sapp, Jonathan Schroeder, C. Pius Weibel, Barbara Wysocki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson, Lloyd Carter, Diane Michaels, Samuel Smucker

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kat Bork (Administrative Assistant), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Thomas Difanis (Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court), Tony Fabri (Auditor), Roger Holland (Court Administrator), Cameron Moore (RPC Executive Director)

## CALL TO ORDER

Betz called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

Bork called the roll. Beckett, Bensyl, Betz, Cowart, Doenitz, Gladney, James, Jay, Jones, Knott, Langenheim, Moser, Nudo, O'Connor, Richards, Rosales, Sapp, Schroeder, Weibel, and Wysocki were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum. Weibel announced Ammons, Carter, and Michaels notified him of their impending absences prior to the meeting and were excused.

## APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION TO MEET AS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the County Board Resolution to meet as a Committee of the Whole; seconded by Cowart. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION** by Wysocki to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 15, 2010; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Betz asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the change that the Justice items be addressed first.

**MOTION** by Kurtz to approve the agenda as amended and the addendum; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Kurtz distributed a petition to stop human trafficking.

## **FINANCE**

### **Budget Amendments & Transfers**

#### **Budget Amendment #10-00066**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00066 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 700 Home Energy Assistance-HHS-Even Year for increased appropriations of \$50,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line and \$900,000 for the Energy Assistance line with increased revenue of \$950,000 from the HHS-Home Energy Assistance Program line; seconded by Rosales.

Sapp asked if the \$50,000 being appropriated for the Regular Full-Time Employees line will pay for newly hired employees. Moore said the additional money will allow RPC to keep some temporary employees and have part-time employees work more hours.

**Motion carried with one abstention by Nudo.**

#### **Budget Amendment #10-00067 and Budget Amendment #10-00068**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00067 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 818 Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing for increased appropriations of \$90,000 for the Emergency Shelter/Utilities line with increased revenue of \$90,000 from the HUD-Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing line and Budget Amendment #10-00068 from Fund 075 Regional Planning Commission – Department 862 Weatherization-Recovery and Reinvestment Act for increased appropriations of \$100,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$200,000 for the Weatherization Labor line, and \$200,000 for the Weatherization Materials line with increased revenue of \$500,000 from the Department of Energy-Weatherization; seconded by Rosales.

Sapp asked for an explanation of the employees' roles on behalf of the Weatherization Program grant. Moore said they are administrative employees. RPC staff performs outreach,

assessment of properties, and final inspections once the work is completed by a third party for the Weatherization Program. The work to improve the energy efficiency of low income homes is done by local contractors, not RPC staff. Sapp noted Budget Amendment #10-00068 has \$100,000 being spent on full-time employees. Moore confirmed the funding did not pay for any new hires. Sapp inquired about the \$200,000 appropriation for the Remit Marriage Surcharge line in Budget Amendment #10-00068. Moore replied the line was a mistake and the entry was correctly listed as being spent on weatherization materials in the budget amendment distributed for the members' signatures.

**Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00064

**MOTION** by James to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00064 from Fund 105 Capital Asset Replacement Fund – Department 059 Facilities Planning for increased appropriations of \$264,000 for the 1701 Main Building Construction/Improvement line with no increased revenue; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00065

**MOTION** by Rosales to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00065 from Fund 071 1995 Jail Bond Debt Service – Department 010 County Board for increased appropriations of \$7,500 for the To Public Safety Sales Tax Fund line with no increased revenue; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00070

**MOTION** by Moser to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00070 from Fund 630 Circuit Clerk Operations and Administration – Department 030 Circuit Clerk for increased appropriations of \$50,000 for the Stationery and Printing line with increased revenue of \$75,000 from the Court Fees and Charges line; seconded by Rosales.

Kurtz asked where the \$25,000 revenue in excess of appropriation would go. Busey stated the Circuit Clerk has no plans to spend the excess revenue, so will remain in Circuit Clerk's fund.

**Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00071

**MOTION** by James to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00071 from Fund 617 Child Support Service Fund – Department 030 Circuit Clerk for increased appropriations of \$13,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$800 for the Social Security-Employer line, \$600 for the IMRF-Employer Cost line, \$100 for the Workers' Compensation Insurance line, and \$400 for the Unemployment Insurance line with no increased revenue; seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00072

**MOTION** by Richards to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00072 from Fund 613 Court's Automation Fund – Department 030 Circuit Clerk for increased appropriations of \$30,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line with no increased revenue; seconded by Jones.

Jones asked for an explanation of the budget amendment. Busey described that the Circuit Clerk was asking to have the \$30,000 appropriated because it was not budgeted in FY2010.

**Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Budget Amendment #10-00073

**MOTION** by Cowart to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00073 from Fund 104 Early Childhood Fund – Department 610 Early Head Start Expansion-ARRA-Odd Year for increased appropriations of \$68,000 for the Regular Full-Time Employees line, \$15,000 for the Part-Time Employees line, \$7,000 for the Social Security- Employer line, \$12,000 for the IMRF-Employer line, \$950 for the Workers' Compensation Insurance line, \$950 for the Unemployment Insurance line, \$19,500 for the Employee Health/Life Insurance line, \$100 for the Stationary and Printing line, \$1,200 for the Office Supplies line, \$50 for the Books, Periodicals and Manuals line, \$50 for the Postage, UPS, Federal Express line, \$25 for the Photography Supplies line, \$25 for the Food line, \$100 for the Medical Supplies line, \$1,200 for the Custodial Supplies line, \$100 for the Gasoline and Oil line, \$25 for the Dietary Non-Food Supplies line, \$75 for the Laundry Supplies line, \$500 for the Equipment Less Than \$1,000 line, \$100 for the Linen and Bedding line, \$450 for the Operational Supplies line, \$1,500 for the School Supplies line, \$1,100 for the Audit and Accounting Fees line, \$50 for the Architect Fees line, \$100 for the Medical/Dental/Mental Health line, \$25 for the Professional Services line, \$500 for the Job-Required Travel Expense line, \$15 for the Field Trips/Activities line, \$10 for the Insurance line, \$450 for the Computer Services line, \$3,000 for the Gas Service line, \$2,750 for the Electric Service line, \$150 for the Water Service line, \$3,000 for the Telephone Service line, \$50 for the Pest Control Service line, \$400 for the Waste Disposal & Recycling line with increased revenue of \$179,000 from the HHS-Head Start-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act line; seconded by Weibel.

Sapp asked why expansion of Early Head Start services involved appropriations for facilities, office rentals, and janitors. Moore answered some of the money listed pays for remodeling facilities to accommodate increased enrollment. The transportation costs reflect Head Start staff visiting families' homes to deliver services. Head Start also provides transportation to children and their family members to medical and dental appointments supplied by the program. Sapp saw a tremendous amount of money going to administration and questioned how much the program itself was increased. Moore replied RPC is allowed to keep up to 15% of grant funds for administrative costs.

**Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### Budget Amendment #10-00074

**MOTION** by Weibel to recommend to the County Board approval of Budget Amendment #10-00074 from Fund 104 Early Childhood Fund – Department 610 Early Head Start Expansion-ARRA-Odd Year for increased appropriations of \$25 for the Automobile Maintenance line, \$25 for the Equipment Maintenance line, \$300 for the Non-County Building Repair/Maintenance line, \$10,000 for the Facility/Office Rentals line, \$175 for the Equipment Rentals line, \$150 for the Other Service by Contract line, \$100 for the Legal Notice, Advertising line, \$15 for the Business Meals/Expenses line, \$500 for the Photocopy Services line, \$1,300 for the Indirect Costs/Overhead line, \$100 for the Laundry and Cleaning line, \$50 for the Contributions and Grants line, \$50 for the Dues and Licenses line, \$7,000 for the Conference and Training line, \$50 for the Food Service line, \$100 for the Sewer Service and Tax line, \$25 for the Landscaping Service/Maintenance line, \$8,000 for the Janitorial Services line, \$500 for the Policy Council Activities line, \$500 for the Parent Activities/Travel line, \$100 for the Parking Lot/Sidewalk Maintenance line, \$5,000 for the Automobiles, Vehicles line, \$1,000 for the Other Equipment line, \$3,000 for the Furnishings, Office Equipment line, and \$300 for the To General Corporate Fund 080 line with no increased revenue; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### County Administrator

#### General Corporate Fund FY2010 Revenue/Expenditure Projection Report

Busey's reports were distributed and she stated the revenue projection was holding steady with previous months. Income tax has been tracking to be down over \$800,000. The County received two months' payment in July. The State of Illinois is currently 4 months behind in these payments. The Treasurer has been in touch with the Comptroller's Office, who indicated the County should receive a payment every 30 days. This reflects that the County should receive 4 more payments this year. Busey remained skeptical regarding state payments. The State did send substantial payments for the State Reimbursement line in July. The GCF should receive \$1 million less in revenue than the current revenue budget. On the expenditure side, the GCF looks to spend 99.7% of the budget after making \$1 million in cuts a couple months ago. If those two projections become reality, the GCF will end the fiscal year with a \$23,000 deficit.

Schroeder remarked a July 3<sup>rd</sup> *New York Times* article quoted the Illinois Comptroller as saying the State of Illinois's finances were obscene.

#### General Corporate Fund Budget Change Report

The budget change report was provided.

#### Harris & Harris Monthly Collections Report

The Harris & Harris Collections Report was included in the agenda packet. Jones inquired about the incoming revenue versus what the County budgeted to receive in FY2010. Busey said the GCF revenue from this source was budgeted at \$225,000. Harris & Harris started late and the revenue is lagging a little behind. This is partially due to an operational issue wherein the Circuit Clerk delayed sending information to Harris & Harris because she wanted to ensure the right

information was being sent on the right types of cases. There have been a couple of lags, but revenue is close to projections. The rest of the fees revenue is down.

**MOTION** by Jones to receive and place on file the General Corporate Fund FY2010 Revenue/Expenditure Projection Report, General Corporate Fund Budget Change Report, the Harris & Harris Monthly Collections Report; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**Treasurer**  
**Monthly Report**

The Treasurer's report was distributed at the Board members' desks.

**MOTION** by Wysocki to receive and place on file the Treasurer's June 2010 report; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**Auditor**  
**Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy**

The purchases not following Purchasing Policy list was distributed for information.

**Other Business**

McGinty noted two letters from Bray, Drake, Liles & Richardson regarding the outside audit had been placed at the Board's desks. Jones asked whether the elected Auditor's lateness in delivering documentation to the outside audit firm impacted the award the office has received in the past. Busey thought the Auditor's Office received a second extension from GFOA and the audit was submitted in accordance with the extension.

**Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's report.

**Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda**

Agenda items 8.A. 2-10 were designated for the consent agenda.

**POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS**

**Appointments/Reappointments**

**Drainage Districts**

**MOTION** by Weibel for an omnibus motion to appoint Joseph L. Irlle to the Beaver Lake Drainage District, Valerie Rogers to the Blackford Slough Drainage District, Richard Rayburn to the Conrad & Fisher Drainage District, Leon Bluhm to the Drainage District #10 Town of Ogden, Marc Shaw to the Fountain Head Drainage District, James Boland to the Kankakee Drainage District, John Park to the Kerr & Compromise Drainage District, Dave Mennenga to the

Longbranch Mutual Drainage District, Frank Ehler to the Lower Big Slough Drainage District, David Bright to the Nelson-Moore-Fairfield Drainage District, Steve Stierwalt to the Okaw Drainage District, John Nelson to the Owl Creek Drainage District, Dennis Butler to the Pesotum Slough Special Drainage District, Arlen Buhr to the Prairie Creek Drainage District, Ray Ideus to the Raup Drainage District, James Kirk to the Salt Fork Drainage District, William Siegfried to the Sangamon & Drummer Drainage District, Brian Buss to the Somer #1 Drainage District, Ken Decker to the South Fork Drainage District, Michael Hastings to the St. Joseph #3 Drainage District, Francis Osterbur to the St. Joseph #4 Drainage District, Garry Gannon to the St. Joseph #5 & St. Joseph #6 Drainage Districts, Cody Cundiff to the Triple Fork Drainage District, Jerry Heinz to the Two Mile Slough Drainage District, Ray Aden to the Union Drainage District of Stanton & Ogden Townships, Jerry Thinnes to the Union Drainage District #1 of Philo & Crittenden, Donald Rice to the Union Drainage District #1 of Philo & Urbana, William Wilson to the Union Drainage District #2 of St. Joseph & Ogden, H. Paul Dohme to the Union Drainage District #3 of South Homer & Sidney, and Dudley Carroll to the Upper Embarras River Basin Drainage District for terms from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2013; seconded by Moser. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

**MOTION** by Weibel to appoint Marion Wagner to the Willow Branch Drainage District for a term from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2013; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **Administrator's Report**

#### **Vacant Positions Listing**

The vacant positions listing was provided for information only.

### **County Clerk Monthly Fees Report – June 2010**

**MOTION** by Jones to receive and place on file the County Clerk monthly fees report for June 2010; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **Other Business**

#### **Letter of Support for RPC's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Application**

**MOTION** by Kurtz to approve the County Board Chair submitting the requested letter of support for RPC's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant application; seconded by Wysocki. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **Revision of MLK Celebration Awards Process**

Weibel presented a memo describing how the combined MLK Committee has seen an overlap of nominees amongst the different awards presented by the two Cities and the County. The committee decided to combine the awards process to be more streamlined and less confusing for the public. There will be three awards presented each year and each award can be given to an individual or a group/organization. There is an existing intergovernmental agreement about the MLK Celebration, but it does not cover the awards.

**MOTION** by Weibel to approve the revisions to the MLK Celebration awards process as described in the Chair's memo; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Auditor's Request for Exception to the Travel Policy

**MOTION** by Weibel to grant the exception to the Travel Policy as requested by the Auditor's Office for an RPC employee; seconded by Rosales.

James asked if anything in the Travel Policy addressed this situation. Busey explained an RPC employee attended a conference, which included meals. When meals are included in the conference fee paid by the employer, an employee does not receive a meal per diem reimbursement. The conference refused to accommodate the individual's diabetic diet. James said a simple phrase could be included in the policy to accommodate a disability or special needs at a conference. He hated making exceptions to the policy. Busey thought it was unusual that a conference would not accommodate a diabetic diet. Betz thought there could be a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act if the County Board did not make an exception when the employee is attending a conference as a condition of employment.

Wysocki asked if the County lodged a complaint with conference and/or the hotel about their failure to provide a diabetic meal. Fabri said no official complaint was filed. His staff said this issue has not come up once in 13 years. He noted the same employee is attending another conference in the next few months and another exception could be requested.

Schroeder inquired if the conference fees could be reduced when meals are included in the costs, but an employee cannot eat the meals. Fabri said that option was not offered for this conference. James asked if the conference involved mandatory training since the County is looking at budget cuts. Busey explained it was a Head Start employee going to a Head Start conference. Most Head Start conferences and training are required. She pointed out that no one in GCF is going to conferences right now.

**Motion carried.**

Mental Health Board Executive Director's Request to Submit New Position to Job Content Evaluation Committee for Review & Recommendation of Classification, Description, & Salary Range Assignment

Busey presented a request from the Mental Health Board Executive Director to submit a proposed new position to the Job Content Evaluation Committee for review and classification. The Mental Health Board has the same 5 staff members and has absorbed the Developmental Disabilities Board operations and added the Access Initiative Grant Project administration. The Director feels an additional position is needed. The Board is being asked to send the request to the committee for evaluation. It will return to the Board when the committee has developed a recommendation.

**MOTION** by Beckett to submit the Developmental Disabilities Contract Coordinator position to the Job Content Evaluation Committee; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**



## **Chair's Report**

### **Committee of the Whole Structure**

**MOTION** by Beckett to adopt continuation of the Committee of the Whole structure; seconded by Knott.

Weibel shared a United Counties Council Illinois (UCCI) communication regarding the Open Meetings Act. It states Board members who are not members of a committee should act only as citizens at committee meetings. The non-committee members should not be allowed to take part in the discussion and should only ask questions during public participation. Beckett stated the UCCI communication does not apply to what the County Board is doing. At committee meetings, the Chair recognizes committee members first, and then non-committee members are invited to make comments. Non-committee members were not allowed to vote at committee meetings. Weibel said he was not advocating the UCCI approach, he was just providing the opinion.

Nudo indicated Wysocki's suggested changes to County Board Rules regarding the Committee of the Whole structure and the previous committee structure were appropriate.

Sapp exited the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Knott thought the Committee of the Whole structure has worked well to enable the entire Board to hear all the information at the same time. He supported dropping the other committee names from the Board Rules in favor of Committee of the Whole, as recommended by Wysocki. Knott further suggested only voting on some items at a Committee of the Whole meeting (and not forwarding them to the later County Board meeting for final approval) for a more streamlined process. Busey has informed him that a final vote at one meeting is administratively difficult because she does not know the will of the Board before the meeting. He also suggested pairing agenda items with corresponding budget items on the agenda.

Moser wanted to see the policy and finance items separated into different meetings so they are not handled on the same night. He realized this was likely at impossibility.

Langenheim said having 6 committees with smaller memberships generated discussions amongst members who selected themselves as committee members because they were interested in certain topics. He stated none of the Board members are equally interested in all aspects of the County's business and it was a nuance to attend committee meetings that are of no interest to the individual, which it what occurs with the Committee of the Whole structure. A smaller committee of interested people leads to more intense and open discussions. Wysocki took exception to Langenheim's comments because all Board members should be interested in all of the agenda items and should not look upon any items as nuances. All the areas dealt with by the County Board from land use to finance comprise the core of County government. Disinterest from Board members about County issues does a disservice to voters. McGinty concurred with Wysocki's comments. He reminded the Board about the complaints about the lack of information before the Committee of the Whole structure was implemented. The Board might lose some of the more detailed discussions that occurred at committee meetings, but every member has the ability and opportunity to speak up

in meetings to initiate discussion. He felt the Committee of the Whole structure was working very well to represent all of the County's business, but it could stand to have a few tweaks.

Sapp returned to the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

James suggested a single person run the entire meeting instead of switching between Committee Chairs. Some of the discussions wander off base and comments become repetitive, so a strong Chair is needed to move along the discussion. He wanted all the County Board members to sign the approved budget amendments, not merely the Finance Committee members. Nudo reiterated that the rules changes proposed by Wysocki that will be considered next month would improve the organizational dynamics by removing the pre-existing committee structure.

Gladney commented that moving to a Committee of the Whole structure has resulted in gains and losses, with the gains outweighing the losses. He felt the Committee of the Whole structure was working well.

Wysocki expressed that having a Board Chair and other individual members responsible for various areas of County government sends the message that all the power is not lodged with one Chair, but amongst several individuals. It should be a reassurance to the public and other Board members that one person does not handle everything. Schroeder agreed it was beneficial for department heads to work with Board members other than just the County Board Chair. The Board discussed the benefits of the Committee of the Whole structure.

Weibel exited the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The Board discussed how the Committee of the Whole structure has impacted discussion about issues with more Board members being present.

Weibel returned to the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

**Motion carried with one vote against by Langenheim, who requested his vote be reported in the minutes.**

#### Recommendation for County Board Rules

**MOTION** by Weibel to adopt the changes to the County Board Rules presented in the memo of July 22, 2010; seconded by Rosales.

The Board discussed how the changes would allow items to be deferred without suspending the rules.

**Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Betz said the other proposed County Board Rules changes could be voted on next month. Wysocki described the changes she proposed as modifying the rules to reflect how the Committee of the Whole actually functions. The changes remove references to committees and identified areas

of responsibility (formerly committees). Instead of Committee Chairs, there will be Deputy Chairs who will be the point people to work with staff. Wysocki asked for her proposed changes to be included on the next agenda for action.

### **Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda**

Agenda items 9.A.1-31 & D.2 were designated for the consent agenda.

### **JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES**

#### **Monthly Reports**

**MOTION** by Rosales to receive and place on file the Animal Control – May 2010 & June 2010, Emergency Management Agency – June-July 2010, Head Start – June 2010, Probation & Court Services – May 2010 & June 2010, and Public Defender – May 2010 monthly reports; seconded by Richards. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

#### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **Chair's Report**

##### **Report Out on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection**

Gladney explained the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection (CACJS) has existed since April 2009. It was formed to increase minority participation in the jury pool and the committee members wanted to report to the County Board.

Jennifer Putman, CACJS member, spoke about the CACJS minutes posted online, the activities with the Peer Ambassadors, and the public service announcement written by Patrick Thompson. She was grateful to Beckett for the source materials regarding other counties that have fined people for nonparticipation in jury service. The Sheriff and Chief Judge agree Champaign County has other uses for their resources than tracking down and fining nonparticipants. She was very satisfied with revisions to the questionnaire sent to potential jurors, including a section where potential jurors can self-report their race. She also liked Judge Difanis's thank you letter sent to potential jurors with the questionnaire.

Beckett asked if the demographic information collected with the new questionnaire would be tracked, statistically accumulated, and publically published. He commented that the Kankakee Judge who held people in contempt for not participating in jury service involved some people who did not understand the jury process and increased the minority participation in the jury process over the years in direct proportion to Kankakee County's increasing population. He agreed it may be an approach Champaign County may not wish to undertake, but it shows a different idea. Roger Holland answered they can and will track the data and produce reports on the self-reported race of jurors.

Putman said the committee has discussed making a promotion video to talk about the jury system for citizens. This would replace the video currently shown to potential jurors at the Courthouse with Judge Ladd explaining the process. Putman suggested Patricia Avery or Patrick Thompson could address the jurors in the video instead of a court official. The CACJS has a Legislative Affairs Subcommittee. Now is not the time to ask the state legislature for funds to increase the juror stipend, but they will continue lobbying. She suggested perhaps using the drug seizure and forfeiture money. The subcommittee was also interested in adding to the lists used to select potential jurors.

Patrick Thompson, CACJS member, recorded a public service announcement that has aired on a few local radio stations talking about his experiences in the legal system as an African-American male in his 40's. He read his public service announcement to the Board and spoke about the importance of jury service from minorities. Thompson talked about communicating the expectations and standards of being on a jury to young adults to get them more involved in jury service.

Rosales questioned how they could reach diversity in jury pools if the selection is random. Thompson said he knows minorities who have never been called for service, so it will be about targeting minorities for the questionnaire. Gladney remarked it is sometimes a question of minorities not responding to the juror questionnaire mailed to them. There are various reasons why people do not return questionnaires, so the committee was looking at ways to increase participation and have people take jury service seriously. Rosales wondered what types of efforts have been undertaken in similar communities. Jury service is basic citizenship and is typically taught through organizations like schools and boys & girls clubs, not through public service announcements. Rosales talked about having two pools for juror selection to have one pool only for minority jurors. Beckett stated that proposition was against the law. Kurtz asked if a pool of volunteers for jury service could be developed. Beckett confirmed that suggestion was also against the law.

Patricia Avery, CACJS member, stated some minorities want to serve, but some people are never sent a juror questionnaire and others are called more than once in their lifetimes. They were considering a way to remove those who had been called from the juror pool for a year. Avery asked Beckett if that approach was illegal. Beckett pointed out the place on the juror questionnaire that states a person is removed from the juror pool for a year after serving. Doing anything more would remove the random element from the process. The committee is trying to get information to the public to counteract the effect of randomness. Avery confirmed the committee is looking at changing the legislation.

Nudo encouraged working with school civics classes to install pride in civic duty and jury service. He suggested classes watch the film "12 Angry Men" as inspiration. Avery spoke about the Peer Courts used in schools and the Regional Planning Commission.

Langenheim said one of problems is the economic consequences of juror duty with less than sympathetic employers. Weibel noted it is already illegal to fire someone for attending jury duty.

Betz inquired whether there had been any examination of juror age and promoting jury service to college students. Avery thought Mr. Brown did a study on demographics and found the

students are a challenge because they are a transient population. Betz suggested using the University of Illinois and Parkland College registrations as other sources to collect potential jurors' names.

Cowart wanted copies of the new juror questionnaire to distribute at the Champaign-Urbana Days. Avery did not think that was how the questionnaires are distributed to potential jurors. The questionnaire is mailed by the court. Beckett suggested printing the word "SAMPLE" across the questionnaire, so Cowart can distribute copies for information. Avery agreed to work on making a sample questionnaire available for general distribution.

Claire Cape, a member of the public, read a poem she wrote that will be considered for use in a future public service announcement and another poem from Aaron Ammons. Gladney thanked the County Board for their indulgence and announced the next CACJS meeting will be August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Designation of Items to be Placed on County Board Consent Agenda**

There were no items for the consent agenda.

### **Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the June 15, 2010 – 8:35 p.m. and June 15, 2010 – 8:55 p.m. closed session minutes; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Betz adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork  
Administrative Assistant

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*