



**Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
December 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

X	Larry Bomke	X	Robert Plunk
X	Josh Collins	X	J.D. Sudeth
X	James Donelan	X	Joan Walters
X	Karen Hasara		Robert Wesley
	Jackie Newman		

Others:

Norm Sims - SSCPRC

Jeff Fulgenzi -SSCRPC

Christie Crites – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

John Drake – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

a. CALL TO ORDER

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

b. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Chair Walters announced that commissioners Jackie Newman and Robert Wesley would not be in attendance for the meeting.

c. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2014, regular meeting. Mr. Jeff Fulgenzi offered corrections. There being no further corrections, Chair Walters asked for a motion to approve the minutes the minutes as amended. Mr. Josh Collins moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Robert Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

d. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Walters asked CEC commissioners and SSCPRC staff to introduce themselves to Mr. John Drake and Ms. Christie Crites, both of the engineering firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. Commissioners and SSCRPC staff did so and after introductions concluded, the meeting moved forward to Vice Chair Plunk's discussion of the Fire and Emergency Management Services linkages document.

e. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on Fire/EMS Linkages: Discussion of Plunk/Wesley Work Plan



- Vice Chair Plunk presented the work plan to the CEC, a physical copy of which had been provided to CEC members prior to the meeting. After going over several other points, Vice Chair Plunk drew the attention of the commissioners to the section entitled “*Specific Work Plan Tasks.*” He noted that many of these tasks have already been accomplished by the CEC. For instance, Mr. Plunk discussed how establishing a linkage with the Regional Leadership Council (RLC) on the CEC’s recommendations had been already been achieved. He reported that the RLC has developed a Fire/EMS subcommittee, at whose meetings both he and Mr. Wesley shall attend. Vice Chair Plunk reported that the CEC subcommittee and Mr. Fulgenzi met with the appointed Fire Chief members representing the Sangamon County Fire Chief’s Association on November 17, 2014 in Sherman. Vice Chair Plunk emphasized that, per the work plan, the CEC intends to follow the lead of the RLC with respect to the [implementation priorities recommended in CEC term one](#), until such time as the RLC subcommittee completes its work.
- Vice Chair Plunk drew the attention of the commissioners to the item entitled “Foreign Fire Insurance Fund (FFIF) Administration and Use,” which deals with aspects of FFIF, an account which Fire Protection Districts may maintain that allows for additional monies to be made available to them. Mr. Plunk pointed out that 17 of the 25 FPDs located wholly within Sangamon County are not currently recognized by the Illinois Municipal League (IML) as eligible to receive FFIF funds due to not meeting one or more of several criteria (the FPD must pass an ordinance that specifies the amount assessed, clearly define FPD boundaries, and inform the IML of the assessment). Mr. Fulgenzi noted many of the questions being raised were addressed in the original [CEC Recommendation regarding FFIF](#). He mentioned that the CEC did recommend fire districts receive the funds for which they are eligible. At the time of the CEC study, a number of fire districts had not taken steps to allow receipt of FFIF. Mr. Fulgenzi added that since the release of the report a number of districts have taken steps to become eligible.
- Update on Sewer Transfer Study: December 1, 2014 Meeting Update
 - Chair Walters discussed the progress of the Sewer Transfer Study. She reported on a recent trip to Peoria during which she, Mr. Jim Donelan, Mr. Jeff Fulgenzi, Mr. Mark Mahoney of the City of Springfield and Mr. Gregg Humphrey of the Springfield Metropolitan Sanitary District met with individuals involved in sewer consolidation in metro Peoria. Mr. Donelan mentioned that consolidation in Peoria was thought to be a benefit to the customer but that it was not considered to be less expensive. This was the case, he noted, because many of the same expenses (personnel, e.g.) would remain after consolidation. Senator Larry Bomke asked what the objective of consolidation was in Peoria. Chair Walters responded that it was to maintain the sewers at the highest level given the resources available and to ensure that preventative maintenance was being performed in a timely manner.



- Mr. Donelan reported that he was informed that the City of Peoria should have raised rates but had not done so, which presented problems for the City. Chair Walters agreed and pointed out that the City of Peoria had failed to raise rates for six years and had failed to properly fund maintenance of their aging sewer lines. However, she noted that the City of Springfield had not raised rates in approximately sixteen years. Both Chair Walters and Mr. Donelan stressed the importance of cleaning, televising, mapping, and otherwise properly maintaining the sewer system. Locally, the historic lack of routine maintenance has made it difficult for the City of Springfield to assess the total cost of needed repairs. Chair Walters said efforts should be made to ensure that sewers are in a state where they can be televised and maintained. She remarked that a case needs to be made that routine maintenance and video mapping of the sewers is a long term investment rather than a short term cost. She noted that City sewer repairs are conducted primarily as a result of cave-ins. These cave-ins tie up revenue and crews instead of allowing them to conduct critical routine maintenance.
- Mr. Norm Sims discussed the difficulty in making the case for improvements in maintenance and prevention efforts due to the fact that variables related to sewer repair costs as yet have not been measured. As such, these costs remain unknown. Mr. Sims mentioned that these concerns were noted in the CEC reports. Ms. Christie Crites, an engineer with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly, indicated that an asset management system to properly rate sewers status is what is needed. An assessment must be conducted to identify needed repairs. She suggested this would be costly to implement. Mr. Sims mentioned that, while estimates have been provided to the CEC in the range of \$3-5 million, other options remain unexplored. Chair Walters stated that the City has begun to look at combined storm/sanitary sewers while nothing concerns related to a consent decree. She mentioned that storm sewers are a large component of the urban flooding problem in Springfield. She also pointed out that Peoria is looking at green infrastructure and a storm water utility as additional ways in which to mitigate urban flood damage. Chair Walters stressed that it may be useful for the CEC to continue a dialogue with officials in Peoria and that it may be useful to consider traveling to Decatur and Bloomington to meet with officials there. Mr. Fulgenzi noted that the many of the commissioner's questions, comments as well as information provided by the discussion with Peoria official's discussion thus far were consistent with the [CEC recommendation indicating the need for a Phased Transfer of Springfield Sewers to SMSD](#).
- Chair Walters discussed the possible involvement of Springfield ICON (Inner City Older Neighborhoods). She stated that she raised the subject at a meeting last week in which ICON was in attendance. She expressed her belief that working with the group might make for a good



partnership. She also mentioned that Sustainable Springfield, Inc. may also be a good partner on the issue.

f. OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS

- Update on Police Study
 - Hon. Karen Hasara reported that she met with Brian McFadden and former CEC commissioner Jim Cimmerosa and noted that she is reviewing Department of Justice funding opportunities that which may be able to provide funding for additional study. Hon. Hasara mentioned possibility of the Sangamon County Board as funding source. She also indicated a consultant familiar with this issue may able to provide additional information useful the CEC. Chair Walters mentioned that the County Board and the CEC have not yet identified costs for a Law Enforcement study.

- Update on Townships
 - Chair Walters asked for an update on townships. Mr. Donelan reported that Mr. J.D. Sudeth and he have a meeting scheduled the very next day with the Sangamon County Township Official's President.

- Update on Linkages with Business Leaders

g.

- Chair Walters asked Mr. Josh Collins whether he was aware of any impediments to economic growth in Sangamon County. Mr. Collins noted difficulties at the state level and offered that he didn't feel businesses are concerned with local government efficiency and effectiveness. Commissioners then agreed that a presentation from the Chamber/Q5 President Chris Hembrough might be useful and informative. Chair Walters then asked Mr. Collins to invite Mr. Hembrough to present at the next CEC meeting on January 14, 2105.

Mr. Sims noted that another question to ask is whether or not the business community is interested in the efficiency of local government. Mr. Sims iterated that he believed engaging the economic development arm of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce would be helpful but that he has observed a lack of interest from the business community. Adding that he felt businesses are likely concerned with government efficiencies.

h. NEW BUSINESS

The next CEC meeting date will be Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in Room 212 of the Regional Planning Commission.



i. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walters asked for public comments. Mr. Robert Plunk added that he contacted Carol Kulek so that she may identify some energy efficiency projects have been completed by local governments in 2014. Mr. Plunk noted that she is currently working with four agencies: Sherman, Auburn, Dawson, and Williamsville. Mr. Plunk reported that she will be ready to present current examples of energy efficiency to the January 28th RLC meeting.

Chair Walters noted that the City Central Garage had a ribbon cutting yesterday, December 9th. Mr. Sims suggested that the CEC should present the City of Springfield with a certificate for their efforts to which Chair Walters agreed.

j. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walters asked if there were any further comments. There being none, she called for a motion to adjourn. Karen Hasara motioned to adjourn. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary