



Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
February 8, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Bomke	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Robert Wesley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Murphy		

Other

Jim Cimarossa – Law Enforcement (Chief Marshal of the Illinois Supreme Courts)
Dane Cookson – Law Enforcement (Retired – Sergeant City of Springfield Police)
Marty Fairchild – Rochester Fire Protection District
Ed Taft – Williamsville Fire Protection District
Norm Sims – SSCRPC
Molly Berns – SSCRPC
Jordan Leaf – 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 Mike Murphy stated that Ms. Jackie Newman, Mr. Robert Wesley and Sen. Larry Bomke would not be in attendance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Murphy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 11, 2017, regular meeting. Dr. Kevin Dorsey moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Robert Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hon. Hasara introduced and thanked Jim Cimarossa and Dane Cookson for attending the meeting. Chair Murphy welcomed Mr. Ed Taft from the Williamsville Fire Protection District, and Mr. Marty Fairchild from the Rochester Fire Protection District.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Chair Mike Murphy stated that he attended the February 7, 2017 Sangamon County Board Meeting. He gave them a brief update. He thanked them for putting the two non-binding referendums on the ballot in November. He told them that two referendums had both passed overwhelmingly and that the CEC is moving forward with their support to the RLC and also hoping a bill would be passed to the General Assembly that would abolish the tax collectors in Sangamon County. He reported that the CEC is currently looking at a police study that would involve the city and the county, monitoring the status of the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District, and are beginning to look into the medical district.



VI. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS

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

Hon. Hasara said that she had received the proposal from the International Chiefs of Police Association (ICPA) for the study. She noted Mr. Robert Wesley's email. She did inquire with the ICPA to see if there were any grants available to do the study because she thought it might come up and there was not. Hon. Hasara said that she had originally asked Jim Cimarossa and now he has asked Dane Cookson to participate as well. She invited them today so they could comment on the study.

Jim Cimarossa said that the study was certainly comprehensive and detailed in terms of what the ICPA wants to try to accomplish. In his opinion, he thinks the study would be welcomed. He said anytime you do a study the cost factor is always an issue, but he is a big advocate for anything we can study to make things a little more efficient in law enforcement. He said the proposal outlines every detail and is very specific to what the recommendations and outcomes that will be coming out of the report. He thought it was very thorough and complete. He said that it was objective since it would be completed by the International Chiefs and not locally. He said he would highly urge the CEC to take serious consideration of the study.

Mr. Josh Collins asked if there was anything that Mr. Cimarossa would change? Mr. Cimarossa said no but there might be some things that he feels are not necessary, on technical assistance because of the studies already done like the one in 2001. Cutting some things out could save some funds.

Mr. Norm Sims said that he brought a portion of the original recommendations that deal with some of the issues that Mr. Cimarossa may be talking about. He said the first is the cover page and it lays out the five recommendations. The first recommendation talks about technological improvements and the second recommendation shared is about regional task forces. The other part of the material gets to the specific items starting with preliminary conclusions. He said one of the things that he would point out starts on Page 32. Options are as follows: Resource Conservation, Shared Services, Cross-Deputization, Divisional Mergers, Local Consolidations, and Regional Law Enforcement. Mr. Sims said it might be useful to look at some of those going forward and see if there is anything that needs to be captured in the study that is not in this. The other thing the RPC provided a copy of Bob Wesley's email because he asked for that to be put on the record. He said at some point we might want to discuss that too.

Mr. Sims said he thought going back and looking at the sections of the recommendations from CEC1.0 might help understand some of Mr. Cimarossa's questions. Mr. Cimarossa said that these five recommendations that we had initially; we felt were the least intrusive on the chiefs. They felt whether they were going to agree to do it or not was another question, but we could live with this. If you go with something similar to these five recommendations like discussed in the past, they are likely to be more accommodating to get through this because they realized it was definitely going to save them some money.

Mr. Sims said on Page 42 he highlighted the line of the first full paragraph which says, "The recommendations described above represent a single package of incremental step" and goes on to talk about the implementation. Part of that is to collect the information that we didn't have at the time. We did this related to items discussed in the incremental steps which are the phases. He thinks there was some clear indication in your report that anything you studied could include, but would not have to include, the final step which is regional policing or consolidation. Mr. Sims said if you remember when the Springfield Chief and the Sherriff met earlier they had some things that they thought were useful, technology being one of them.

Hon. Hasara said the fact that we used our recommendations as the basis for the study is helpful because it was three years of work. She said that she feels strongly about using an outside group. She said that we would be making a mistake by even using the Illinois Chiefs. She respects them and thinks they could come up with a good report but to make it really objective we need to go where no one knows us. She said interestingly a few things that have happened that she thinks might help us out. Bob Gray's letter for better



or for worse did show some of our inefficiencies at least in cost. And even better was a response from a firefighter that stated he had no data, no facts. She said she thinks the CEC has a pretty good plan and a reason for doing this if the CEC wants to go ahead with the study. Hon. Hasara said as far as next steps she didn't know if the CEC was ready to roll out. She said her biggest worry was the City because she has gone to the Mayor once and he wanted nothing to do with it. She thinks that is a big hurdle. Dr. Kevin Dorsey asked because of cost? Hon. Hasara said they did not get that far, she honestly didn't know. She said she certainly should not be the one to go to meet with the Mayor because she has already talked to him. She has talked to a couple of alderman. She thinks the CEC should go before the council and just lay it out why the CEC wants to do the study. She said that would be a possibility at some point. She said obviously the funding and especially for the City right now is a big, big problem.

Chair Murphy said up until recently he thought the City's push back not to participate was financial. Then he starting thinking that if they don't want to this study at all, it will be difficult for the people doing the study to gather the information that they need if they don't have the cooperation from the department. Hon. Hasara said they say they have to and she doesn't think they will do it. Mr. J.D. Sudeth said it would be useless. Hon. Hasara said they have to have the information. Mr. Cimarossa said you have got to have the support of the unions because they will be talking to them. He said that they would be speaking to the rank-and-file and getting input from them. He said you may get some push back there because they are looking at it from their side. Mr. Dane Cookson said the "sell" is obviously that you are not implementing something, you are just doing a study which could potentially help everybody. That is the way it has got to be sold. Hopefully the push back isn't as severe for a study compared to recommendations. Hon. Hasara said that the CEC should make it perfectly clear, right up front, we are not looking at consolidation.

Dr. Kevin Dorsey asked if this group has the respect of both the City and the County Law Enforcement? Hon. Hasara said that she doubts if they know of them. Mr. Cimarossa said that they know very little about what you are trying to do here. He said when Mr. Cookson first came in Mr. Cimarossa introduced him to it and he didn't know anything about it and has only been retired for the last 3 or 4 months. Hon. Hasara asked what about the International Chiefs? Mr. Cimarossa said that they know them. He said that the Springfield Police Department would know them. Hon. Hasara asked do they respect them? Mr. Cimarossa said that he doesn't think they have had much involvement with them more so with the Illinois Chiefs not the International Chiefs. Dr. Kevin Dorsey asked do you think there is willingness, eagerness for the City and the County to cooperate? He said we are not saying merge, or do this, or give us your favorite son. He asked do you guys get along? Hon. Hasara said you saw them here. Someone said they talked pretty good here. Mr. Collins asked if he was essentially asking if the police will cooperate more than the politicians? Hon. Hasara said the answer will be no. Mr. Sims going back to what Mr. Wesley said that there are two different questions here related to something current. The first one being - are the bodies going to approve moving forward with the study? Mr. Sims said that is different than what Mr. Cimarossa is talking which is an agreement to take part in providing the information that is needed for them to do a valid study. One of the concerns that the Planning Commission has is it would be a turnkey project so the staff wouldn't have to do a whole bunch of work. Mr. Cimarossa said that if the direction came from the chief that you going to cooperate with the study, they will get that. He thinks if you going to get into the nuts and bolts and get deeper and deeper into you are still going to get their cooperation because of the direction from the chief or sheriff. Because they will be told that they are going to be riding with you, they will be out in the field, and they will be going through certain records to get the data. Mr. Cimarossa said that we have always cooperated with them in the past when a study was being done. Mr. Sims said that an alternative for the CEC to say is you know we wanted to do this as a recommendation, we had somebody to do the study but the bodies refused to cooperate. Chair Murphy said that would be an interesting editorial. He asked what other things should the CEC be looking at? Mr. Cimarossa said that the five main areas that the study should focus on are the original recommendations that were made. He said the study should focus on these and not other issues although that may shake out to at the end of the study. They may find some additional recommendations that would be important. His suggestion is to focus on the five because the CEC has already made that recommendation and those are out there in the public. Chair Murphy asked if the International Chiefs have the CEC's recommendations? Hon. Hasara said that they have it from the last time. She asked do just want to try to go to the City and the County and tell them what we are doing? Chair Murphy said that he briefly informed the County last night that we were doing a study. He didn't talk about the price or anything like that but he did tell them that the CEC is looking at



doing a study. He didn't tell them any details. She said that the County has been begging for this for a long time. Chair Murphy said let's talk about what we think is the best way to approach the City. Mr. Collins asked shouldn't we just sit down with the Mayor, the chief, the sheriff, and someone from the county board either Brian McFadden or Chair Van Meter and try to get them both to do it? Dr. Dorsey said to have everyone around the table and try to kick off one at a time. He asked is it easier to say no if you are by yourself? Hon. Hasara asked if you are going to the county board why wouldn't you go to the aldermen? She said they are the corresponding body of the City. Chair Murphy said that the one difference he sees is the Chief works for the Mayor more so than he works for the council. He said the sheriff is a standalone body. Mr. Plunk said you know the Mayor was not in favor of it three years ago, is there a chance that he has changed his position? Hon. Hasara said she is not the right person to go to him because if she was Mayor she would resent the former Mayor coming to her with this. Mr. Collins said then we will send Chair Murphy. Chair Murphy said he would go and take Mr. Cimarossa. Mr. Cimarossa said he wished he could help Chair Murphy out but he didn't think he could. He said that he has already met with the Mayor on two different City things and he did not want to hear it. Mr. Plunk asked if we were getting into the political side? Chair Murphy said he didn't have a problem meeting with the Mayor he just wanted to make sure he had the knowledge to discuss it. Mr. Cimarossa said that he knew him, he would be glad to do it, but he just didn't want it to be a negative. He doesn't want it to hurt the cause. He said that Mr. Cookson and he had discussed a strategy since the CEC has already met with the chief and the Mayor already. He wondered if a smaller group whether it be Chair Murphy and himself or whoever meet with the chief and the Mayor, by themselves, sit down, pick their brain a little bit and make it a common meeting. Then meet with the sheriff and his staff and do the same thing and then bring them together. Mr. Cimarossa said his only thought on that would be that if Mr. Sims and I just sat here and talked one-on-one about something at our meeting and then Mr. Sims says the opposite at a general meeting he thinks it will hold him more credible at the bigger meeting. He thinks it may not be as intrusive, too. He said the sheriff has some things in the back of his mind just like the chief does and they don't want to let everybody know right now in terms of strategy. Mr. Sims said on that strategy he thinks the other part of it is to ask if there anything that you guys would like to see as part of this study that is not there? Mr. Sims said the second question is you tell me is there is something in this that gives you so much heartburn that you are not willing to take part in this. Mr. Cimarossa said that he didn't have a problem with it being involved in it at all. He thinks that was the intent initially when we all met that there are some things the City and County have been doing that they have been doing for years. Mr. Cookson and he discussed this on the way to the meeting, when Mr. Cookson first came on and he first came on, they were always together. He said law enforcement is one of the agencies where there is always so much competition. He said he couldn't put his finger on it, but it is probably worse. He said if that is set aside you will have some common ground. Chair Murphy said he had zero problem setting up a meeting with the Mayor and discussing this, but he doesn't feel confident in his knowledge of the subject to sell it and he doesn't want them to dismiss it because of his lack of knowledge. Hon. Hasara said to be honest, when the Chief and the Sheriff were all in here you would think that they did every single thing together. Chair Murphy said they had lunch together every day. She said that is why she thinks it is good for Mr. Cimarossa to be involved because that is not true at all. Chair Murphy asked if anyone else had any thoughts or comments on the approach to the City on that? Hon. Hasara said and the County. Chair Murphy said he was looking at the City first because he thinks it will be a tougher nut. Hon. Hasara said we need to keep rolling along. Chair Murphy said we will reassess and he really does think going to the aldermen is something that he is not afraid to do also. He thinks this study needs to be done and the CEC needs to do everything we can do get it done. Hon. Hasara said she has been really impressed in the last month by a group of bipartisan aldermen. Chair Murphy said if he was the Mayor he would want the opportunity to hear about it before coming through a meeting. Chair Murphy said that he would work with Mr. Cimarossa to schedule a meeting with the Mayor. Chair Murphy thanked both Mr. Cimarossa and Mr. Cookson for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Collins noticed that they talk a little about municipalities and the county. With some of the things going on like laying off of police chiefs and the issue with the park district, is this comprehensive enough for all of those things? Hon. Hasara said that is one thing that she forgot to mention. She said Jerome is just having a terrible time and there are several others. She said those things just show the importance of being super efficient. She doesn't know how we could particularly include other jurisdictions, but as an overall topic she thought it would. She said that they had talked about the park district before when they were going through their big problems but she thinks they have pretty much decided. Mr. Sims said that it



would add cost to the project. He said that the other issue is that there is a decline in property taxes. He said that they just looked at the question of 65 and over homestead exemption which the number of those qualified to receive this is going to increase about a third by 2020 and it will continue to increase from there. He said some of the local jurisdictions have no control over it so their options will be pretty limited. Either they take the hit, find other sources to pay for it, spread the hit across other property tax payers to the extent the law allows them to do it, or they try to generate more people coming into the community and owning property that don't qualify for the 65 and older homestead exemption. He said when this was presented to the RPC the questions started coming up. How about the Veteran's exemption? How about other exemptions? He said there a number of homestead exemptions out there but they cannot look at those questions because there is no base to work from. The data exists for homeowners but not for the others. He said in some instances we can look where the problem stems from. In Jerome the problem is money. Mr. Plunk said back on Mr. Collin's point referring to the park district, he would presume they would be included under the 4th dot point here "4) Consolidate select municipal departments into combined local departments to manage scarce resources." He asked would they be a municipal department under the broad definition of municipal? Hon. Hasara said it is a totally separate board. Mr. Plunk clarified so when we are talking about municipal departments we are only talking about villages and cities. Mr. Sims said this is specifically the City of Springfield and the County of Sangamon. Hon. Hasara said the park district had the state chiefs association do a study. She said it was going to be terribly expensive for the City to take them in, so they now have their own chief. She said it seems to be working better. Mr. Plunk said he is not suggesting taking them in, but administrative support, records, and evidence those kinds of sharing activities. He said he doesn't know what they do necessarily. Hon. Hasara said it is good to mention that. Chair Murphy said the one point that Mr. Wesley made in his email regarding item "10. Finally, the ICOP studies mentioned in the proposal were with single entities. We should ask whether they have conducted studies and made recommendations that cross governmental boundaries and, if they have, ask for a summary similar to those listed in the proposal." He said that he was sure they have, but he thought it was a legitimate question. Hon. Hasara said that she had asked them that question. She said actually she just got an answer and they haven't done much of it, but he made some points as to why it would encompass it. Chair Murphy asked so they are not afraid of that? She said no. She said she thought that Mr. Wesley's assessment about the "client" was interesting. Mr. Plunk said that he presumed the "client" will be the consortium of the three agencies that are funding it. He asked if this was correct? Mr. Sims asked if there are three agencies funding it? Hon. Hasara said two agencies the City and the County. Chair Murphy asked are we not going to go to the Chamber? Mr. Sims asked is the City committed to funding? Mr. Collins asked has anybody committed to funding? Hon. Hasara said the County has committed. Chair Murphy said the County is committed and he had a verbal commitment that the Chamber would be involved if it was a three-way deal. He said they would not be involved in a two-way. He said they wanted all three to be involved because they deal with both the City and the County. Chair Murphy asked for any other comments on the police study. Chair Murphy said to move forward he will set up a meeting with the Mayor, Mr. Cimarossa and himself. He said if he would like the chief there that is his call. Mr. Collins asked if the CEC would recommend that the chief be there? Dr. Dorsey asked if he would help sell this? Mr. Sims said Mr. Cimarossa suggested meeting with the chief and the Mayor separately. Mr. Collins said that the Mayor can always say the chief will not be there, but we would like to ask for the chief to come. Chair Murphy said okay he will ask him as well.

B. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner –

Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman

Mr. Plunk reported that he attended the RLC meeting on January 25th. He briefly told them that the CEC is primarily focused on which included the policing study. He said that Ms. Bonnie Drew, Deputy Mayor from the City was in attendance. Hon. Hasara said that Ms. Drew attended the meeting she had with the Mayor about the study. She said that was really actually good to touch on it with Ms. Drew. Mr. Plunk said continued with the CEC focus items – efforts to better understand the medical district and the CEC may offer its assistance there. He said he also mentioned the letter to the governor. He asked if the letter had been sent out. Chair Murphy said yes he signed it that day after the meeting. Mr. Sims said it went out the day we did it. Mr. Plunk said that he didn't think the rest of us have seen that final copy or the date that it



actually was sent. Ms. Berns had copies of the final letter made for the commissioners in attendance and said she would email the other commissioners a copy. Mr. Plunk said whenever he told the group of mayors about this letter he mentioned that there are some things in there that they may be interested in because it talks about how state policies are effecting local governments. He suggested that the CEC might want to share that with the Regional Leadership Council and they can share it with their mayors and with other groups like the fire district trustees, township trustees, and those organizations that represent local governments so that they are aware. He also wondered if we should be sharing it with our legislators who represent Sangamon County. He said that Mr. Taft shared with him that their next meeting is March the 6th on Monday rather than Tuesday the 7th at the Williamsville Fire House at 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Berns said as a follow up to the RLC meeting there a lot of lame ducks. She said a third to one half of the mayors will change in the local villages. She said a lot of people are retiring. She said Steve Frank from New Berlin, Phil Holler from Cantrall, Jeremy Nunes from Dawson, Jim Verkuilen from Pleasant Plains, and Tom Gray of Chatham are not running for re-election. She said Tom Yokley has a challenger is Williamsville. She said that there has been discussion with Brian McFadden to have a welcome reception for the RLC after the election hosted by the County Board. She said as part of that they would congratulate them on being the village president and let them know that they are responsible to attend the RLC meetings. They have interfaced with Chairman Van Meter to have a little social event as kind of a meet and greet, so he can impress upon the mayors the importance of the RLC. Mr. Sims said that they also discussed starting to act like an association including some of the symbolic parts that he has prepared for them like letterhead with their own logo on it that they can start to use. One of the issues they ran into was wanting to list in the left margin all of the partnering communities that were part of the RLC, but most are not clear who they are because they come and go. He said they are working on putting a drop sheet that explains what they are about or what they do so they can get other mayors interested in attending. Mr. Sims said it is time for them to do things like by-laws and certificates for members, so there is a feeling of membership and association. Some of those may be symbolic, but they are important part of the nature of the association. Hon. Hasara said she actually thought they were all members. Ms. Berns said they are members they just don't attend. Mr. Sims said let me rephrase this. Since there are no by-laws there is no clarity. Anybody who wants to come, any village can show up. Hon. Hasara asks so you are agreeing that they are all members. Mr. Plunk said they are all members, but only a few of them attend. He said there were 10 representatives there including the City and the County so there were 8 municipalities were represented. Mr. Sims said that we know of one municipality who has indicated to the leadership of the RLC that they would not take part. They need to elect officers. Some of them will be running for re-election some of them are lame ducks so they are trying to work through that problem. Until you know actually who is taking part, Chair Murphy added that they can't elect officers until after the election. Ms. Berns said they did talk about who would be willing to step forward. They do have people who are active and attend every meeting who are willing to step forward and keep it going for the future. Chair Murphy asked what municipality would not take part? Ms. Berns said it was Southern View. Mr. Plunk said that has been awhile since the southern villages have attended. Divernon came three or four months ago, Auburn hasn't been there in a long time, and Pawnee has never been there. New Berlin is a constant attendee but he is a lame duck also. Chair Murphy said that the three southern villages could really benefit from the RLC. Mr. Sims said that is why we thought after the election it would be a good idea for County Board to have a get together to tell them about the importance of RLC and they should be involved in it and be active members. He said if that comes from County Board members it will have more influence than we would have.

C. Sewer Transfer Study – Dr. Kevin Dorsey & Chair Murphy

Chair Murphy reported that he had not done anything on it, but he did learn that they have a new name the "Sangamon County Water Reclamation District" because he tried to call them one day. Mr. Sims said you may notice that there is a new name for SMTD. Hon. Hasara said yes, Sangamon Mass Transportation District. Ms. Berns said the changes means looking at a regional approach.

D. Developing Legislative Linkages - Karen Hasara/Larry Bomke



Hon. Karen Hasara reported for Sen. Bomke that Mr. Matt Butcher, Representative Tim Butler's Chief of Staff was going file legislation to eliminate the tax collector in Sangamon County. She said that Sen. Bomke discovered that Mr. Butcher is no longer there. She said that he was trying to find out if in fact it was filed, and if it wasn't he will follow up. She said that she didn't hear back from Sen. Bomke so it may have been filed. She said that she would be meeting Sarah this evening (2/8/2017) and she would ask her.

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

Chair Murphy said the only thing he had was that he was going to ask if you knew if the bill had been filed on the collectors.

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

Dr. Dorsey asked if Mr. Taft and Mr. Fairchild saw the article in the paper "Interest in being volunteer firefighter is not so hot" and what they thought about it. Mr. Taft said that he thought it was a good article. It pointed out the challenges and also some of the things that are being done to try to improve the situation. He thought it was a well written article. Mr. Sims said that RPC had sent a piece from either Governing or MACO about the same issue nationwide. Chair Murphy said it is definitely not a Sangamon County issue. Mr. Taft asked what did the CEC members think about it? Chair Murphy said he didn't think anyone was surprised. Dr. Dorsey said it called attention to the problem and he was glad to see that. Chair Murphy said they have studied it for years. Mr. Fairchild said it shined a light, raised awareness, and that can only bode well. Mr. Taft said that he was talking to his chief last night and forgot to ask him if he had any feedback on the article. He said he would be sure to ask him. Mr. Collins asked if anyone knew where the article came from? Mr. Taft said John Reynolds was the writer. Mr. J.D. Sudeth said but what prompted him. What sparked his interests? Mr. Fairchild said that no one had contacted their association for any input. He said that he wasn't aware of the chiefs being contacted. He was at the chief's meeting late last month in Dawson, and nothing was mentioned about being contacted by the press. Mr. Taft said that the Village President of Williamsville contacted our chief and said that he had given that reporter his phone number. He said he didn't know if the reporter contacted the village president or how it got started. Mr. Plunk said that one of his first meetings Mr. Taft had a fellow come talk to the trustees about recruitment initiative. He said he didn't know where the trustees stood with that. Mr. Taft said that he filled out the paperwork to get a grant, but it was too late. He said in order to do that we have to put the money up front to pay for it. He said what he wanted to do was social media advertising on Facebook county-wide. To do that we would have to contract with somebody to get the advertising done, submit paperwork to get reimbursed for our cost, and there is a tight deadline. He said since the association doesn't have any dues or funds he was not willing to go out on a limb and have Williamsville pay for it and hope that we got paid back later. He said that Williamsville Chief has attended one of the workshops that they had last year, has done some of the stuff for the Williamsville Department, and it has paid off with a couple of new members signing up. He said it was a worthwhile program, but it just didn't work out for Sangamon County Fire District Trustees Association (SCFDTA). Mr. Plunk said he thought the presentation at the SCFDTA meeting got more of the district trustees aware of what might be out there and the awareness that there is potential for us to work together to try to get something done within the county. Mr. Taft said he thought there may be a slight chance that the program may get continued in the future. He said nobody knows for certain and if it does he will try to apply sooner. Mr. Taft said that it did raise the awareness. Chair Murphy asked Mr. Taft and Mr. Fairchild if there was anything that they wanted to make the CEC aware of since we were on the Fire/EMS section?

Mr. Taft stated that the next meeting for SCFDTA will be Monday, March 6, 2017 at the Williamsville Fire House at 7:00 P.M. Dr. Dorsey said perhaps there could be some kind of follow up with the author of the article to help keep it alive. Mr. Taft said he never looked on the website to see what kind of comments they had. He said he did get an email from the administrator of the Safer Grants in Idaho and he commented that it was a nice article. Mr. Fairchild said that it got some national attention then. Mr. Plunk said that Dr. Dorsey's suggestion was good. Dr. Dorsey said if we could get them to follow up, sort of keep it alive, and not a one-hit wonder. Mr. Plunk said maybe it would be worth extending an invitation to John Reynolds to attend the SCFDTA next meeting and just express your appreciation for the article that was written and give him the opportunity to share whatever ideas or get ideas from the trustees. Regarding



comments on the SJR website, Mr. Collins said that it is not a controversial issue so they might not be interested. Chair Murphy agreed and said for people in Springfield it is no issue. Mr. Sims said part of the issue is the way we have been trying to explain what is going on related to the population. He said he doesn't know what caused the reporter to write the article but he knows the paper is following the out flow of people from the state in general for this area in particular, Chair Murphy said they may have very simple seen a national article and wondered if it was affecting us locally. Mr. Collins said maybe they were trolling around the CEC website. Ms. Berns said that the reporters follow the Planning Commission's Facebook and the article from "Governing" was posted three days later. She said all the reporters do follow RPC Facebook for research items so that might have tripped a trigger. Chair Murphy said it very well could have been and he thanked Mr. Sims. Mr. Leaf was asked to continue to search for comments on the article.

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

No report given. Chair Murphy said that he might need Mr. Collins' help again if we have a favorable response from the Mayor and the county to make a presentation to Chris Hembrough and the Q5. Mr. Collins said sure because he thinks that the money was coming from Q5, he knows it was. Mr. Collins said that he did not know if the Chamber would still provide 1/3 of the policing study but he would assume it would.

Chair Murphy said that they were going to refer back to the to a previous agenda item to hear the comments made to the SJR volunteer fire fighter article. Mr. Leaf read:

"1.3 million to train 257 people. Pandora ads? Have these people lost their minds?!? Numbers have gone down since this training was provided. Perhaps they should look into stipends for volunteers instead of advertising campaigns and trainings that won't work. For instance, that 1.3 mill on could have provided \$2500 in incentive stipends for 500 new firefighters once they complete a year of service. What a waste of money and time. So sad. -Lisa Lorton"

Mr. Taft said he doesn't recall where the 1.3 million came from, but what they were doing was holding workshops to train the trainer. He said by training the local people they could go back and do the work locally. Mr. Fairchild said he looked at his notes from the last fire board meeting where they paid out a stipend to their volunteers and the amount just from the volunteers was \$42,804 for the year. We have more volunteers that come for the training than for calls. Mr. Sudeth asked how many volunteers, what does that average? Mr. Fairchild said he doesn't have those figures but we have about 30 people more or less as volunteers. Of that group there are probably about 7 to 10 that are as dependable as the sunrise. Chair Murphy asked if their stipends were paid out on a point system. Mr. Fairchild said no per call, \$11.00 per call. He said they are paid if they show up for training and if they ring a bell for Santa Claus they are compensated. Mr. Taft said the way Williamsville does it is they have a pool of \$12,000 and then everybody gets points. They get a point for every call they go to, a point for every training they go to, two points for duty crew they help with, and they also get extra points for additional training outside of the department that they go do. He said that they split that up twice a year. Mr. Collins said you just need 1.3 million dollars to give out. Mr. Fairchild said he has been told by the chief for some of our volunteers it wouldn't matter what you paid them they still wouldn't show up. Mr. Sudeth asked how can you call them volunteers if they don't show up? Mr. Fairchild said well there is that, also he is happy to pay them because they are the best ones they have got and they are dependable like he said as the sunshine. He said some of them are carrying home close to \$4,000 that is how hard they work and how dedicated they are and he is more than happy to pay them. He said and what they do very few people can be depended upon doing. Mr. Sims said the available pool of people in rural areas is going to continue to decline. He said it has been declining since the 1880s. Over 80% of the U.S. population lives in urban areas of 500,000 or more right now. He said that Illinois has more people leaving than we have coming in.



Those coming in are making about 20% less than those leaving which means less flexibility to do some things. Related to the millennials, they will be in engaged in public activities but not this type of activity. It's older folks generally that are that are willing to volunteer as a fire-fighter and the younger ones are the ones that don't show up. Mr. Fairchild said you are absolutely right, Mr. Sims. Mr. Sims said in the past where you had people in the rural areas that worked the farm and were available, now they are working in the cities and can't get there when you might need them because they are on the job. They are basically working on the farm and working another job, too. He said it's an ongoing structural problem. Chair Murphy asked Mr. Leaf if there were any other interesting comments? Mr. Leaf said yes and that he would read one more.

“The excuse of people work or want to spend time with their kids for sports program, is the lie that is heard in all Volunteer units across the nation. The reason they have an issue to recruit people is pure politics. My brother and his wife live in upstate New York. They stopped being a part of the volunteer fire department in their town, because it was politics that was driving people away. Yes people have to work and no longer are there just farmers working as Volunteer Firefighters. At age 14 a person can start working on their EMS certification, same as those who want to go into nursing can also start taking classes to be able to earn being a LPN the year that they graduate high school. The school districts should be partaking in training those in high school in basic fire fighting techniques and allow them to take those courses instead of giving them Study Halls when the school - Greg Zoll”

Mr. Fairchild said here is what happens when you get comments like that. You get someone that vents their spleen and then comes off with some ideas. He said so you don't know where to go with that, he doesn't know where to go with that. Mr. Collins said training in high school is not a bad idea. He said hopefully it would provide a good recruiting base for the department. Mr. Taft said we have cadet program for Williamsville High School for kids who are interested. He said they can attend all of the meetings and training, but they cannot go on call. He said in the past the set up a booth at the high school once a month to see if we could get people interested. He said some of them have gone through the program and became volunteers. Chair Murphy said that he can say that it works because his son was going to do a total different career path in his life then at sixteen he became a junior fire-fighter in Divernon, and he is now a fire-fighter for Springfield. He said that it is 100% because of the junior fire-fighter program. Mr. Taft said Williamsville Fire Department get calls all the time from people who want to join their department so they can get the training and then try to get a job with someplace like Springfield. He said they had one guy that lived off of Stevenson Drive that wanted to join their department in Williamsville just so he could get his foot in the door and attend training out at Lincoln Land or wherever. Mr. Collins asked if he could provide one comment? He said \$4,000 you paid out to some folks at \$11.00 a pop. Mr. Fairchild said close to it. Mr. Collins asked so they went on over 364 calls? Mr. Fairchild said absolutely. Mr. Sudeth said and training. Mr. Fairchild said training or special detail. He said they have training meetings every Monday. Mr. Sudeth said 52 a year. Mr. Fairchild said these people that are making 360 calls, they are also attending the training meetings, but they are also the ones getting up at 2 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning, and they are the ones walking away from Thanksgiving. He said when the bell rings they are out the door. Mr. Fairchild said God love 'em. Mr. Taft that his department averages about 200 calls a year. Ms. Berns said that is pretty massive when you look at it that way. Mr. Collins said that it is more than one day. Chair Murphy said that is part of the problem, it is a commitment. He said that it is a serious commitment for these people to be a volunteer.



VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion of new agenda format

Chair Murphy stated that at the last CEC meeting Mr. Wesley shared his concern about the agenda and suggested changing the format. Chair Murphy said that he agreed with him 100 percent. Everyone has an agenda that Ms. Berns created. Ms. Berns stated that she put it together primarily based on the conversation with Mr. Wesley and reread the minutes that everybody put forth several ideas. She said in the green that is underlined those are items that have changed. Mr. Wesley reviewed this, liked the format and he said it represented his idea. She said that at every meeting it is likely that you would have a report on legislative activities no matter what. She said that the report on the RLC would be quarterly basis so that would go on the agenda on a rotation basis. The next thing would be a progress report on whatever topic was selected. For this meeting it was the police study. She said that those would rotate in and out to get some momentum depending on what the commissioners are working on. Obviously the report from the chairman would still include any conversations that he had with the County Board or the City. She said the bulk of the meeting would be spent on a specific topic by specific members instead of just going down and saying no report. Chair Murphy said kind of represent what the CEC does today. She said this is what Mr. Wesley was envisioning and she thought if he was at the meeting that he would say the progress report needs to have some meat and be of some substance, some decision points, and those kinds of things much like we did today. She said that this agenda was for your comments, yes, no, suggestions. Chair Murphy asked if someone had comments on the agenda? Several people said it looked good. Chair Murphy asked if it needed to be an action item? Ms. Berns said that there is nothing in the bylaws about the structure of the agenda. She said for the next meeting she will need to know the topic of discussion and who is responsible. Chair Murphy said it would be police study. Mr. Plunk said or Medical District. Chair Murphy agreed.

Ms. Berns said that Gail going through the minutes reminded her that the Medical District meeting was suppose to be tomorrow. Hon. Hasara said all she knew was that it was set for tomorrow at 4:00 at the Lincoln Land Training Center. Hon. Hasara said that she has been warned that they often don't have a quorum and cancel the meeting. Mr. Collins said there is a quorum tomorrow, supposedly.

Chair Murphy said that the Policing Study and Medical District Report would be on next month's agenda. Ms. Berns said that RLC would be on a quarterly basis and it can rotate in and out. She said that the report for the Medical District will be a progress report. Chair Murphy said that the Medical District topic would be an update topic with possibly becoming a Progress Report/Task Force action item in April.

2. Discussion of next topics to be studied by CEC

Chair Murphy said that we have already discussed this for the next couple of months. He said he still has in his mind the assessors that he would like to keep on the stove.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting Date – March 8, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS



X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary