



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**  
**May 13, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners**

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

**Others:**

Jim Langfelder -Mayor Springfield  
Mike Lopez - Mayor of Jerome  
Dominic Vespa -Trustee, Riverton FPD  
Bob Kurmann  
John Fulgenzi – Alderman Ward 4

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.  
Norm Sims – SSCRPC  
Jeff Fulgenzi - SSCRPC  
Gail Weiskopf- SSCRPC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

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

Chair Walters announced that commissioner Larry Bomke was not in attendance for the meeting.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 8, 2015, regular meeting. Karen Hasara moved to approve the minutes. Josh Collins seconded the motion, and the amended minutes were approved.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Walters asked guests, commissioners, and Mayor of Springfield to introduce themselves and briefly state their interest. Chair Walters noted the CEC's appreciation of their participation.

**V. GUEST MAYOR JIM LANGFELDER**

Chair Walters welcomed Mayor Langfelder and explained that the CEC would like to take a moment to identify some of their priorities for the second term of the CEC as noted on the agenda. Each task force briefly discussed their work plans and welcomed any questions or comments.



## **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 explained the Regional Leadership Council as a Strategic Partner refers to the CEC's attempt to implement some of the 23 original recommendations. Specifically four of those recommendations and to do it through an existing organization that has more possibility of implementing it by influencing their membership. The four priority recommendations are 1) Group Financing, 2) Shared Administration, 3) Joint Procurement, and 4) Energy Efficiency. Mr. Plunk stated that one of the original 23 recommendations from the first CEC was Leaders' Peer Networks which recommends that formal, regular meetings of local leaders in like positions be established as a venue for cooperative action. This is how the Regional Leadership Council of mayors was formed. Mr. Plunk summarized some of the efficiencies they have occurred since this group was created. Ms. Carol Kulek who is very familiar with energy efficient programs has spoken to the RLC and has helped a number of local municipalities gain knowledge of available grants to implement in their energy efficient projects. The Dawson and the Riverton Council's have agreed to share Water Department management. The shortage of road salt was an example of efforts to create joint procurement last winter. And also the signage project where nine of municipalities are participating because buying within the group they can buy the same sign at a lower cost. Group financing deals more with bonding opportunities and how the various local agencies might work together on funding projects that they want to implement and by working with other communities in one big bonding package, and recognized they are now discussing shared administration. Mr. Plunk explained the task force is hoping to partner with higher education institutions to develop some kind of measuring device like a dashboard to measure efficiencies in management and/or operations. The CEC met with Dr. Richard Funderburg from University of Illinois Springfield. He gave a presentation and is currently working on the model that will be tracked at three different levels of households such as low, medium and high income with his team.

### **B. Sewer Transfer Study - Chair Walters**

*Chair Walters the essence of the study is City-SMSD Sewer Cooperation: The CEC recommends that ownership, operation and maintenance of the City of Springfield's sewer system be transferred to the Springfield Metro Sanitary District (SMSD) through a process of gradual accretion of lines that are newly built, are brought up to an established standard of repair, or are transferred with accompanying designated revenues needed to reach such a standard. It also recommends that a group be immediately convened to pursue implementation of this negotiated transfer and to develop a long-term plan for ameliorating the negative effects on public and private property of the deteriorating sewer system.*

Chair Walters explained the task force has surmised is that infrastructure the larger area it is the better because there is definitely economies of scale and efficiency associated with that. SMSD already has a territory that goes beyond Springfield. It has the ability both financially and staff wise to not only to do the waste process but also to keep their own sewers maintained and up to date which is something the City struggles to do because it does not have the resources. Chair Walters referenced the SMSD November 2014 Map to point out the older sewers in Springfield. The task force would like to explore the potential of transferring the younger (20 year old) sanitary system to SMSD. Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. has conducted a study on the Sewers on the Northeast side of the City and Ms. Christie Crites will be reporting to the CEC the Findings. Once the missing task force member has been named, we will explore more cities to see how they are approaching the EPA issue and how to institute some best practices from the visits.



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

Hon. Karen Hasara explained that the first CEC had a whole committee that spent a lot of time on looking at law enforcement in Sangamon County. The main recommendation to come from hours of meetings and testimony was decided to engage the service of an individual consultant to actually look at the City and the County and how police law enforcement is being provided to our citizens. The CEC believes there are quite a few inefficiencies. The first thing the task force makes clear, is that this is not talking about consolidation. When a group from the original CEC met with Indianapolis where they do have metro government it was very interesting that although they have had metro government for thirty-five years they are just now beginning to combine their law enforcement services. This is very difficult to do. Karen Hasara disclosed she has a proposal from the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Washington, DC who is interested in helping the CEC with the study. Hon. Hasara stressed two facts to Mayor Langfelder: 1) lack of funding, and 2) the need for cooperation from the City and the County to share data with the consultant.

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

Hon. Karen Hasara explained that the task force has been over to the Capitol to and talk with some of the staff. This is the year in which there is pretty much only one topic and that is the budget. Hon. Hasara noted that she had been appointed to the Governor Rauner's Local Government Consolidation & Unfunded Mandates Task Force. Hon. Hasara anticipates some legislation to come from these meetings, particularly from unfunded mandates area. There are several legislators on the commission who are interested in pushing some of these issues this session. Discussion was brought up about trending for funding at the federal and state level about how if you are not approaching things in a multi-jurisdictional way, chances are points will be lost and not as likely to receive the grant.

**E. Developing Linkages with Townships - J.D. Sudeth**

J.D. Sudeth stated one of the recommendations that came out of the original CEC was for the township tax collectors be eliminated and allow those duties to performed exclusively by the Sangamon County Treasurer / Capitol Township. As of now four townships have acted on this, with more will follow once as people use electronic means to pay property taxes. Currently there are 26 townships and 26 villages, cities and municipalities that is a large group of entities that could work together. The Township Supervisors once held regional supervisors meetings, but had gotten away from them. Once the original CEC began its efforts, the supervisors recreated the peer network& they have started meeting regularly. It seems the CEC has helped to encourage communication among the townships and the municipalities. The CEC helped the townships conduct an inventory of equipment throughout the county. The CEC has noted that townships will lend equipment out and the manpower to assist their peers.

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

Mr. Robert Wesley reported there were three recommendations made relative to Fire and EMS from different points of view in the original CEC. One dealt with Pass-Thru Districts, one dealt with generally everything which has received the most attention The notation was to more or less separate the county outside of Springfield into quadrants each with a number of EMS sub stations. So that they could create essentially what you might think of as four different regional fire departments with a number of EMS sub stations outside of Springfield. This discussion was not received well by a number of the rural fire districts. The Fire Protection Districts consists of (29) whole or partial located within the County and there are (25) totally located within the County. They are taxing agencies, they are sovereign governments, they are appointed by the County Board and there is no consistent agreement among those Fire Protection



Districts that something is wrong. We believe and for a variety of reasons, we believe there is something wrong. Not necessarily today, but trending wrong direction. The volunteer base is falling or at least the available volunteer base is falling. Mutual Aid allows for coverage by neighboring fire districts, for instance, there are agreements at least informal and formal among the departments to share manpower and share equipment in the event of an incident. The focus has been on fire but, the real issue is with EMS. Over time Fire and EMS has become blended and thought of in the same way. However they are distinct operations. It works the way it does in the City because it is a full time professional department. They have training, equipment and they are their own entity. The suburban and rural districts are totally different. The problem seems to be from a number of different points of view: 1) We are happy they way we do things, and 2) you can't tell me what to do. For a variety of reasons the CEC have arrived at absolutely no consensus about how to implement improvements for Fire Protection and EMS in the County. When this task force began, Mr. Plunk and I agreed to take this on what we looked to was a move by the Regional Leadership Council to create a task group from among itself or under its leadership. It includes fire chiefs, members of fire protection districts boards, Mr. Plunk and I from the CEC, and public commentary. The task force is moving very slowly. . It hasn't really progressed very far having conducted only three meetings. At the last meeting there was a consensus among the group that we would send a letter to the County Board from the RLC on a recommendation from the task group to ask the County Board to require all of its Fire Protection District Trustee Appointees to receive training. The assumption is that the appointees are not receiving the training and need to learn how to manage in a modern way. This is a good step, but it does not address the general issues that were well reported in the recommendation from the original CEC. If you look at the recommendations particularly the general one, you would have to agree, and we do agree that by most standards or all standards, when looking at response time and those kinds of considerations, they do well right now, often as a result of mutual aid. The concern is the future.

Mr. Wesley recognized Ken Fustin, Chief Springfield FPD for his excellent work at these meetings. He has some innovative thoughts and is trying to take us in to some directions that we have not traveled before. Noting that Chief Fustin has indicated that tiered training is important for an efficient Fire/EMS Department. Mr. Wesley was sorry to hear that Chief Fustin was going to retire because he has been an important part of this effort.

Mr. Plunk added that nine of those 29 districts that Mr. Wesley noted are referred to as Pass Thru Districts. The City gets money from those districts. Curran had contacted with Chatham but had a couple of service issues, so they have moved their contract back to Springfield.

Mr. Norm Sims noted this is an efficiency commission and normally this is thought of as cost efficiency. How can we get same output for less cost? But that is not limit charged to the group, it is efficiency and effectiveness. So the question is "How can we improve service to the public, even if it cost as much or even more than we are doing now?" The challenge is to look at those things in the future and what is a better way of doing this.

Wesley stated the CEC has learned some things that refer directly to service. No one can shut down a fire department. The Department Labor is the only entity that can fine a Fire department. The only way that Sangamon County Board can exert any authority is through their appointment process. The authority for fire districts this rests in only one place, prior to the appointment process, once the Fire Protection District Boards are appointed there is no recourse. Wesley noted these are among the issue Chief Fustin had brought to the table, right now the rural fire departments want their volunteers to go through all of the training. This is not a problem in Springfield because they are a professional force and they have full-



time employees. This is a problem in all the other districts, because all or most are volunteers. All the time and effort falls on the volunteers' time. They are not compensated for it. The training is rigorous and it is constant. Chief Fustin said someone who wants to go into a structural fire has to be trained as a fire fighter, but someone who just wants to drive the truck has less training as well as the person who stays at the fire house.

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

Mr. Josh Collins reported the recommendation that affects the Business Community the most is the Building Permits. Last week the 2014 Sangamon County Economic Outlook Survey from the Chamber was presented. It is the result of business retention expansion program where 100 Chamber member businesses complete survey. Building permits are often cited. There has been discussion with Mr. Mark Mahoney to make the process better.

Mr. Collins explained for the most part the survey remains the same for comparison year to year. There is one segment allowed each time for different questions. Mr. Collins asked the CEC if they would be interested in taking advantage of this opportunity in the fall. Questions would need to be prepared by August. Questions would be presented to businesses in Sangamon County.

After discussion of the opportunity; the CEC is planning on coming up with some questions to participate in the survey with UIS.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS**

Regional Leadership Council Update- Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

RPC Staff reported the Regional Leadership Council will be held Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at Lincoln Land Community College Trutter Center.

The next CEC meeting date will be Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in Room 212 of the Regional Planning Commission.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walters asked if there were any further comments. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Robert Wesley motioned to adjourn. J.D. Sudeth seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf  
Acting as Recording Secretary