

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA COMMITTEE
June 6, 2016
4 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT	Ryan Spain, Chairman Tim Riggerbach	Andrew Rand Tom O'Neill Steve Morris Terry Ruhland
MEMBERS ABSENT	W. Eric Turner	
STAFF PRESENT	Patrick Urich, City Manager Chris Setti, Asst. City Manager Mike Rogers, Public Works Dir. Scott Reeise, City Engineer	Scott Sorrel, County Administrator Mark Rothert, Asst. County Admin Amy McLaren, County Engineer Eric Dubrowski, County CFO Steve Giebelhausen, State's Atty.
OTHER ELECTED		Mary Ardapple, County Board Phil Salzer, County Board

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spain at 4:00 PM.

Member Rand introduced Terry Ruhland who was appointed by the County Board to serve as the citizen representative of the County on the Committee. Member Ruhland is the owner of Plum Creek Builders and is from Chillicothe. He has previously served as a member of the sanitary district. He was recommended for the position by County Board Member Jim Fennell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2016, meeting was made by Member O'Neill; seconded by Member Riggerbach. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on Peoria Urban Enterprise Zone

Assistant County Administrator Mark Rothert provided a summary of the joint effort to create the Peoria Urban Enterprise Zone. The City of Peoria, Peoria County, Village of Peoria Heights and City of West Peoria jointly applied for the Zone in December 2014 and were awarded the designation in August 2015. A request has been made to expand the Zone to include property in Mapleton, Bellevue and Bartonville. This will require an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement. The County Board will vote on the changes at their June 9, 2016 meeting. The City Council will vote on June 14, 2016.

Chairman Spain asked how this new expansion impacts the unused balance of Enterprise Zone allowance. Mr. Rothert explained that the original agreement split the Zone between the four entities. The County was given 4.55 square miles (out of 15 square miles). The expansion will be taken from the County's share and the City will not be impacted. Member Riggerbach asked if the recent expansion requests for Junction City and Vermillion were approved. Mr. Rothert confirmed. He also asked if these expansions met the criteria established by the state. Mr. Rothert explained that expansions must only meet three of ten possible criteria and that the expansion met those thresholds.

Funding for Road Improvements

Chairman Spain thanked Member Rand for bringing this issue forward. County Administrator Scott Sorrel shared a presentation with the Committee that outline road funding issues. He stated that there were 1900 miles of roadway in Peoria County, 17% of which were under the jurisdiction of the County. There are a considerable number of County roads within municipalities, including about 13 miles of County roads within the City of Peoria. In discussing County Board policy, Mr. Sorrel commented that the emphasis has been on roads that lead to grain elevators.

The County conducted a poll of citizens regarding road maintenance and funding. Most surveyed said that road conditions were adequate or not good. The vast majority of those polled opposed a property tax increase to pay for more road maintenance. There was more support for a dedicated sales tax but limited support for a County motor fuel tax. Mr. Sorrel reviewed the County's bonding options to generate enough funds to improve infrastructure. He noted that each City Council district had at least one County road that needed to be addressed. He stated that a property tax increase of \$112 per household, on average, would be needed to properly fund the projects. He provided an overview of potential referendum language for a sales tax increase, indicating the need to choose between an increase with a sunset and one without a sunset.

Mr. Sorrel stated that the County Board has discussed a ½% sales tax increase that would generate \$9 million a year. He offered two alternatives that would allow the City to partner with the County to share these funds. In the first alternative, the County would share half of the proceeds (¼%) with the City in exchange for the City rolling back its recent ¼% home rule sales tax increase. The second alternative would have the County share enough revenue to cover the 3 cents per gallon Motor Fuel Tax increase recently enacted by Council in exchange for that increase being rolled back.

City Manager Patrick Urich stated that the City Council recently raised property taxes and the motor fuel tax in order to address road maintenance. It increased the sales tax to assist with operations. He also stated that the City's road fund problems are about the same size as the County's.

Member Morris stated that there was no doubt of the need for more road funding but recognized a referendum would be difficult to pass if City residents did not embrace it. He suggested some sort of compromise plan was needed. Chairman Spain asked about Board conversations about the dispersal of sales tax rates. He also asked if the City was given its proportional share of revenue would the remainder be enough for the County to do anything. Member Riggerbach asked if the priority bundle for City projects covered the entire cost of the project or just the County's share. Mr. Sorrel clarified that all costs were included.

Member Rand stated that there would need to be very clear communication with citizens regarding the potential increase and its uses. He stated that he would only favor a referendum that included a sunset provision. Member Morris concurred and stated that successful referendums are specific and that individual projects would need to be outlined. He further stated that it would be important to take something away if adding a new sales tax. Member O'Neill stated that he felt some rural County Board members might oppose the referendum based on revenues being shared with the City. Chairman Spain stated that bundles would need to have a good mix of projects so that everyone felt they were benefitting. Member Ruhland suggested that funding be directed to bus routes more than grain routes and discussed the poor condition of Old Galena Road.

City Manager Patrick Urich suggested that County roads within the City be improved to County standards and remain County roads to reduce costs. County Engineer Amy McLaren expressed concerns

with PROWAG requirements under that scenario. Chairman Spain commented that tax dollars would need be stretched as much as possible.

Chairman Spain inquired regarding the timeframe for a referendum. Mr. Sorrel said there were two options: the November 16, 2016 general election (which would have an August deadline for decision to place on the ballot) or the April 17, 2017 local election. City Public Works Director Mike Rogers asked how quickly projects could start. Mr. Sorrel stated that an April 2017 vote would not generate revenue until January 2018 so projects could start in Spring of 2018.

Chairman Spain requested that this topic be on the agenda for the next Committee meeting on July 13, 2016. Member Rand concluded by stating that data should drive decisions regarding road projects.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Ruhland; seconded by Member Riggerbach. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Spain at 5:15 PM.