



Rock Island County
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Executive Committee Minutes
Thursday January 14, 2016 9:30 am

The Executive Committee of the Rock Island County Board met at the above date and time in the Conference Room of the Administration Office on the second floor of the County Building, 1504 Third Ave, Rock Island, IL. Chair Kenneth Maranda called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Minutes as follows:

1) Call to order and roll call

Committee members present: Chair Kenneth Maranda, Rod Simmer, Nick Camlin, Steve Ballard, Larry Burns, Kim Callaway-Thompson, Mia Mayberry, Scott Terry, Richard Brunk

Committee members absent: None

Others present: Jerry Clyde, April Palmer, Pat Koranda, Dave Ross

2) Approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2015 meeting

Motion to approve: Scott Terry

2nd: Rod Simmer

All in favor

Motion Carried: Yes

3) Public Comments

There were none.

4) Review of Personnel/Payroll Audit

Ms. Palmer explained that over the course of the year, her office performs various internal audits. This is going to become more popular now that she has had full staff for a time period. They're now able to get to doing the job they're supposed to and give the Board more information, as well as improve procedures, make things more efficient, protect against liability, etc. One of the audits Ms. Palmer has wanted to do and was finally able to perform was an internal audit on payroll functions, specifically hiring – how paperwork is done, how it's filed, if we're following all the laws, if the employee file is completely full, etc. They thought now was a good time to do it because there was a lot of turnover with ERI. They randomly picked a couple of months of the year and did the audit on all new hires that came in the county in those two months. Ms. Palmer introduced her internal auditor, Pat Koranda who performed the audit work as per his job title.

Mr. Koranda explained that the audit was primarily a compliance audit to see if we are compliant with federal/state regulations, our own policies, and if we are doing what the employee asked us to do with deductions and whatnot. They started out going through personnel files to see if W-4s were completed

and signed and if I-9 forms were completed. The audit results showed that one employee's top part of the W-4, the worksheet, was complete, but the bottom half was signed but not completed. Mr. Koranda explained that this was not a big deal because it's easy to see intent. One employee claimed exempt, which is an option, but the exempt status is only valid for one year, so his question with Mr. Clyde is if he had policies enforced so they can renew that. If in February 2015 someone claimed an exemption, they'd have to refile and reclaim for 2016.

For I-9 citizenship, they had 2 employees who did not have I-9s in their files. This is simply a matter of getting them in the file and having a checklist to make sure they are in files. Mr. Koranda explained that this is a pretty big deal with immigration services.

For employee rate of pay, Mr. Koranda verified the information in the file with the contracts to make sure employees were being paid at the correct rate. Two were different than what was in the contracts.

Mr. Koranda explained that when they finished the audit, they invited Mr. Clyde down and went through everything with him and let him put a formal response together, which is in the audit packet.

Ms. Palmer explained that the spreadsheet shows the people who came up within that audit out of those two months and the issues that were found, as Mr. Koranda mentioned. They did get together with HR Director Jerry Clyde and let him know their findings to see if there were some extenuating circumstances and to have him respond with how he thinks he might improve or if he thinks improvement is needed and why or why not. Ms. Palmer explained that the page that says, "Memorandum" was what they got formally in writing from Mr. Clyde regarding improvements he will put in place so that next time they come through, they won't find as many things. Ms. Palmer noted that of course things happen and it's not anyone's purposeful delinquency. It's just that sometimes they get too many people coming through in a hiring and forget a form, so this is about how not to forget that form anymore. Ms. Palmer invited Mr. Clyde to make a statement.

Mr. Clyde thinks the biggest thing over the past year is that they have changed processes as part of the new hire process. Now, each individual department has the responsibility of collecting the W-4s and the I-9s in order for the new hire to have that in the HR office on their first day of work. To ensure they do have those fully completed, by February Mr. Clyde will have developed a checklist that will be signed off on saying they have it and it's done correctly. That's going to be attached to the employee report form that goes to the Auditor for her final approval.

Mr. Clyde reiterated that he thinks they've improved processes over the past 12 months. This audit is a way for them to take it to the top level of performance. As far as I-9s go, Mr. Clyde explained that he has had more education with his staff already and they are going to really make sure they have all those in place. The big thing he has discussed with his staff is if they don't have a completed I-9 by the employee's third day, the employee will be suspended until they get it in.

Mr. Clyde noted that employee rate of pay has been an ongoing issue for the last two FYs. Part of it is turnover of personnel in the County Board office and the HR office. Mr. Clyde thinks Ms. Palmer now has a better understanding of what's involved as to how they get the rates entered into New World so they're accurate. For FY17, Mr. Clyde doesn't see this being a problem. Ms. Palmer noted that it does have some effect on FY16. She explained that a wage schedule was put into New World and taken as

signed contractual. The union agreed to it. She explained that they have to be diligent that it is not the proper schedule for FY16, so there are some penny problems in the rate of pay for certain union employees. What they need to do and hope to accomplish in the future is through new negotiation, any percentage of increase will be signed by both parties through the CBA process and then the percentages will be applicable to that schedule, not to the current schedule being used that got put in without proper approvals. Mr. Clyde explained that it goes back to when they had the 2 and 2 a year ago. Things got out of whack there and continued on. Ms. Palmer added that it occurred because of rounding errors to begin with. They don't know who did the rounding errors. They don't even have a clue as to guessing. The IT department received that sheet in error. Somehow, they misunderstood through the process that they were supposed to load that particular sheet instead of the one included in the signed contract.

Mr. Terry noted that he knows he doesn't need to tell them this and he understands they don't know who's to blame, but he is concerned about if they are confident this will be fixed quickly. Ms. Palmer explained that it will remain as it is through FY16 because that has been emailed and agreed to. If they try to retract that at this point, there will be grievances. They can only start FY17 off correctly now that this has been found. Ms. Palmer noted that this is why she likes to do internal audits: to make sure they're all on the right page. She noted that Mr. Clyde's office and hers will collaborate to make sure those numbers are correct before it gets to IT in the future. Mr. Clyde added that they've also identified new procedures that before anything is given to IT or put into position budgeting, it has to be formalized and reviewed by the auditor's office to minimize errors. Ms. Palmer noted that in the past, it was confusing as to direction because things were brought down by the County Board, Human Resources, her office, and recently the Administrator, so there were four people were trying to tell one person what to do. They're going to streamline that and make sure everyone's on the same page before taking things to IT.

Mr. Terry explained that he understands they can't do anything now because of the grievance process and is glad it's been corrected. He asked if they have any idea how much these rounding errors will affect the county. Mr. Clyde said that it's miniscule. He thinks there were a total of 10 steps with employees who were affected, and not every one of those has employees being paid that amount. Mr. Ross elaborated that it's \$21/year per penny that's off for each employee affected. Mr. Clyde added that some were high and some were low – not all were rounded up. Ms. Palmer confirmed and said that some of it balances it out. Some are actually getting \$21 less, but the union signed off on it, so some of it will wash. There is definitely a little bit of additional cost. She thinks countywide, it was somewhere in the ballpark of \$1,000. Mr. Maranda asked if it was the software that did the rounding. Ms. Palmer confirmed and explained that New World goes to the third decimal place. That rounding process was put into place on the schedule and then the percentages were figured based on that instead of taking off that decimal place as should have been done. Mr. Clyde noted that he's confident they'll ensure on new contracts there is language that says this is what they're going to be using.

Mr. Simmer asked about the I-9s and if HR sees every employee coming in. Mr. Clyde said he does not. Mr. Simmer asked about orientation. Mr. Clyde explained that his office used to bring them in. These were missed at the time because he was still bringing his staff up to full speed. Mr. Simmer asked for confirmation that departments will now collect their own. Mr. Clyde confirmed that the departments will collect them and send them to HR. It used to be that his office would sit down with every single new employee on their first day and they were spending 15-20 hours doing it. They've started a collective

new employee orientation that's comprehensive. They send out a new hire packet to every employee and it's the department's responsibility to get it to HR on their first day. The check and balance will be when they enter the employee into New World to get them paid. They'll then make sure that form is completed. Mr. Ross clarified that it's as simple as having a checklist.

Mr. Clyde explained that overall, since they've implemented their new procedures this past year, he thinks they've done an excellent job, but there's always room for improvement. He wants to work with the auditor's office to make sure they do them correctly.

Ms. Palmer explained that they don't do internal audits to get anyone or say he's doing a bad job. A lot of times it's to say he's doing a great job. She noted that there's always room for improvement and they need to be aware of any issues that might affect the county going forward and know how they are improving. She noted that if they don't know something's going on, they can't fix it.

Mr. Clyde added that he's very proud overall of the report he got. He thinks it shows they are doing the right things. He noted that his staff has really elevated their level of performance, but he wants to strive for perfection. Ms. Palmer clarified that the two I-9s that were missing were from back in April and none of the September hires were missing that information, so there may have already been some improvement. April was deficient and September was not at all. Mr. Clyde explained that they started the new process in late spring after he got Destiny Sisk on board.

Ms. Callaway-Thompson commended all of the Auditor's Office's and HR Office's efforts. She noted that every bit will help. A thousand dollars is a thousand dollars. Ms. Palmer noted that since they found it now, it won't perpetuate. 2% on a thousand keeps growing and growing. Now that they know the problem, they can cut it off.

Mr. Terry wanted to reiterate what Ms. Callaway-Thompson stated. He commended the Auditor's report and Mr. Koranda for all his work and the comprehensive report. He also appreciates Mr. Clyde for responding quickly. Mr. Terry asked if there is a situation where, if that I-9 stuff is found by immigration, the county could face a fine. Mr. Clyde said yes. Mr. Koranda elaborated that he worked in Texas and dealt with immigration a lot. Typically, the first year was "Get this fixed" and the second time you get problems. Ms. Palmer noted that those two have been corrected. .

Mr. Clyde added that right after he started, he engaged in conversation with the auditor's office to say he wanted these audits, so they welcomed them and he welcomes them a year from now to make sure they made the corrections. Ms. Palmer noted that they are very much appreciative to Mr. Clyde and his staff who were nothing but cooperative, helpful, and forthcoming. They worked together and will have better processes in the future.

5) Reports from Committee

a) Finance Committee – Mr. Brunk

Mr. Brunk reported that the Finance Committee met prior to this committee. They heard reports; approved transfers; and approved resolutions, many dealing with end of year clean-up for FY15. They moved to accept the property next to Hope Creek. They approved bids for Public Works. Mr.

Brunk noted that there will be a TAW going straight to full board because they did not receive it in time to go on the finance agenda.

Motion to approve: Richard Brunk
2nd: Rod Simmer
All in favor
Motion Carried: Yes

Mr. Terry asked for confirmation that the TAW going to board was just a certification for activation. Mr. Brunk confirmed. Mr. Terry asked for confirmation that it's not for the full amount. Mr. Brunk confirmed.

b) Human Resources – Mr. Camlin

Mr. Camlin explained that there is no report because they only did one major thing, which was passing a resolution off to finance.

Motion to approve: Nick Camlin
2nd: Rod Simmer
All in favor
Motion Carried: Yes

c) Public Works – Mr. L. Burns

Mr. Larry Burns reported that Public Works met on Wednesday, January 13. Minutes were approved as well as all routine reports. They considered claims, TDs, transfers, and appropriation resolutions. They considered and recommended approval of 14 bids for stone. They considered and recommended approval of a resolution for improvement by the county under IL Highway Code to pay up to \$10,000 from Motor Fuel Tax for sign upgrades. They considered and approved an ordinance for an altered speed zone on 51st Street West in Blackhawk Township. They assessed the new speed at 40 mph. They considered two special-use permits and recommend approval of both.

Motion to approve: Larry Burns
2nd: Mia Mayberry, Scott Terry
All in favor
Motion Carried: Yes

Mr. Simmer asked what the speed limit was before. Mr. Maranda said it was unmarked, so 55 mph. Mr. Ross noted that there was a fatal collision there not too long ago. Mr. Simmer asked where the speed zone is. Mr. Maranda explained that it's up by the gun club and out that way.

d) Health and Human Services – Ms. Callaway-Thompson

Ms. Callaway-Thompson reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met on Monday, January 11. They approved minutes and all routine reports. They considered claims, TDs, transfers, and appropriation resolutions. They had limited discussion about Hope Creek staffing costs and communication with HDG. They also discussed posting Hope Creek's Board of Directors agendas and minutes to the county website as well as the Hope Creek website.

Motion to approve: Kim Callaway-Thompson
2nd: Richard Brunk
All in favor
Motion Carried: Yes

e) Governmental Affairs – Mr. Terry

Mr. Terry reported that the Governmental Affairs committee met on Monday, January 11. They approved minutes and all routine reports. There were no public comments. They approved claims, TDs, and transfers. They considered and approved an annual certification for the Quad Cities Convention and Visitor's Bureau which certifies the Bureau as the official tourist agency and allows them to receive a grant that they use to promote tourism here in Rock Island County. They discussed pending proposed state legislation and some that has passed, including some policy matters affecting Rock Island County. Specifically, they discussed the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task force report. This is a task force report from the task force commission from Governor Rauner. Mr. Terry explained that he spent his last weekend reading all 400 pages of the riveting report and as with anything 400 pages long, it had some good and bad things. The task force will spend the coming year working with state legislature to pass some of those 17 recommendations. Some positive recommendations were to allow counties and municipalities to post notices online rather than in the newspaper, which they've discussed frequently in the county. They also discussed a portion of the legislative summary regarding county budget appropriations. Essentially, transfers of appropriations as long as they are part of the same fund and in the approved budget, no longer need to be approved by the County Board with the exception of personnel and capital budgetary items

Motion to approve: Scott Terry
2nd: Larry Burns, Mia Mayberry
All in favor
Motion Carried: Yes

Mr. Camlin asked if there is anything county government can do unilaterally in the government report. Mr. Terry said that nothing he read allowed counties to do anything unilaterally. It takes state legislation. It allowed the public to do referendums for things like township consolidation. It gets rid of the current rule that they have to be 126 miles of radius. There are two proposals: one is eradicating township government and one is consolidating, specifically within municipal boundaries.

Mr. Maranda said that the fact of the matter is business starts at home down there and trying to pass it off to every township and county board is kind of wild.

Mr. Camlin noted that it'd be nice to end taxpayer subsidies to the newspapers. Mr. Maranda agreed.

Mr. Simmer mentioned the fact that voting has been kicked down to us. He said that's a federal thing and needs to be addressed. Mr. Maranda asked when we lost all the funding for voting. Mr. Camlin believes that it all goes back to 2002 with HAVA, the Help Americans to Vote Act, after Al Gore got robbed. He thinks it was a 10-year thing, so between 2012 and 2014.

Mr. Terry noted that if any other committee chairs ever have anything regarding legislation that they'd like the Governmental Affairs Committee look at, please shoot him an email.

f) Administration – Ms. Mayberry

Ms. Mayberry reported that the Administration Committee met on Tuesday, January 12. They approved minutes and heard routine reports. They considered claims, TDs, transfers, and appropriation resolutions. They considered accepting the deed to the property next to Hope Creek, which is 8.3 acres of land quitclaimed to the county in December. The committee recommended approval. They considered website advertising and decided to approve it pending State's Attorney review and review of an existing agreement. They considered changing the County Board meeting to March 22 due to the election. As it was scheduled, it fell the day after the election. Ms. Callaway-Thompson noted that the calendar says Wednesday and asked if it's not that Wednesday. Mr. Maranda explained that the County Clerk really needed extra time, so it was moved a week. Mr. Ballard noted that everything else will be on schedule for committee week.

Motion to approve: Mia Mayberry

2nd: Nick Camlin

All in favor

Motion Carried: Yes

g) Forest Preserve – Mr. Ballard

Mr. Ballard reported that the Forest Preserve met at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13. They approved the December committee meeting minutes; claims for the Forest Preserve Fund, the Niabi Zoo Fund, the Liability Fund, the Niabi Capital Improvement Fund; and the TDs. The committee approved transfers of appropriations for the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund. The committee approved a resolution regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes. The committee heard from guest speaker Eric Anderson of Riverbend Wildland Trust regarding position opportunities and partnering with the Forest Preserve. The committee then discussed the possibility of changes in the Forest Preserve governance. The committee removed from display the comprehensive annual financial report for FY15. The committee approved to lay on display for 30 days the Forest Preserve District employee manual. The committee approved the URICRA ball diamond license and various park usage requests. Routine reports of department heads were approved.

Motion to approve: Steve Ballard

2nd: Scott Terry

All in favor

Motion Carried: Yes

Mr. Ballard noted that Ms. Mayberry asked before the meeting about the agenda item possibly changing the Forest Preserve governance. He explained that it was presented to the committee yesterday and they voted unanimously to pursue looking at the avenue. He explained that the Forest Preserve is a separate entity across the board: statute-wise, levies, everything. The only thing is that County Board members, whether they like it or not, by election to be a County Board member become Forest Preserve Commissioners. Mr. Ballard explained that there are 15-16 Forest Preserves in the state of Illinois and only a handful are left where they mingle on both sides of the table. Mr. Ballard thinks it's a lot cleaner, a lot better.

Mr. Ballard explained that whether they want to hear it or not, the Forest Preserve is being hindered by the County Board because their bond rating gets zapped pretty hard and the perceptible tie stops progress in the future for the Forest Preserve to keep on its mission. The suggestion is to get with legislators when everybody agrees to hopefully have a bill introduced in Springfield to separate the County Board 100%. That would require another election in future, not a special election, but a whole new election. 7 board members would be elected at large. The first group would have staggered terms, 2 at 2; 2 at 4; and 2 at 6. Then after that cycle, everyone would have a 6 year term. It would be a nonpartisan election, nonpaid, no compensation. They would not be able to hold another elected position in the state of Illinois and be on this board. They would take it, make it clean, and that board would be completely independent from the county, but still have to follow the statutes of the state of Illinois and be held accountable to the taxpayers. Mr. Simmer added that they would still have some shared services, too. Mr. Ballard confirmed and explained that they'd still do the intergovernmental agreement like Bi-State does with the county as far as shared services like HR, the State's Attorney. Employees would still be recognized under AFSCME 2025 and still be under the insurance. None of that would change. The most important change takes the politics completely out of the Forest Preserve process.

Ms. Mayberry asked if the other counties who have this model are unpaid, too. Mr. Ballard explained that they enjoy it. He noted that Lake County is like us right now. It just muddies the water because you've got to put those two hats on. Mr. Ballard believes the citizens of Rock Island County and Forest Preserve will benefit 100% if they go this route. Ms. Mayberry repeated her question about if they are unpaid. Mr. Ballard said they are. Mr. Simmer noted that there are other models too. Mr. Ballard confirmed and explained that the key is nonpartisan, nonpaid, and still be held accountable to voters. He noted that at the end of the day, all 25 County Board members will have to vote if it gets to that point. Mr. Ballard has already talked to legislators and they're on board.

Mr. Terry thought that if the state passes that, then the County Board wouldn't need to vote. It'd be a state law. Mr. Ballard explained that it would fall under the Downstate Forest Preserve Act. Right now, because of the way the Act is right now, they fall under partnership with the County. Everything else would be status quo. It would just be a different governing body.

Mr. Terry pointed out that currently there is a statute that they can't cut an elected official off of their term. Mr. Ballard explained that when they run for County Board, nowhere in there does it say they'll be a Forest Preserve Commissioner; it's just automatic. When they run for County Board, they're running for whatever district. It doesn't say in there anything about Forest Preserve. It's just the governance they have. That becomes one of their duties. Ms. Mayberry asked about the people in the middle of their term who sit on Forest Preserve and get paid to. Mr. Ballard said that would all go away if the legislation gets passed. Ms. Mayberry asked if that's what Mr. Terry was talking about – cutting money in the middle of the term. Mr. Terry noted that it's something they'll have to look at. He sees both sides. Mr. Ballard explained that in theory, part of every Board member's salary is to do work for the Forest Preserve. Board members have to be part of the Forest Preserve, but when they put that hat on Tuesday nights for whatever time, they're performing duties of the Forest Preserve. That's the problem he has had with IMRF. They want it both ways.

Mr. Simmer noted that he commends Mr. Ballard for pushing this on. They've been trying to do this for a while to get things done and it looks like the zoo board is doing this. They're progressing very quickly because they don't have the restraints of the politics.

Mr. Camlin asked if the legislative staffers and aides are doing their due diligence on this. Mr. Ballard explained that they haven't taken that step yet. They had to run it through committee. The committee unanimously said yesterday, "Let's pursue this and see what we can do legally to get this accomplished." Mr. Maranda noted that then all the questions will be answered. Mr. Ballard thinks it's the right thing to do.

Mr. Brunk asked if anyone has spoken to the separate commissions. Mr. Ballard explained that Mr. Craver is part of that organization and has had several conversations with the Forest Preserves in the state about the pluses and minuses. Mr. Brunk asked if any of them had an issue getting people to run/serve. He noted that a number of school board elections locally have had x seats open and have only had half that number run. Mr. Ballard thought that was a good point but didn't think they'd have that issue because it's at large. With school boards, they have less people who can step up to the plate.

Ms. Callaway-Thompson added that any way they might be able to helpful as a governmental entity in helping the transition move forward and helping these new board members be oriented to their new jobs, they should take it upon themselves and consider it incumbent upon them to help with that process. She wishes in hindsight they had more foresight that came to this new Hope Creek Care Center Board of Directors to do that. She said if they could help in any way facilitate that if this moves forward and is approved, they should certainly take it upon themselves. Mr. Ballard agreed. He noted that he thinks what they're proposing is the right thing and there should always be board orientation.

h) Updates/Comments – Mr. Simmer

Mr. Simmer wanted to address the things Ms. Callaway-Thompson has been talking about with Hope Creek. He noted that she's been getting resistance from their secretary because he wants to keep things separate and they don't relay enough information. Ms. Callaway-Thompson noted that he apologized to her personally for that. Mr. Simmer said hopefully he keeps her on track a bit better.

Mr. Simmer explained that over 6 months, HDG has given them some stats by shift about contract money. It was somewhere around just over \$300,000. Mr. Simmer has it somewhere by shift if anyone needs it specifically. 1st shift was around \$140,000; 2nd was about \$130,000; and 3rd was about \$60,000 in outside contract agency money. Last month they had a job fair. They hired 17 initially with 1 dietary manager and just hired another 17 or 18, so have about 35ish on board. They were hoping for 50 so they could have flexibility with part-time and keep agencies out. They needed 30 for sure. They had 4 managerial positions, of which one was found. For the business manager, there was an offer made and nothing back on that. He explained that it's difficult to find somebody. He's not sure if the money's where it should be for that particular headache. Mr. Ross noted that he authorized bumping up to \$55,000. Mr. Simmer explained that it started at \$42,000 and then was \$48,000. He noted that it really is a lot of headaches and is a pain in the butt. He explained that they're the county's front man out there since Trudy's their person out there now.

Mr. Simmer explained that they haven't hired a DON yet. There's still an acting one out there. The ADON is filled now, so they're slowly filling positions, but they're difficult to fill. People don't want to be involved, so they have to entice them a little bit. Numbers are coming up bed-wise, but employment is difficult to sell right now.

Mr. Simmer reported that this month, they're changing their meetings around. They're going to move to the 4th Tuesday of the month because HDG's budget comes out the 3rd week of the month. This way, they can see what their numbers are. The following week, they'll come back to committee and say what their dollars and cents say and have exact numbers. This next month, they'll have actual numbers for everybody. Mr. Simmer added that those other 30 beds that were not being paid for, they're aggressively jumping on them and are collecting money from those and getting them moving.

Ms. Callaway-Thompson noted that they'll have a conflict in March. Mr. Simmer said he saw that and they'll have it changed.

Mr. Simmer reported that the numbers they have seen from them are still in the hole. They don't see anything coming out of the hole the majority of this year. They're 1.2 or 1.3 in the hole.

Mr. Ballard asked for Mr. Ross's perception. Mr. Ross thinks that within the next 3 months, they'll need to take a very critical look at overall operations. He will probably have recommendations. He explained that with anything of this magnitude, with the financial issues going on, they need to take a critical look at it on a regular basis until things turn around. He noted that they'll have serious considerations on how much longer we're willing to continue.

Mr. Ballard asked if we are still waiting patiently to see some of those contract negotiations will affect the decision making. Mr. Ross explained that it's not going to hurt to have that information. It will help long-term projects, but nothing in the short-term. Mr. Ross will do his analysis based on any information he has available.

Mr. Simmer noted that Mr. Hullon has been in contact with Mr. Ross and they've been coming forward with more stuff. He noted that Mr. Roberson is a pit bull and is diligent in digging and wanting to know numbers and information. That's what he did for the feds and that's what he's doing for us. He says our New World Stuff is crazy.

Mr. Ross noted that the county taxpayers subsidize Hope Creek \$3.8 million annually. That's between the levy, IMRF, FICA, and the historical average for worker's compensation that comes out of there.

Ms. Mayberry asked if we are going to look at continuing with HDG in 3 months. Mr. Ross said he's looking at all options available to us. Mr. Simmer noted that they're doing a bunch of positive things to help themselves. Ms. Callaway-Thompson added that they admitted things are worse than they expected. Ms. Mayberry asked if this is what they predicted when they came on. Mr. Ross said they thought they'd be able to do more than they've been able to. Mr. Simmer noted that the bed tax thing really screwed them and us over. They didn't know Gabelmann was putting that in both columns. Now they're doing a forensic analysis and they had bed tax in both sides. When we owe the state money for that month and they don't owe us enough for Medicare, we have to pay them. On months they owe us because they have more Medicaid, they pay us. They had it in both columns. That's millions that's not collectible for them because it's a state thing. That's something they were expecting a percentage of. That's 5- some million dollars. Ms. Mayberry asked if that was that just Gabelmann's discretion to do that. Mr. Simmer explained it's just how the county did it, but this P&L will give us more information. Mr. Ross explained that regardless, they'll need to look at facts as they exist in a couple months.

i) Updates/Comments – Mr. Ross

Mr. Maranda explained that he has Mr. Ross on here now and that he's been busy with a lot of things and he thought it would be nice to have a little update.

Mr. Ross explained that in general, very briefly, they're looking at some very big picture things that can play a role to help the county ultimately save taxpayer money and still perform essential functions.

One thing he's looking at is office consolidations for those who fall under him. He's working with Department Heads and staff on those recommendations. Tentatively, if it works out, it'll be a \$1.5 million savings over 5 years. Mr. Ross explained that a lot of his projections are 5-year projections because he's working on a 5-year budget. They've got an effort right now with the Health Department, Probation, the Chief Judge, and the Health Board to close the buildings where Health and Probation are located and moving them to the Bituminous building. There are a lot of moving parts and pieces with that and they're moving through that. The Chief Judge is on board. The Health Department, they don't know for certain. They're not negative about it; they just need to get the numbers. Mr. Ross explained that if we can close roofs and save the money associated with multiple roofs, co-locate space within the building, keeping in mind that Kelly Fisher will move. He explained a bigger thing they're working on is closing the courthouse, which he'll get to in a second. Mr. Ross explained that this is still really early. The County Board will make the decisions when the time comes, but they'll need stats and figures and facts and they're still getting those. Mr. Ross explained that if they can move those offices to the Bituminous building and the annex gets built, the courthouse, probation, and the health department buildings would be closed. With the courthouse, they can do whatever they want. They'd make sure the roof is good, lock the doors, and save a lot of money by not putting all the maintenance into it and all the stuff that would keep it open for the public. Mr. Ross explained that this is one of the big picture items. If the health department agrees and the financials work out, fantastic. Mr. Ross noted that the Bituminous building costs \$1 plus \$67,000 in realtor fees.

Mr. Terry asked what building they're talking about. Mr. Ross explained that it's right on the other side of the parking garage – a nice brick building. Ms. Mayberry said they left to go to the Iowa side. Mr. Ross explained that they're still there, but are leaving.

Mr. Ross explained that the cost for us to buy it is \$67,000 plus whatever it takes to make it usable for our purposes: building offices, ADA stuff, the roof, the boiler. The theory is what they'll get for sale of the current health and probation properties will not only cover those costs, but give us additional money for capital expenditures in county.

Ms. Callaway-Thompson asked Mr. Ross if he has had any preliminary talks with UnityPoint Trinity. Mr. Ross said he has, but very quietly. Ms. Callaway-Thompson is sure they're going to want it. Mr. Ross is not sure what the appraisal will come back at and is not ready to order that appraisal. He knows we would offer it higher than the appraisal price and if they want it, great. If not, they'll leave the buildings empty and still save money.

Mr. Ross noted that one of the many things going on with the courthouse and annex project is that the judge in Henry County said the PBC can move forward. If that moves forward, we can close the courthouse if we find Kelly Fisher a home. Mr. Ross is working with her to fit her in this building or in the Bituminous building. Mr. Ross is hoping to have a lot of this worked out in the next six weeks to

get to the Board. He's looking at millions in savings with the intent to save tax payers money and still do our jobs as well as come November, we'll need a referendum passed or our public safety functions will suffer. We want to say look at everything and we've done this, this, and this and here's how much we've saved. Come November, we'll have cut in all areas and absorbed job duties and responsibilities. When it comes down to the referendum, whether it's sales or property tax, ultimately the Board will make that call, we need to have everything ready because we can't have our public safety and criminal justice decimated.

Ms. Mayberry asked if it looks like Bituminous could accommodate the services the Health Department provides with specialized areas and if they could share that with Kelly Fisher and Probation. Mr. Ross said they are working on that and are meeting there again today for another tour. It does appear that way. Mr. Ross explained that he's no construction expert, but the building is built in such a way that it's easy to modify internally. They still need to determine what everyone needs. They'll be meeting with general contractors and sitting down and deciding what they need to make it work. The contractors said they'd design it quickly and give Mr. Ross cost estimates very soon. Ms. Mayberry asked for confirmation that if we can get Kelly Fisher out of the courthouse, we can close that once we build the annex. Mr. Ross confirmed. He explained that the annex has always been designed to have the Circuit Clerk in the new area. They need it to include the State's Attorney, too. That's appropriate on multiple levels. Once they move, the only one left is Kelly. Ms. Callaway-Thompson asked about the Public Defenders. Ms. Mayberry said that they don't want to move. Mr. Ross confirmed that Mr. Heintz wants to be right here. Ms. Mayberry explained that he thinks there's too much confusion with what they do and what the SAO does.

Mr. Terry noted that if we get to this point, it might be prudent to keep in mind that there will be preservationists coming out saying if we continue to own the courthouse, we have a responsibility not to let it fall in decay. Mr. Ross explained that is part of his plan. He wants to make sure the roof is good and has talked to the Sheriff make sure things aren't falling off. Mr. Maranda suggested that there's no sense fooling with the courthouse now. The key part of the courthouse – the big dome – is gone. Mr. Maranda thinks we're looking 3 years out to move everything out.

Mr. Simmer noted that he's talked to Mr. Ross quite a bit and it's been really well thought out and very thorough. Mr. Maranda added that this was just a brief update and he wanted the Board to hear something.

Mr. Maranda explained that the other entity is the PBC. For the bonding, they're going to meet next week in Chicago. Mr. Ross explained that the next step is meeting with bond attorneys and determining who the underwriter will be, determining language, and determining final costs for building. The judge is working with architects. It's higher than Mr. Ross wants to see it now and they can't do anything until they get those costs. Mr. Ross is hoping to get those in the next couple of months. He explained that the next steps for the courthouse are a couple months down the road at the earliest.

Mr. Simmer reminded the committee to be careful what they say because they don't know exact numbers yet. He encouraged them to be cautious about what they say until everyone has specifics. Mr. Maranda agreed.

Mr. Maranda complimented Mr. Ross on his work with that and Mr. Camlin for the thousands of hours he's put into the task force. He explained that Mr. Camlin has something down and is moving forward and will have something good to report soon. Ms. Mayberry asked if the task force will

report to this committee. Mr. Camlin explained that right now, they're going through legal review with the lawyers, which takes time. His initial plan was to adopt something in the next week or two and have a public hearing at the end of January to announce it, then throughout committee week give broad highlights and goals and finally adopt it in February. Ms. Mayberry asked what "it" is. Mr. Camlin said their reform resolution.

6) Consider appointments

a. Rock Island County Board of Review

Diane Overstreet 3834 26th Street Rock Island, IL 61201

(Appointment, term to expire May 30, 2017)

Mr. Terry asked if Mr. Wilson had advised when they'll start hearings again once Ms. Overstreet is successfully through. Mr. Maranda thought hearings were done. He said Ms. Russell reported yesterday that all appeal hearings were done. Mr. Terry thought there were several hearings that weren't put on because of the vacancy. Mr. Maranda was going by what Ms. Russell said. She reported they were done. Mr. Terry said Mr. Wilson said they wouldn't be. Mr. Maranda said there may be a few left out there. Once she's on board, they'll move forward.

7) Consider Board Agenda

Motion to approve: Rod Simmer

2nd: Larry Burns

All in favor

Motion Carried: Yes

8) Committee member opportunity for brief comments (*no decisions will be made*)

Ms. Mayberry asked if they were going to take a group picture anytime soon. Mr. Maranda said they'll put it on the agenda for February at 5:00 before the Board meeting.

9) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by Chair Kenneth Maranda

Future scheduled meetings on February 11, March 10,
April 14, and May 12