



**Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
January 9, 2013**

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

X	Jeff Adkisson	X	Marilyn Kushak
X	Daniel Cadigan		Frank McNeil
X	Josh Collins	X	Mike Murphy
X	Jerry Crabtree	X	Drinda O'Connor
	Gary Crompton	X	Robert Plunk
X	James Donelan	X	Kent Redfield
X	Kevin Dorsey		J. D. Sudeth
X	Cliff Erwin	X	Kenley Wade, Sr.
	Lee Fields, Jr.	X	Joan Walters
X	Bob Gray	X	Robert Wesley
X	Karen Hasara		

Others

Norm Sims- SSCRPC
 Jeff Fulgenzi- SSCRPC
 Amy Uden- SSCRPC
 Richard Bennett- volunteer

Andy Shaw- Better Government Association
 Doug Whitley- Illinois Chamber of
 Commerce

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Hasara called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order and welcomed commissioners and guests.

She introduced guests Mr. Andy Shaw of the Better Government Association and Mr. Doug Whitley of the statewide Chamber of Commerce. She noted that both would be presenting to the CEC, that Mr. Shaw would be meeting with various members of the community after the CEC meeting related to his goals for a downstate presence for the BGA, and that all Commissioners were welcome to attend this meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hasara asked for approval of the December minutes. Mr. Josh Collins made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Marilyn Kushak seconded the motion and the minutes were approved

III. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Hasara first thanked Commissioners for completing the Open Meetings Act training. She noted that anyone who had not turned in their certificate should do so as soon as possible. SSCRPC staff is working to find out whether voting privileges are affected if members of a board or commission fail to complete training.



She then reminded commissioners to inform their committee chairs if they are not able to attend a scheduled committee meeting, in order to help with scheduling and reaching a quorum for meeting.

Chair Hasara announced that the Park District had appointed Mr. Bob Wesley to the Commission. She expressed a warm welcome to Mr. Wesley, and was delighted that he would be taking a formal role on the Commission, as he had been interested in its work from the beginning.

Mr. Norm Sims gave an update on the Midterm Report, which was nearing completion pending final submissions and approval of individual sections by each committee chair. He indicated that the report summarized the work of the commission to date, along with its future goals. The CEC will likely approve this document at the February meeting.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Doug Whitley, President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce presented to the CEC regarding taxpayer and business interests on issues of efficiency. He touched on key points and observations related to statewide local government efficiency.

Mr. Whitley first noted that businesses desire governments that are responsive and that reduce administrative costs by eliminating duplication of functions. He discussed the perception that Illinois is “over-administered.” Second, he indicated that procurement is an intuitive area for cost reduction in the eyes of the private sector, particularly related to minimizing the number of vendors and getting the best deal possible. Third, he indicated that most governments are slow to keep up with IT and technological developments on pace with the private sector. For instance, online access to forms, permits, and licensing processes can play a significant role in making it less difficult to do business in Illinois.

He indicated that the private sector also appreciates seeing more linkages between fees and services they provide, so that businesses can have confidence that services they’re “paying for” are actually being done. The conversation turned to major statewide issues in Illinois, such as pension obligation growth. Statewide inefficiencies impact local governments by causing the state to fail to make payments to local governments and vendors. This creates a challenge related to negative public perception of public servants, in addition to slowing the economy and delaying intake of substantial local government revenues.

The CEC asked Mr. Whitley for ideas related to increasing private sector input. He suggested face-to-face conversations with major employers and taxpayers. When asked about big picture solutions to government inefficiency, Mr. Whitley suggested a fresh way off thinking about fixing root causes of expenses, rather than merely trying to increase revenues. He discussed the importance of Illinois’ statewide culture of public service, noting that the state agencies appear to be functioning at mediocre levels, and need to be revitalized in a meaningful way. He also suggested approaching the CEC’s work with an eye toward economic development, particularly



cultivating an environment to make Sangamon County a magnet for job growth through schools, efficient governments, and potentially cutting certain services to reduce costs.

Following some discussion, Chair Hasara thanked Mr. Whitley for his presentation and the new perspective it had provided for the CEC's work.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Hasara then invited committee chairs to report on recent activities for their committees:

Administrative, Management, and Budget Committee:

Committee Chair Marilyn Kushak briefly reported that a letter and best practices document related to governmental health insurance purchases would soon go out to communities. She also reported that the committee would soon have a draft recommendation on procurement, and that she and other committee members would be meeting with the Q5 Source Sangamon Group for further input.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th, 11:30 am; SSCRPC Conference Room 212.

Community Development Committee:

Committee Chair Cliff Erwin reported that the committee continues to pursue its research in the areas of libraries, permitting/platting processes, and education. He noted that the committee may specifically pursue questions of school consolidation and joint purchasing in its research related to education.

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 10th, 3:00 pm; Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.

Public Safety Committee:

Committee Chair Bob Gray discussed the structure of fire protection districts in Sangamon County, and noted that his committees' upcoming projects would deal primarily with this area. He also noted that the committee is looking into the Foreign Fire Insurance Fund.

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday January 23rd, 3:00 pm; Sangamon County Farm Bureau

Public Works Committee:

Committee Chair Jim Donelan reported that his committee is reviewing equipment sharing, recycling coordination, and energy efficiency. He indicated that recommendations in two of these areas will likely be forthcoming at the next CEC meeting.



He provided a brief update on the fact that Sangamon County voted to pursue an opt-in aggregation program in conjunction with other communities' aggregation efforts.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday, January 14th, 3:00 pm; SSCRPC Conference Room, Sangamon County Complex Room 212.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Hasara asked if there was any new business to come before the commission. There was none. She mentioned that the next committee chairs' meeting will be held February 6th.

Next meeting date—February 13, 2013 at 3:00 PM, Location to be the Hoogland Center for the Arts.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hasara invited members of the public to comment. Mr. Andy Shaw provided a brief presentation the CEC on the objectives of the Better Government Association. He noted that the BGA hopes to bring increased fairness, accountability, integrity, transparency, and honesty to Illinois through investigative reporting. He also discussed the BGA's efforts to get Illinois to reduce its number of boards and commissions and reduce other administrative costs. He indicated that he would be providing a presentation after the conclusion of the CEC's meeting, and invited commissioners to attend. He requested the CEC's help in making connections with local media outlets. He also discussed his plans to continue communication with the CEC and to work together with it in any way that would be advantageous to both groups in the future.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Drinda O'Connor moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bob Gray seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Uden
Acting as Recording Secretary