



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**  
**April 13, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Bomke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jackie Newman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josh Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Plunk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Dorsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	J.D. Sudeth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Hasara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Wesley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Murphy		

**Others:**

Maureen O'Keefe - League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Alexis Kalish – League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Carol Straka – League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Sally Rudolph – League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Mary Beth Taylor – League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Lee Rudolph – League of Women Voters of McLean County  
Norm Sims – SSCRPC  
Molly Berns – SSCRPC  
Gail Weiskopf- SSCRPC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mike Murphy called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

Chair Murphy asked that everyone sign the attendance sheet.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Murphy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2016, regular meeting. Mr. Robert Plunk moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Josh Collins seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Murphy turned the meeting over to Hon. Karen Hasara so she could introduce her guests.

Hon. Hasara stated that the League of Women Voters from Bloomington met with her at 1:30 P.M. She stated they were very interested in how the CEC started, what the CEC did and what the CEC is currently doing. She reported they had a very good meeting. Hon. Hasara thanked them for traveling to Springfield to meet with her and to attend the CEC meeting.

Chair Murphy asked for introductions to acquaint everyone. Chair Murphy thanked everyone for coming.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**A.** Chair Murphy reported Mayor Langfelder had a conflict for this month's meeting. The Mayor and the Chief of Police have agreed to attend the May 11, 2016 meeting.



- B. Chair Murphy noted his conversation with County Board member, David Mendenhall. They discussed the CEC's recommendation for training regarding the fire district board and consolidation of volunteer fire districts. Chair Murphy was very encouraged by the board members support on the recommendation for training.
- C. Chair Murphy noted the importance of the CEC talking about the recommendations that came from his discussion with Mr. Norm Sims. By the CEC talking about the recommendations people tend to get involved with discussing it without concern or pressure.
- D. Chair Murphy reported News Channel 20 had contacted him for information concerning what the CEC is currently doing. Chair Murphy told the reporter about current legislation and the abolishing of the township tax collectors. Chair Murphy told the reporter that the meeting on May 11th will be with the City and the County about cooperation between the two major law enforcement bodies in Sangamon.

## VI. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS

### A. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner – Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman

Mr. Robert Plunk reported the next meeting for the RLC mayors will be April 27th, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the County Board Chamber.

Plunk stated he spoke with Chair Brian Cuffle, Mayor of Spaulding, who expressed concern about staffing for the RLC now that Mr. Jeff Fulgenzi was no longer employed at the Regional Planning Commission.

In response to the support issue Mr. Sims informed the CEC that he had recently spoken to the Chairman. Mr. Sims stated the SSCRPC has provided assistance in the past and is very proud of the support. It is one of the most important things the Planning Commission has done in the last nine years that Mr. Sims has been with the commission. However, because of the state budget and the gridlock with the financial situation both directly and in-directly, the SSCRPC has gone from 15 to 11 staff members. At this time the SSCRPC will not be filling Mr. Fulgenzi's position. Ms. Amy Uden's position which was staff assistance will remain vacant. Another component of this that Mr. Sims announced he will be retiring between August and the 1st of January.

Currently the SSCRPC is proposing some changes on staff that will go to oversight committee at the end of this month. One of the changes will be in lieu of filling Mr. Fulgenzi's position, the SSCRPC will recreate the assistant director's position and Ms. Molly Berns will assume this position. Ms Berns will assist the CEC. Mr. Sims noted Ms. Berns' work experience with zoning of land, directing the policy planning operations at DCCA, legislative director for DCCA and the ICC, staff member of House Republican staff and Senate Republican staff, so she is very knowledgeable in related items of the CEC. Mr. Sims stated Ms. Berns' current position will be staffed from within. This will still leave the SSCRPC short four staff members. Mr. Sims discussed the monetary deficits the SSCRPC has suffered this year.

Mr. Sims asked the CEC to be patient in what the SSCRPC can do. Related to the RLC, the direct implication is the SSCRPC promised the RLC staff support for a year. It has now been at least three years that the SSCRPC has been staffing the RLC. The opinion is that at some time the RLC has to take this on some way or another, the CEC has discussed this several times.

Mr. Sims reiterated the importance of talking about the recommendations and getting others involved with the discussion. He stated he does not think the CEC realizes how many changes



and improvements happened in local government in this county because the CEC was just looking into issues. The first CEC was told more than once that an improvement had been made in an operational process somewhere in government locally because they wanted to do it before the CEC started looking in to it. Mr. Sims said he was glad that Chanel 20 was taking some interest in the CEC because he believes that citizens think no one is looking anymore. We fall back to old ways and it has been his contingent all along that changing the way we do business is probably more important than even getting recommendations. Mr. Sims reaffirmed that the SSCRPC is going to do all it can to help the CEC, but the CEC needs to be patient.

Chair Murphy explained how it was a bright spot when the first CEC got the mayors together as the Mayors had never met. The CEC got them together, just very informally, and the RLC was formed. Chair Murphy stated he would never forget the meeting where the mayors realized how much they each had in common. He jokingly noted it took the CEC to get them together so they could realize they were all the same.

Mr. Plunk thanked Mr. Sims for his information. Mr. Plunk stated he had discussed with Mayor Cuffle about having a meeting with Mr. Robert Wesley, Ms. Jackie Newman and himself to initiate a plan on hiring an executive assistant for the RLC.

Mr. Plunk noted he has had no contact with Mayor Yokley who is the chair of the subcommittee Fire EMS of the RLC, since the last meeting January 27, 2016. Mr. Plunk expressed concern of the stability of this committee and hopes to hear from him soon.

**B. Sewer Transfer Study – Dr. Kevin Dorsey & Chair Murphy**

Chair Murphy stated he will make contact this month with the City about their current long term plan for the sewers. Chair Murphy noted at this point consolidation is not realistic until the sewers structure is repaired.

**C. Regional Policing Study – Hon. Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Hon. Karen Hasara suggested changing the name of this study. It was suggested that the name be “cooperation” not “consolidation”. As mentioned previously the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the Sheriff will be guests at the May 11th meeting.

Chair Murphy shared a demonstration that he attended with SWAT team and Bomb Squad. The two entities gave a presentation and shared that the training they receive is the same for all members. In the state of Illinois, all SWAT Team members go to one location and receive the same training, just as the Bomb Squad members go to one location for training. This is key so that when and if there would be a need for more participants during an actual threat everyone would know the codes and the drills to complete an effected outcome. Chair Murphy noted this reinforces that there are other agencies that work together to be more efficient.

**D. Developing Legislative Linkages - Hon. Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Sen. Larry Bomke reported a meeting with Lobbyist Jack Dorgan in State Representative Tim Butler’s office April 14th at 9:00 A.M. located at 1128-E Stratton Office Building. Hon. Karen Hasara stated anyone may attend who is interested in legislation.

**E. Developing Linkages with Townships - J.D. Sudeth & Chair Murphy**

Chair Murphy asked for discussion from the CEC on thoughts about one of the three referendums the county has offered to the CEC to use in the upcoming election to be used for abolishment of tax collectors. Chair Murphy asked if the CEC wanted him to discuss referendums with Brian McFadden. Referendums for the fall ballot would need to be ready for the August 9th County Board meeting. Chair Murphy asked that the discussion of referendums be added to the future agendas.



Mr. Plunk noted that he had attended the Township Officials Association meeting on March 16th in Rochester to give an update on the CEC. Mr. Treat shared the write up that was given to the CEC in November discussion some Township Officials' positions. The attendance for this meeting was poor. It seems the lack of participation is related to how the organization is promoted and organizations may possibly benefit by letting members know of the different programs, telling members what is going on and getting feedback from members.

Mr. Plunk shared that he had the honor to moderate the Clear Lake Township Annual Town meeting. Annual township meetings are required by state law. Action at the meeting included verifying the continuance of the current auditor, the current attorney, and approval of the minutes from last year's meeting. The only people in attendance were the clerk, the collector and the board members. Plunk stated that this is a state law to get the public involved and it has gone unnoticed. Wesley stated that his interpretation would be that the state law was put into place to make government accountable.

Mr. Wesley asked if everyone had the opportunity to read over the document Mr. Norm Sims sent out about what it takes to consolidate a township. Mr. Wesley stated he was unsure why there was a need for 26 townships in Sangamon County. The need for 26 road supervisors makes sense because of the distance of roads in the county. Mr. Wesley questioned if the CEC is going to talk about things and going to stir the pot a little bit. Mr. Wesley explained these referendums are going to be advisory so the CEC needs to ask the citizens for their advice and help citizens consider making a realistic decision as to what should be left locally, and what should be done for township government to be effective for Sangamon County as a whole.

After much discussion the commissioners agreed the document brought several questions about the need to consolidate the townships and to analyze this as one of the referendums. With the referendums will be a need for a campaign and the CEC will need to use public relations to get the citizens involved and aware of the benefits of making these changes. The County Board, with its 29 members, should also support the referendums.

**F. Developing Linkages with Fire/EMS – Robert Plunk & Robert Wesley**

Mr. Wesley presented a draft copy of the Fire/EMS talking points for discussion only; he would like to do some fact checking. It contains 37 points divided into five general areas that are not labeled. It refers to the 25 Fire Protection Districts within Sangamon County and addresses the recommendations from the first CEC, and some recent conversations and reading materials. Mr. Wesley recommended the CEC work through holding the line or saying to the fire protection districts in the county, in particular the rural FPDs, which are struggling to keep volunteers, that this is a problem they cannot overcome under current circumstances. The current system of the pass - through districts is costing us money but doesn't provide a service. They simply collect the money and disburse it to the Springfield Fire Department in compliance with their contract.

The commissioners discussed the document and agreed it supported the need to consolidate the pass - through fire districts.

**G. Create Network of Business Leaders - J.D. Sudeth & Josh Collins**

Mr. Sims explained the first CEC continued to find when doing this research if something was going to be implemented it would not happen absent private sector support for implementation.

**VII. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS**



**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Homework - The 3 Referendums**

Chair Murphy asked the commissioners to look at the past recommendations and to decide how and what concerning the townships issue would be best for a referendum. Chair Murphy will ask Brian McFadden about the language related to Tax Collectors for a referendum.

There was discussion of also presenting Special Legislation for General Assembly for County Boards to abolish tax collectors. However, in an election year this may be difficult to get the legislature to proceed with issue.

Mr. Sims noted he would collect all the suggestions for the referendums from the commissioners and create a list for next month's meeting. Mr. Sims noted his resolution; each municipality in a special district should prepare a report addressing the actions it has taken during the past year to improve cost efficiency and service effectiveness and share it with their residents.

Mr. Wesley suggested talking about the townships publicly.

**B. Next Meeting Date – May 11th, 2016**

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Mike Murphy asked if there were any public comments.

The League of Women Voters of McLean County stated it was refreshing to see citizens engaged and found the methods of tackling different issues very interesting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mike Murphy asked if there were any further comments. There being none, he called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wesley motioned to adjourn. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf  
Acting as Recording Secretary