

## Minutes of the Legislative Subcommittee

The Legislative Subcommittee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Soeldner, Members William Caisley, Carlo Robustelli, Gerald Thompson, and Elizabeth Johnston

Members Absent: Member George Wendt

Other Board Members Present: Members John McIntyre

Staff Present: Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator; Ms. Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Jessica Woods, First Assistant State's Attorney – Civil Division; Ms. Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: None

Chairman Soeldner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Mr. Soeldner presented the minutes from the January 2, 2019 meeting for review and approval.

Motion by Caisley/Johnston to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting.  
Motion Carried.

Chairman Soeldner confirmed there were no members of the public to appear.

Chairman Soeldner indicated they would first go over changes suggested by Staff and then would open it up for other suggestions.

Chairman Soeldner presented for action a request to approve the 2020 Legislative Program for McLean County and invited Ms. Taylor to go over suggested changes by Staff.

Ms. Taylor indicated the paragraph language contained same content as before just summarized and the first five points are the same as previously as they continue to be issues for County government. She said first five are stated in general terms because a something may be introduced with no time to reconvene the Committee and send to the Board.

**McLean County is committed to maintaining strong partnerships with state and federal legislators to effectuate communication on the needs of McLean County, as**

well as acknowledging the valuable services provided through state and federal government. In 2019, as in previous years, the McLean County Board appreciated the opportunity to share with our legislators the challenges facing our County. It is essential that McLean County is able to govern to ensure a high quality of life for McLean County residents.

We are well aware of the state and federal governments' financial situations and have tried to be responsive and responsible as we prepared our 2020 legislative program. Continuing as in past years, the County legislative policy is to:

~~McLean County government strives to continue effective citizen services in an efficient manner. To accomplish this, McLean County is committed to maintaining strong partnerships with state and federal legislators. Through these partnerships and the County's policies, the residents of McLean County continue to receive valuable services in an efficient and cost effective manner.~~

~~In 2018, as in previous years, the McLean County Board appreciates the opportunity to share with our state legislators the challenges facing our County. In these challenging times it is essential that McLean County is able to govern without the restrictions of various statutes and public acts slowing down the process to ensure a high quality of life for McLean County residents.~~

~~We are well aware of the state and federal governments' on-going financial situations and have tried to be responsive and responsible as we prepared our 2018 legislative program. As in the past, the County legislative policy is to:~~

- 1. Support legislation allowing counties to expand fee and non-property tax revenue sources.**
- 2. Support legislation granting additional permissive authorities for counties.**
- 3. Oppose unfunded mandates imposed by the state or federal government.**
- 4. Oppose legislation that would reduce or restrict the existing authority of county government.**
- 5. Oppose proposals that erode or divert the existing County revenue base.**

Ms. Taylor presented the first topic for review. She indicated there have been concerns that our local government share of taxes such as PPRT and MFT would be swept into state funds or diverted, so recommendation is those continue to be provided at the current rates.

- **Topic – Proposals to reduce state-collected local government revenues.** In prior legislative sessions, proposals to divert or reduce state-collected local government revenues for the purposes of meeting the obligations of the State have surfaced, many times at the end of a session. This includes

important revenue sources such as the local government share of the state income tax (LGDF), the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes (CPPRT), and the local share of State Sales Tax and Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) proceeds. Additionally, legislative sweeping of dedicated funds to meet State obligations can further divert funding intended to compensate local governments for State mandates.

**Recommendation** – State-collected local government revenues are critical to ensuring that counties and municipalities can continue to provide the service levels that residents have come to expect. The State should not divert or delay revenues which are obligated to meet State-mandated services.

Ms. Taylor presented the second topic for review. She indicated State’s Attorney Don Knapp made her aware that there have been several bills introduced with changes to the LGDF distributions, some in our favor and some not. Mr. Caisley asked for clarification as to whether proposed Bills are reducing funds. Ms. Taylor indicated that some Bills do reduce funds. Ms. Taylor stated we would support Bills that increased our funds and oppose Bills that decrease funds.

- **Topic – Local Government Distributive Fund.** Several bills have been introduced with changes to the LGDF distributions. (HB4542, SB3086, SB3392, SB3784, SB3785).

**Recommendation** – Support legislation to increase LGDF and provide greater revenue for counties. Oppose any decrease or erosion of county funds.

Ms. Taylor indicated next topic includes Bills that would call to question the applicability of GATA to State shared revenues such as Motor Fuel Tax. She indicated recommendation is to support legislation to exempt State shared revenues distributed by formula by local governments and impose GATA rules for our local revenues. Mr. Soeldner indicated the Association of County Board members is supporting this legislation. Ms. Johnston asked for confirmation that this take extra staff time. Ms. Taylor confirmed it takes extra staff time with little outcome for us. Ms. Rodriguez indicated audits are already done for MFT so adding GATA requirements would be an additional burden.

- **Topic – Proposals to include State shared revenues distributed to local units of government in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.** Recent debate and introduction of bills (HB4215, HB4225, SB2284) call to question the applicability of Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) to state shared revenues, e.g. Motor Fuel Tax, and Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT)

**Recommendation** – Support legislation to exempt State shared revenues distributed by formula to units of local government and provide language that requirements established under GATA do not apply to State shared revenues in specific funds.

Ms. Taylor indicated the next is the Criminal Traffic Assessment Act. She indicated the Sheriff provided an example last night at Board of how this Act, that was supposed to be budget neutral may affect our 2020 budget. Ms. Taylor stated several Bills have been introduced and we want to support Bills that will keep this neutral for the County. Mr. Caisley said he felt we should leave this Act alone as it affects fees and costs and did not feel there should be additional fees added that do not have anything to do with the offense individuals are charged with. Mr. Soeldner stated we are asking that the State not take money from fees collected that were used for training police. Ms. Taylor said concern is how the current funds collected are distributed. She stated that when the Act was presented last year it was to be budget neutral instead there are going to be additional costs to the County. Mr. Robustelli said he understood Mr. Caisley's concern but was not sure it related to this recommendation. Mr. Caisley said he felt this should be left alone as this was created to keep fees from going up. Mr. Robustelli asked for clarification that there was a new formula for the fees and the fees have already been assessed. Mr. Caisley confirmed. Mr. Robustelli said recommendation is that we want to make sure how those fees are distributed to County is budget neutral, so we are not proposing more fees, instead we are asking that the State distribute fees that would be neutral and not affect budget. Mr. Caisley said that municipalities are upset about this as they get very little fees and so they are wanting to establish municipal courts. Mr. Robustelli asked if any Bills related to this propose increase fees. Ms. Taylor said that some Senate Bills do ask for increased fees. Discussion about whether this should be included and if so what language to include. Mr. Soeldner asked if we could table and revisit this item and asked that Members contact administration with suggested language.

- ~~• **Topic – The Criminal Traffic Assessment Act (CTAA).** The CTAA provided for a new formula for assessment of criminal and traffic fees purported to be budget neutral to county government. The results of this change to county funding has yet to be fully analyzed, however, certain deficits to state funds, such as funding for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB), which provides much of the mandated training to local police academies, have been identified, and has already created a ripple effect, resulting in increased costs at the county level and a negative impact to current and future county budgets.~~

~~**Recommendation** – Support legislation to amend and correct the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act to provide a budget neutral or budget positive solution at the county level. Four bills have been introduced relating to CTAA concerns: SB2557, SB2982, SB3375, SB3413.~~

Ms. Taylor stated that the next item had been on the program for a few years and there have been several iterations of competing Bills to change the Juvenile Court hearings. She indicated recommendation is to support a compromise legislation that provides for a hearing within a time frame of 48 hours and provides for remote participation by interested parties. Mr. Gordon asked if this would be 48 hours without reference to holidays or weekends. Ms. Taylor confirmed. Mr. Caisley stated this would causes some issues as we would need to have attorneys and judges on a weekend. Ms. Taylor stated that had been brought up.

- **Topic – Juvenile Court Hearings.** – ~~Currently, Illinois law is unclear with respect to the utilization of remote video participation by interested parties as a means to provide for hearings.~~ Past legislative sessions have introduced proposed changes to the Juvenile Court Act with respect to the utilization of remote video participation by interested parties as a means to provide for juvenile hearings. In addition, proposed changes to the time frame requirements for juvenile hearings (within 24 hours) would create additional expense to Counties without commensurate benefit.

**Recommendation – Support compromise legislation which provides for hearings in a time frame of 48 hours (rather than 40 hours -excluding weekends/holidays) and provides for remote video participation by interested parties in such hearings. HB5564.**

Ms. Taylor indicated next topic was on the program last year and addresses need for transportation maintenance and repair projects and we have taken off recommendation one but left number two to allow County to have a County Motor Fuel Tax Act. Mr. Soeldner agreed that number one had been taken care of with the increase in Motor Fuel Tax. Mr. Robustelli asked for updated wording to make it connect to what we are trying to say, which is that Illinois has maintained its highway system including County highways through Capital Bills instead of a long term sustainable revenue source and we would like to have a more sustainable reliable revenue source so we can efficiently maintain our highway system. Mr. Gordon asked if Mr. Robustelli was referring to the recommendation or wording in the topic paragraph. Mr. Robustelli stated in the topic paragraph.

- **Topic – Transportation Infrastructure Construction Program.** The State of Illinois has not approved a capital investment program with sustainable, ongoing funding increases, since 1999, leading to a decline of the state's transportation infrastructure and affecting the economic health and the safety of our citizens. The 2009 capital funding program known as "Illinois Jobs Now" expired July 1, 2015 and has resulted in a steep decline in transportation maintenance and repair projects.

~~**Recommendation 1** – Support consideration and approval of a new capital investment program that will allow state and local governments in Illinois to maintain and enhance our critical transportation networks. A dedicated pay-as-you-go funding source is necessary to guarantee steady and predictable revenue is available to assure the routine annual modernization, rebuilding, and maintenance required to relieve our growing infrastructure crisis, and support all transportation systems—local roads, state roads, interstate highways, bridges, public transit, airports, waterways, & freight rail efficiencies.~~

**Recommendation 2** – While a Statewide solution to this issue would be most appropriate, as an alternative, all Counties should have the same local permissive authority to initiate a County Motor Fuel Tax currently provided to Kane, McHenry and DuPage under the County Motor Fuel Tax Act and to Cook County through home rule powers. The County Board supports McLean County being provided the permissive authority provided in the County Motor Fuel Tax Act ILCS 5/5 1035.1.

Ms. Taylor indicated that municipalities are wanting to adjudicate minor traffic offenses and that would take funding away from the circuit court and increase the complexity of reporting traffic offense, so Staff recommends we oppose that legislation.

- **Topic – Municipal Adjudication of minor traffic offenses.** Currently, Illinois law requires all motor vehicle uniform traffic citations to be processed through the circuit court. Recent legislation has proposed allowing for municipal adjudication of minor traffic offenses.

**Recommendation** – Oppose legislation providing for municipal adjudication of minor traffic offenses. Such action would significantly bifurcate the prosecution of traffic offenses, would further destabilize circuit court funding and would increase the complexity of reporting traffic offenses to insurers.

Ms. Taylor stated Staff updated the Court Probation Funding topic to reflect the positive trend of reimbursement of salaries for probation and detention services. She said recommendation remains the same that State should be fully funding probation services. Mr. Gordon proposed adding “Funding levels for” at the beginning of new language. The Committee agreed to adding that language.

- **Topic – Court Probation Funding.** ~~State-mandated probation and detention services have historically been funded at less than 70% of costs. “Although an increase in salary reimbursement funding had been realized for SFY 2015, adequate funding for Probation and Detention services throughout the State of Illinois remains a critical issue. The continuation of the support for this positive trend in Probation and Detention funding is essential in order to maintain safer communities by insuring offender accountability in a cost effective manner. A reduction in funding will only serve to diminish the capability of Court Services Departments to accomplish the mission of creating safer communities and insuring offender accountability.”~~

Funding levels for State-mandated probation and detention services have maintained a positive trend in the last two years, with 2019 reimbursement rates close to 100% for probation and detention officer salaries. Historically, funded levels for salaries have dropped as low as 60% which seriously hampers operations of probation at a community corrections level and results in higher incarceration costs. Adequate funding for probation, pretrial, and juvenile detention services throughout the State of Illinois remains a critical issue. The continuation of the support for this positive trend in Probation and Detention funding, is essential in order to maintain safer communities by insuring offender accountability in a cost-effective manner.

**Recommendation** – The legislature should fully fund probation services without diminishing other county revenues.

Ms. Taylor stated that next topic remained same as last year except for the addition of a sentence this has created duplication of work and increased margin for error and reduction in customer service with the public. Mr. Gordon asked that the AOIC and ICJIA be in spelled out. Mr. Caisley said he was not sure we should go with a Statewide Vendor. Ms. Taylor

stated we already have an agreement with Tyler and confirmed it is the vendor chosen by the state to deal with E-filing.

- **Topic – Financial Support for Electronic Filing Mandates.**

Attorneys filing civil cases before the Illinois Supreme Court and Appellate Courts were required to do so electronically as of July 1, and the circuit courts across the state will follow on Jan. 1, 2018, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Order M.R. 18368 issued on Jan. 22, 2016.

The AOIC contracted with a vendor to ensure that the centralized electronic filing manager system, known as eFileIL, will work with all case management systems. The e-filing requirements applied to 87 out of Illinois' 102 counties; the other 15 had set up electronic filing already on their own and have been given the option to stick with their current version as long as the statewide system can communicate with it.

The court system did not want counties that already had set up systems to incur additional expenses so long as compatibility issues could be worked out. The State's intent was not to jettison what counties who were trying to be on the edge of technology already had done and require counties to have to come up with a new system, he says. Those systems can be used as long as they communicate with the Tyler system.

Unfortunately, the AOIC contracts with Tyler has not provided an avenue to integrate electronic filing into case management systems, such as McLean's, which are internally created and not case management systems, such as the vendor's, that are used widely in the 102 counties. The result has been the unintended consequence that Counties such as McLean County, who have invested significant funding for case management and criminal justice information development has incurred significant overtime requirements, has been required to add additional full-time employees and produce paper files in a duplicative process. **The duplication of work and lack of integration creates a greater margin for error, reduces public face time by staff, and frustrates the public, the opposite intention of the mandate.**

**Recommendation** – The State should provide funding either through AOIC or ICJIA for development of solutions by Counties such as McLean that have made significant financial commitments in the development of case management/integrated justice information systems and are now being required to produce significant printed files and with a significant increase in staff time, because the lack of ability to integrate the E-filing processes. Additionally, future electronic mandates should address the need to recognize and integrate with legacy systems which Counties have made the financial commitment to implement, prior to Court or statutory mandates.

Ms. Taylor stated that she did not make any changes from last year to the next topic. Mr. Soeldner stated suggested have language that we want to restore and add funding for critical and mental health services. Mr. Robustelli agreed and suggested that instead of restore it could state restore and identify new funding sources for critical mental health services.

- **Topic – Behavioral/ Mental Health Funding.** The National Alliance on Mental Illness has given the State of Illinois a "D" on its report because of significant issues in community-based services for people living with a mental illness. Illinois' lack of essential mental health services has resulted in lawsuits and consent decrees which force it to invest in an adequate community mental health system. In an effort to save money through funding cuts, Illinois instead has cost itself millions every year in expensive and preventable hospitalizations, emergency room visits, institutionalizations, inappropriate incarcerations, extended incarcerations due to lack of state facilities and homelessness. The lack of an effective system with interventions, structure and solutions burdens families, community services and police. Both the human cost and the public costs are extraordinary.

**Recommendation –** Restore and identify new funding sources for funding for critical mental health services.

Ms. Taylor indicated that she did not see any new bills that related to the next issue. Mr. Robustelli stated this was added in the past as a result of the ecology actions Household Hazardous Waste events as the Ecology Action Center has to raise funds for these events and 30% of what they collect is latex paint which adds a lot of cost to the events. He stated this was to put this on the radar for the State. Mr. Soeldner stated he would like this to remain in the program as he felt there should be some responsibility on the manufacturers for this cost. It was mentioned that other states have legislation on this matter. Ms. Taylor stated Staff could find updated information on the legislative efforts and add language to strengthen our position. Mr. Caisley asked that Staff talk with Mr. Brown at the Ecology Action Center.

- **Topic – Hazardous Waste. (Is this still a concern for the County?)** The budget challenges of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has created the need for local governmental units to provide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection at more than \$150,000 per collection event. Paint is almost 30% of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collected by Solid Waste Programs. McLean County and its municipal partners must find a more sustainable way to fund its HHW collection. McLean County and other Illinois Counties are looking to the paint manufacturers to help solve the problem. This will help shift responsibility for recycling or other safe disposal of products and packaging to the producers. Under the proposed legislation, similar to efforts in Oregon, California and Connecticut, paint manufacturers will assume the costs of managing unwanted latex and oil-based paints.

**Recommendation –** Support legislation that will institute an upfront fee on new paint purchases to pay for the proper management of the paint. This will make the industry responsible for developing and implementing a statewide paint recovery plan, including education.

Mr. Soeldner stated that the next item had been stricken and asked her to explain. Ms. Taylor indicated the Civil division did not see the level of FOIA request for the Recorder's office that related to this topic so felt it may have been resolved and could be stricken.

- ~~**Topic – Recorder's Office FOIA Requests.** Our recorder's office spends between half a day and a full day every month fulfilling FOIA requests from title companies, many of which are outside the State of Illinois. Those companies generate revenue performing title searches. Currently, the only costs we recover are the costs of the medium (hard disk) sent to the companies.~~

~~**Recommendation**—Amend FOIA and Recorder of Deeds legislation to allow recoupment of costs associated with fulfilling FOIAs for title companies that use our data to generate income. Clarify that legislation regarding the recoupment of staff time costs associated with fulling commercial income generating FOIA requests should be supported.~~

Mr. Soeldner stated that the next item had also been crossed out. Ms. Taylor stated she did not see this in the proposed Bills so felt that it could be introduced in a later program if needed. Mr. Soeldner stated he felt this had been related to cannabis and so not necessarily relevant.

- ~~**Topic – Revenue Generated by New Excise Taxes** — State legislators are contemplating legalization of activities which may result in related increased costs for local governments who provide public health and criminal justice functions.~~

~~**Recommendation**—In addition to general local government revenue sharing that should result from such new excise taxes, a provision should be made to provide a reasonable portion of that revenue to County governments that provide public health services, without diminishing the amount of funding provided from other sources to Counties by the State of Illinois.~~

#### Topics listed below - Submitted by Legislative Committee Members

Ms. Taylor recommended that the person who introduced topics expound on those topics. Ms. Johnston stated she brought forward the property tax issue. She indicated she wanted to change language. She said public school system is not being publicly funded but instead is being funded by the homeowners in the communities as residents face increased property tax of which over 60% goes to the school systems. She said would like for us to continually press legislators to look at school funding formula to makes sure it is adequately funding our public-school system. Mr. Caisley agreed and indicated it is burdensome for rural school districts because of agriculture tax changes. Ms. Johnston agreed and stated funding should be independent of the value of the homes around them. Mr. Soeldner said others argue they should not have to support a school when they do not have children going there.

- **Topic – Property Tax.** Schools are more and more dependent on the property tax paid by those living in their districts. State funding continues to decrease. Legislators should

continually look at school formula and ensure more funding from the state to reduce burden on homeowners for public schools.

**Recommendation –Review the school funding formula and reduce the burden of school funding on the property owner.**

Ms. Johnston indicated that elections are term limits, but sometimes people are not happy with the representative they have in their district and she would like to see us support fair map initiatives. Mr. Gordon stated that he agreed and recommended adding word “officials” at the end. Mr. Soeldner agreed some may want to make this a political issue, but he did not see it as such and felt moving it forward would give the full Board a chance to discuss. Mr. Thompson asked if she wanted to add term limits to her recommendation as he felt it is an important topic. Mr. Gordon said he believed term limits were set when you elected individuals and that Fair Maps would help with that system as districts are drawn up more evenly but that the Fair Maps Initiative does not currently include term limits. Mr. Robustelli agreed with Mr. Gordon but felt this needed to focus on Fair Maps Initiative as it is a pressing issue. Mr. Caisley suggested a computerized map drawing process where they do not put in party information. Mr. Gordon stated that he had been through 2 redistricting and both were done differently, and we can consider that after the next census. Mr. Robustelli said he did not feel this was something that the State would decide so could leave that discussion for later.

Mr. Soeldner asked if Mr. Thompson wanted to add something regarding term limits. Mr. Thompson stated he did not feel it would hurt to have term limits added. Discussion about making a new topics or new recommendation. Mr. Robustelli asked if we would discuss language today and then vote on final at stand up. Mr. Soeldner stated they would craft document and then vote at a stand up. Mr. Gordon stated questioned the details that would be put in the program such as who it would apply to and length of time. He said it could be a long stand up or Board meeting based on what we propose. Mr. Robustelli stated he felt this could part could be worked on and brought back at another time. Mr. Thompson said he would withdraw his request to add term limits.

- **Topic – Fair Maps Initiative.** Without fair districts or term limits, voters have little recourse if they are unhappy with their representative

**Recommendation – Support the Fair Maps Initiative so voters know that their district is drawn to give them a choice and hold elected officials accountable.**

Ms. Johnston stated she wanted to name next topic Renewable Energy. She said McLean County has demonstrated significant investment into renewables and provided examples. She said McLean County primed to be a renewable source and would like to see us support the clean energy Jobs Act or the Path to 100 Act that put funding into developing renewable energy businesses. She said that she would also like to see incentives extended to municipal and county bodies.

- **Topic – Renewable Energy.** McLean County has demonstrated the value in investing in renewable energy, and its presence as a lucrative tax generator and job sector. Local companies' ability to generate consistent energy streams played a critical role in Rivian relocating their battery production from California to Normal, which is expanding their investment in the facility and will result in larger job growth than originally anticipated. We are primed to act as a renewable energy hub for central and downstate Illinois, as proposed in the CEJA to have such hubs for workforce training and expansion. I would also like to ensure that such incentives or savings are available to municipalities as well as residential and commercial customers.

**Recommendation** – Support either the Clean Energy Jobs Act or Path to 100 Act, as both ensure continued incentives to expand our State's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Ms. Johnston provided her work history and intake on traumas. She stated that Governor Pritzker had put forth a proposal to increase funding to DCFS and want to see us support efforts to address trauma and fund gaps to meet needs. She also discussed trauma and how it affects women prisoners and would recommend looking at developing a pilot program for addressing sexual abuse trauma in the prison system and how to make better decisions as they come out of prison. Mr. Robustelli indicated he was supportive but was not sure what we are asking of our legislatures. He asked if there were specific programs we need to be supporting or if we are looking for funding for us to help provide at a local level. He suggested giving second part more thought as to what we are asking for legislators to do. Ms. Johnston said that she would be ok withdrawing recommendation number 2 but not number 1. Mr. Caisley asked if a local plan financially supported by the State would be better than supporting DCFS. There was discussion about getting more information about the McHenry County proposal. Mr. Thompson asked if others are developing programs. Ms. Johnston said she was not looking at starting something locally at this time but wanted to support the State agency's efforts.

- **Topic – Response to Trauma and abuse.** As a preventative effort, we need to address issues with DCFS in investigating and protecting children, keeping in mind the work is difficult, the pay is low, and the department is consistently understaffed. ~~To address the needs of those most vulnerable we must also look at reducing trauma and recidivism in the primary caregivers of children. The impact of un-treated trauma extends from family dysfunction, disruption of financial stability with arrests/incarceration, law enforcement resources, legal proceedings, incarceration, probation, and lost productivity for the remainder of their lives. Between male and female populations, we see higher rates of past trauma in female offenders.~~

**Recommendation 1** – Identify and increase funding for child protection services to help meet the needs of our children, those most vulnerable as a preventative measure.

**Recommendation 2** – ~~Develop pilot programs with women prisoners to work with those who have a history of physical and/or sexual assault.~~

Mr. Robustelli provided information on the Mahomet Aquifer protection legislation. He indicated it is the sole source for more than half of the population in east central Illinois for drinking water. He stated that are legislative bills proposed to create a council that would oversee the protection of this.

**Topic – Mahomet Aquifer Protection.** On March 11, 2015 EPA designated a portion of the Mahomet Aquifer system in east-central Illinois as a sole source aquifer. More than half of the population in east-central Illinois relies on the Mahomet Aquifer system as a source of drinking water. The Mahomet Aquifer supports approximately 850,000 central Illinois residents with safe drinking water; the ongoing protection and sustainable use of this invaluable water supply is critical to both the public health of our region and the economic vitality of McLean County.

**Recommendation – Support the IL-SB2073 Groundwater protection - Mahomet.** Primary sponsor - Chapin Rose that would Create the Mahomet Aquifer Council and IL-SB2027 EPA-Mahomet Aquifer. Primary sponsor - Scott Bennett that provides that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall identify unlined, thinly covered legacy landfills for inspection and study the landfills after prioritizing them based on potential hazards to surface water and groundwater resources.

Mr. Robustelli suggested putting something in that addresses the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ms. Johnston indicated she had been contacted by Member Wollrab about this same issue asking legislators to push for better reimbursement rates. Mr. Soeldner asked Staff to put some language together. Ms. Rodriguez asked if this would focus on long term care Medicaid or also include other services. Mr. Robustelli indicated broader would be better not just long-term care. He felt this will also help the community understand we are working on a problem that does not fall under our jurisdiction. Mr. Caisley asked about difference in charges and what we are reimbursed. Ms. Rodriguez went over numbers. Mr. Caisley asked if this affects turn over. Ms. Rodriguez said it is one reason for turnover. Mr. Gordon asked them to confirm we were discussing Medicare or Medicaid. Staff confirmed it is Medicaid reimbursement.

Chairman Soeldner thanked them for their cooperation and discussion. Mr. Caisley asked if there would be a legislative breakfast. Mr. Soeldner stated they would work on that and get calendar information from the legislators.

Chairman Soeldner asked if there was any further business for the Committee to consider; hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ms. Julie Morlock  
Recording Secretary