

Minutes approve 06-20-12



RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

McKenzie Building, Jury Commission Room
Wednesday, April 18, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman David Zimmerman, James Carius, Russ Crawford, Mike Harris, Carroll Imig, Tim Neuhauser, Terry Von Boeckman, Auditor Grashoff, State's Attorney Stewart Umholtz, Assistant State's Attorney Holly

Committee Members Absent: Terry Hillegonds, Lincoln Hobson, Greg Sinn, Treasurer Burress

MOTION

MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY VON BOECKMAN to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION

RM-12-09

MOTION BY GRIMM, SECOND BY HARRIS to recommend to County Board to approve the Workers' Compensation settlement.

Chairman Zimmerman reminded the Committee they had granted settlement authority in March, 2012.

On voice vote, MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Zimmerman introduced Shirley Lacock, Claims Adjustor from Gallagher Basset to the Committee.

Lacock stated she is the Worker's Compensation adjustor for Tazewell County for claims that exceed \$2,500.00. She works to move the cases forward. She said that to be able to talk with the claimant when the claim is filed may help reduce the defense costs. She assures the claimant that if they have questions or problems to contact her before going to an attorney.

She stated that even though a claimant has gone to an attorney does not mean it has to be sent to defense. She is able to work with and negotiate settlements with attorneys.

Chairman Zimmerman stated that the Committee has met with Steve Kelly several times to discuss cases. Lacock stated she is involved prior to Kelly coming on board with the case.

Neuhauser asked if there was anything that Tazewell County could do better regarding claims. Lacock stated that she has been the Claims Adjustor for our county since May 2011 and she has had an open line of communications with claimants since and none have obtained attorneys.

Harris asked how that saves the County money. Zimmerman stated the fees increase when it goes to Kelly. (attorney fees)

Lacock stated that she can provide information to the Committee through Christie Webb and Ronnie Lawson on pending settlements. Settlement authority would be granted to her in advance.

Chairman Zimmerman advised the Committee that Lawson has a spread sheet that shows the cost of cases that Kelly is involved in. The costs have increased over the last five years.

Crawford thanked Lacock for coming and likes the idea of saving costs. He encouraged her to share any cost saving areas with us. The County is interested in being legal and protecting everyone's rights, but also interested in the balancing act with taxpayers money.

Donahue wanted to clarify that Lacock is our representative who reviews and negotiates settlements and then to the Committee for approval. Lacock stated that for each case that she handles she has guidelines and rules to settle up to a certain dollar amount. The Committee will be aware of cases before she does settlement negotiations. She will make a recommendation.

Neuhauser asked her involvement with setting reserves. Lacock stated she sets reserves up to a certain amount. Neuhauser said that was very important because as a claim progresses it is important for the Committee to know that a claim started at this amount and is now increasing.

Zimmerman thanked Lacock for her presentation to the Committee.

MOTION

MOTION BY HILLEGONDS, SECOND BY IMIG to move the Committee into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) – Pending Litigation – at 4:15 p.m.

Chairman Zimmerman moved the Committee out of Executive Session at 4:15 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Umholtz reported to the Committee that he is in the process of compiling and retrieving Risk Management Policy Committee Rules from 1988. He wants to go through those and perhaps make some recommendations. He said this would be similar to what was just completed with the Personnel Policy Handbook.

Chairman Zimmerman recessed the meeting at 4:16 p.m.