



Minutes approved 06-18-14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jury Commission Room – McKenzie Building
Wednesday May 21, 2014 – 4:04 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Zimmerman, Monica Connett, Russ Crawford, Jim Donahue, Brett Grimm, Dean Grimm, Terry Hillegonds, Carroll Imig, Darrell Meisinger, Greg Sinn

Committee Members Absent: Tim Neuhauser, Mike Harris

Others attending: Michael J. Freilinger, County Administrator

MOTION **MOTION BY MEISINGER, SECOND BY DONAHUE** to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2014 meeting.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-14-66 **MOTION BY IMIG, SECOND BY DEAN GRIMM** to recommend to County Board to adopt 6TCC-10: Tazewell County Body Art Ordinance.

Evelyn Neavear, Director of Environmental Health, advised the Committee that she had presented this at the last meeting and now the Board of Health had approved.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-14-74 **MOTION BY BRETT GRIMM, SECOND BY IMIG** to recommend to County Board to approve an added incentive to the Illinois Assist Home Buyer Program.

Freilinger stated this is a program the County has participated in since 2000. They are expanding the program to provide a tax credit for first time home buyers.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-14-72 **MOTION BY CRAWFORD, SECOND BY BRETT GRIMM** to recommend to County Board to approve the appointment of Seth Mingus to fill the

unexpired term from County Board District 3.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-65

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of R. Earl David to the Central Fire Protection District.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-67

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of Darrell Meisinger to the Veterans Assistance Commission.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-68

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of Peggy Flannigan to the Board of Health.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-69

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of William Edwards to the Board of Health.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-70

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of Debbie Stark to the Board of Health.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION
E-14-71

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY MEISINGER to recommend to County Board to approve the reappointment of Carroll Imig to the Board of Health.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.
Imig abstained.

MOTION
E-14-73

MOTION BY DONAHUE, SECOND BY BRETT GRIMM to recommend to County Board to withdraw the Tazewell County membership in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

Chairman Zimmerman asked Committee members to share their thoughts. He stated the last of unpleasant events which finally made him feel that he could not continue to accept occurred when this Board approved an offer of alternates in the absence of a Tazewell member at their board meeting. It was discussed for several months. TCRPC expended resources to consult an attorney and then voted "no" to our offer. Zimmerman stated perhaps a six month break from membership could improve relations. As part of this resolution, the previously approved gift of \$100,000 was being rescinded.

Hillegonds asked for more details why they rejected our offer. Chairman Zimmerman said there had been issues with quorum and this was a reasonable solution that was offered. Our Administrator was to be our alternate. Again, it was discussed for four months with no opposition until the final vote. They also voted down the next in line to be chairman, which was Russ Crawford.

Brett Grimm asked what other TCRPC members thought. Meisinger stated it was a good commission for what it was formed for. He stated part of the problem is they have gotten away from their mission. He stated he would support whatever our Board decides. He personally wants the County to stay in. Chairman Zimmerman stated Tazewell would still be in the MPO. Hillegonds stated he previously served and they were progressive. Now he is back on the commission and sees it as disconnected. He stated there needs to be some changes in leadership soon which may help the issue. Dean Grimm stated he served for eight years and they did a lot of good work. When a Tazewell county member serves as chairman it will be a different program. They lost a good executive director. He stated we need to get the chairman position and make changes. Chairman Zimmerman stated if the votes are not there, Crawford will not be the chairman. Their nomination draft has Crawford and Sundell and Sundell advised she was withdrawing her name.

Crawford stated he joined TCRPC in 1978 and has held various positions with them. He stated he advised Chairman Zimmerman that he did not want to be their chairman. He stated he is not voting to leave TCRPC – they have left us on at least three big issues. They need to focus on planning and that is not happening at this time. Crawford stated he will send them a letter providing simple steps to get back on track and bring their reputation back into good standing.

Donahue stated this meeting confirms they are not functioning properly and he will support dropping out even if they give Tazewell the recognition it deserves.

Chairman Zimmerman stated if the County decides to stay in it could be contingent on changing their by-laws to accept the candidates this board recommends.

Brett Grimm stated there have been a lot of changes. He will vote to stay in and wants to provide them with funds to solve their problems. The main argument when funding was approved for them was the State changed their funding criteria which caused some of their financial dilemma. He would like to give them the opportunity to fix it and re-evaluate in six months. He would also like to see the next chairman be from Tazewell.

Connett inquired if the County could pull out their \$100,000 legally. ASA Holly stated there was no type of a contract. The resolution was a voluntary contribution and payment was completely at the Board's discretion. Connett agreed that Tazewell leadership is needed.

Imig inquired what the process would be if Tazewell decided to get out at this time and eventually want to re-join. Chairman Zimmerman stated if we requested they would allow Tazewell back in. Peoria County previously dropped out.

Crawford stated he would like to add language to the resolution to be reconsidered by 11-30-14. Hillemonds seconded. Dean Grimm asked how we would know if there was any difference in December 2014 if Tazewell got out now. Brett Grimm stated there could be a chance for a fix if we have a chairman there. If Tazewell can't fix it, then pull out. Make the six month review after we have given our own chairman a chance to improve the commission.

Chairman Zimmerman stated there was an amendment on the floor. Crawford stated if there was an overwhelming desire he would withdraw his amendment. Brett Grimm stated the Board was previously told if we don't assist them financially they will no longer exist. Sinn stated until there is a new executive director this is not the time to bow out. Brett Grimm stated another name needs to be submitted for Tazewell chair if Crawford and Sundell do not want it. Hillemonds stated he was not in a position to take it at this time.

Imig stated he sees merit in staying for another six months and looking at it again and decide at that time. Chairman Zimmerman asked if Tazewell should pay in installments or give them the entire \$100,000 now. Dean

Grimm stated we need to nominate Meisinger and go forward. We need a strong chairman and stay in. Chairman Zimmerman stated that the process for hiring a new executive director will be very time consuming for the chair. Donahue stated the proper thing is to table this motion. MOTION BY DONAHUE TO TABLE.

ASA Holly wanted to bring to the Committee's attention that he just received a voice mail message from the Peoria State's Attorney's office inquiring as to whether or not advice had been rendered to our Board regarding Tazewell leaving TCRPC and remaining a member of PPUATS. Holly stated he has not looked into that at all. Chairman Zimmerman received information from the interim director that PPUATS was the MPO and that is what the three counties needed to be members of. Crawford stated the information ASA Holly just provided appeared to indicate what was being discussed at TCRPC.

Chairman Zimmerman stated there was a motion on the floor to table for one month. Donahue stated he wants to see what TCRPC is going to do tomorrow with the vote for chairman. If we have submitted a legitimate candidate he wants Tazewell County recognized.

Crawford, as parliamentarian, stated there is a way to do that. Forward the resolution on to the May Board meeting without a recommendation. Crawford pointed out that he had been given a nomination form with policy typed – not approved by any Committee – stating that if any county withdraws from TCRPC then current chairman and slate of officers continue. There is no authority to do this.

Chairman Zimmerman again stated there is a motion to table for one month. Crawford pointed out that if tabled, it would return to the June Executive Committee and did we want to do something at the May Board meeting. ASA Holly stated there could be an In-Place Executive.

Second by Crawford to table. Chairman Zimmerman called for a roll call vote. A Yes vote was to table and a No vote was to deal with it at tonight's meeting.

Connett	no
Crawford	no
Donahue	yes
Brett Grimm	no
Dean Grimm	no
Hillegonds	no
Imig	yes
Meisinger	no
Sinn	no

On roll call vote, MOTION TO TABLE FAILED.

Chairman Zimmerman stated the decision is back to this meeting and there is a motion on the floor. Meisinger stated he will put his name in for chairmanship. If tomorrow they don't allow, we can pull out next month.

Chairman Zimmerman stated a Yes vote was to withdraw from TCRPC and a No vote is to stay in. Hillegonds amended the motion to stay in is contingent upon Meisinger being chairman. Second by Dean Grimm.

Chairman Zimmerman reminded the Committee there was one member of TCRPC that was willing to step into that slot and it was not Meisinger. Zimmerman stated that Sundell had talked to him and withdrew. If Crawford is out, Sundell is automatically in. Chairman Zimmerman said if Sundell takes her name out, Meisinger will do it as Crawford is taking his name out of the mix.

Imig inquired if we would withhold funds until we see something happen. Chairman Zimmerman said not unless the Board allows. Crawford stated we need to ensure TCRPC passes with a Tazewell County chairman before one penny is sent. Dean Grimm stated that money can be paid anytime. Chairman Zimmerman stated he would not sign the agreement at this time.

Chairman Zimmerman asked for a vote on the main motion. A Yes vote is to withdraw and a No vote is to stay in at this time.

Yes votes – none.

All opposed – voting no – the entire Committee.

Chairman Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Beeney)

Response Memo To: TCRPC

Thank you for your appointment recommendation. I have served the Commission long (since 1978) and very successfully as Chairman (93-94), Vice-Chairman (currently), Treasurer and Secretary. As Chairman, we created and implemented the first Transportation Symposium and Land Use Conference. Each was a tremendous success bringing together important and critical voices from throughout the region to assist us in developing critical transportation and land use planning. Two results included the Peoria-to-Chicago Highway Study and the first ring-road or corridor study. I have also had the opportunity to play a critical role as past President of the Heartland Water Resources Council and past Chairman of the Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance, always focused on our critical water resource, the Peoria Lakes and the Illinois River Basin.

I am not a candidate for Chairman, nor have I ever initiated any attempt to become Chairman for a second time, or any time since my Chairmanship, many years ago. I believe that there is an abundance of highly qualified and competent candidates who would do a great job in leading the Commission, just as there has been throughout our long (since 1958) history. Succession planning is a critical tool for many organizations and it certainly would not hurt the Commission. I do believe that the Commission has been tremendously successful for the vast majority of those years due to some very basic leadership principles:

1. We never lost track of our mission, namely transportation, land use and water resources planning specifically; and to provide facilitation for issues and problems that cross governmental and geographic boundaries occasionally.
2. We never forgot the critical role of the Commission staff (currently Dale, Eric, Maggie and every member of the TCRPC Team) who are the real reason for our success, again, when we prioritize their work as our top priority, always.
3. We never forgot the important role of our collaborative partners, in local government, state and federal government and in the private sector. There is a larger team that is essential for maximum success of the Commission.
4. We never forgot the citizens of our region. We encouraged their participation in Commission Citizen Advisory Groups (active in Land Use, Open Space & Recreation, Housing, Water Resources and yes, even Economic Development).
5. We never forgot to try to balance our important work and our passion for such with our ability to have some small degree of fun.

There are some others, but if we get these 5 principles right, I certainly believe we will go a long way toward the success that everyone in the Tri-County region so richly deserves. Thanks for allowing me to share my response with the entire Commission. Warm Best Regards and With All Good Success to our new leaders. You each and collectively have my support.

Russ