

APPROVED 6/21/22

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 24, 2022

Immediately following Finance Audit and Legislative Affairs Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Andrew Rand – Chairman; James Fennell – Vice Chairman; Jennifer Groves Allison, Eden Blair, Brandy Bryant, Linda Daley, James Dillon, Betty Duncan, Kate Pastucha, Rachel Reliford, Rob Reneau, Steven Rieker, Paul Rosenbohm, Phillip Salzer
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Sharon Williams
STAFF PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel - County Administrator; Shauna Musselman – Assistant County Administrator; Jennie Cordis Boswell, Dana Hughes - State's Attorney's Office; Heather McCord – Chief Financial Officer; Julie Kusturin – Finance; Angela Loftus, Jack Walton – County Administration; Brian Asbell, Doug Gaa, Chris Watkins – Sheriff's Office
VISITORS:	Charles De Casteja, Jerod McMorris, Tom Leigh – Good Energy, LP

Call to Order

Chairman Rand called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022 was made by Mr. Reneau and seconded by Dr. Blair. The motion carried unanimously (14-0).

Informational Items/Reports/Other Minutes/Updates

➤ Springdale Cemetery

Mr. Sorrel directed committee members to the submitted minutes of February 15, 2022 and March 15, 2022 and stood for any questions. There were no questions or comments from committee.

➤ County Auditor

No report. No questions or comments from committee.

➤ Quarterly CDAP/GAP/Macro/Other Loan Report

Mr. Sorrel advised that there are currently no active loans. He stated that the CDAP/GAP Loan Fund has an asset balance of \$716,000.00 available to loan, and the Keystone Fund has \$8.8 million in asset balance available to loan.

➤ Heddington Oaks Financials

No verbal report. No questions or comments from committee.

➤ Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity update

Mr. Sorrel commented that upon creation the Joint Commission was populated with approximately 155 members to a Steering Committee and eight Sub-Committees. He stated that the Steering Committee has established and implemented methods for each sub-committee to report back to the Steering Committee. He noted that no Subcommittee members are also members of the Steering Committee. He stated that the Steering Committee is working in conjunction with the Subcommittees to identify community issues and create data points specific to each Subcommittee which can be tracked and measured, and which will be used as a baseline for a strategic plan.

Mr. Sorrel advised that the Steering Committee is also working on a Race Equity Impact Assessment Tool and will make a recommendation to the County Board and City Council for adoption in the form of an Ordinance, and implementation into daily operations.

Mr. Sorrel advised that a meeting of the Full Commission will be held on June 16, 2022 at the Civic Center, for a report of activities by each Subcommittee.

Resolution

➤ Investment in SmartStart Dashboard

A motion to approve was made by Dr. Blair and seconded by Mr. Rosenbohm. Mr. Sorrel explained that as part of their mission, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Advisory Committee has been scrutinizing gaps in the local business environment. He stated that as part of the solution, the Advisory Committee has evaluated a “SmartStart” Dashboard created and run by Lifting Up, LLC, a local start-up. He advised that the Dashboard creates a digital “one-stop shop” for entrepreneurs to assist those entrepreneurs and small business start-ups to prepare for local entrepreneurship accelerators.

Mr. Sorrel recommends entering into a three-year agreement with Lifting Up, LLC with the initial year at \$28,000.00 and Years Two and Three at \$25,000.00 each, with the source of funding being ARPA in the Small Business Development category.

Dr. Blair added that the Advisory Committee will work in concert with Lifting Up to develop a Dashboard platform specific to the needs and wants of local entrepreneurs and small business owners. She also noted that back-end data metrics will be helpful to not just Peoria County but with partners within the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The motion to approve carried unanimously (14-0).

Discussion

➤ Public Safety update from Sheriff Asbell

Sheriff Asbell addressed the committee to discuss the current position of the Sheriff’s Office, particularly in the areas of jail staffing and retention. He commented that current staffing levels are down 20 positions from a total of 76 positions, with a further 7 employees currently unable to work. He anticipates further attrition, with staffing levels below 50% by the end of summer, which will then be compounded by summer vacation time. He also noted that jail capacity tends to substantially increase in the summer months. He stated that due to the decreased staff, many jail staffers are currently working overtime hours.

Sheriff Asbell stated that competition within the industry has resulted in challenges with recruitment and retention in jail positions for the past decade, and the issue has accelerated in recent years, particularly through the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed that the Sheriff’s Office has attempted to attract and recruit employees via retention/longevity/onboarding bonuses, and utilizing various means of recruitment.

Sheriff Asbell requested continued dialogue with multiple county stakeholders on potential next steps, with the primary focus on recruitment and retention. Mr. Rand recommended scheduling a meeting prior to the June County Board Meeting for an initial and preliminary discussion of the issues brought forth by Sheriff Asbell.

➤ Municipal Electric Aggregation (with Good Energy present)

Mr. De Casteja explained that Peoria County has participated in a local buying group with 41 other communities for the past 10 years. He stated that the aggregation has resulted in significant savings in utilities, enhanced renewable purchases, and budget stability. He stated that escalating prices and supply shortage issues have precluded securing a contract. He commented that as a result the contract will not renew in June, and aggregation customers will revert to Ameren supply for the months of June and July. He commented that Ameren’s current rate is \$0.12 per

kilowatt hour, a dramatic increase from the aggregation rate of \$04.3 per kilowatt hour, and which will result in a significant increase for residential consumers.

Mr. De Casteja advised that there is indicative pricing that could get under the utility, with the challenge being securing a contract with that pricing. He stated that if a contract is untenable within the next week, aggregation consumers would remain with Ameren for a further ten months. He stressed that the program would not be terminated, but would remain idle for the next year.

🌈 The following Standing Committee meetings were summarized by their respective Chairperson as follows:

County Operations

No resolutions were recommended to the County Board for approval.

Infrastructure

The following resolutions were recommended to the County Board for approval.

- Professional Services Agreement for Glasford Road grant application
- Quotations for Pavement Marking Materials
- Quotations for Aggregate for Hallock Township road reconstruction
- Agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for Dry Run Creek Erosion Mitigation Project
- Engineering and Surveying Services for Dry Run Creek Erosion Mitigation Project

Mr. Salzer advised that Sheriff Asbell conducted a tour of the jail facility for both members of the committee and county board members, calling attention to capital needs at the facility.

Ways and Means

The following resolutions were recommended to the County Board for approval.

- Monthly Delinquent Taxes
 - April 2022
 - May 2022
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Radnor Township for Assessment Services

Land Use

The following was recommended to the County Board for approval.

Subdivision Waiver

- WAV-2022-0002, Petition of Robert Kendall/The Whitetail Group, LLC

County Health

CANCELED

Public Safety and Justice

The following resolution was recommended to the County Board for approval.

- SFY23 Family Violence Coordinating Council Grant

Finance Audit and Legislative Affairs

The following resolution was recommended to the County Board for approval.

- Heddington Oaks Bond Ordinance

Miscellaneous

Mr. Rand initiated a discussion on how best to communicate recent developments in the electric aggregation program to Peoria County participants, and clearly explain how the developments will affect program participants. Mr. Sorrel commented that although pricing and supplier are identical, each municipality has separate contracts, with the County of Peoria contracting with the

unincorporated residents of Peoria County. Committee agreed to coordinate with the City of Peoria to prepare a joint press release and disseminate the information to all communities to ensure consistent information.

Mr. Rand noted the tour of the jail provided by Sheriff Asbell, and suggested scheduling an additional tour for those county board members who were unable to attend.

Ms. Pastucha advised that a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at Springdale Cemetery on May 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. preceded by a 5K race at 8:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rand at 4:11 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by: Jan Kleffman