

**MINUTES**  
**METRO PEORIA COMMITTEE**  
**October 14, 2015**  
**2:30 PM**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Ryan Spain, Chairman Mary Ardapple	Andrew Rand Michael Phelan
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	W. Eric Turner	Tim Riggerbach
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	Patrick Urich, City Manager Scott Sorrel, County Administrator	Chris Setti, Asst. City Manager David Tuttle, ECC Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Spain at 2:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2015, meeting was made by Member Rand; seconded by Member Phelan. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

*Election of Vice Chairman*

Member Ardapple nominated Andrew Rand to serve as Vice Chair; seconded by Member Phelan. The motion was approved unanimously.

*Schedule of Committee Meetings*

Vice Chairman Rand reminded the committee that the recommendation from the July meeting was to move to quarterly meetings. He also reported that two new County representatives, Tom O'Neill and Stephen Morris, would be appointed to take the places of members Ardapple and Phelan. They would be officially appointed by the County Board prior to the next committee meeting.

Member Ardapple made the motion to switch to quarterly meetings; seconded by Vice Chairman Rand.

Chairman Spain suggested that if the meetings would be quarterly that the members needed to commit to a day and time to avoid cancellation. He asked if there was a better time than the current slot of second Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Rand suggested a poll of all the members to determine if there was a better time. Assistant City Manager Setti agreed to conduct the poll.

The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Spain stated that the next meeting would be in January but a special meeting might be held to discuss the 2016 legislative agenda.

**DISCUSSION**

*Election Commission Consolidation*

County Administrator Sorrel reported that the consolidation was complete and a three-party agreement was in place. The newly consolidate Commission recently successfully conducted the special election for the 18<sup>th</sup> District. They are now investigating how to conduct an election to fill the City At-Large vacancy created by the resignation of Chuck Weaver.

Sorrel further reported that the Commission was investigating multiple locations to establish their offices. Any space must meet both operational needs and be within budget. The Commission might be

able to stay in its current location (in the City's Municipal Services Building) for longer. There is no plan to move until after the March 2016 primary.

#### *Growth Cell 1 Activities*

City Manager Urich reported that City and County staffs recently met to discuss paying off Growth Cell 1 bonds early. Doing so would allow tax dollars to come into each body's general fund. County Administrator Sorrel stated that staff was working on an agreement to present to both the County Board and City Council for approval. Urich stated that this development was good news and evidence that Growth Cell 1 developed fast.

#### *Emergency Services Consolidation Opportunities (PSAP, EMA, EOC)*

ECC Manager David Tuttle reported that Governor Rauner signed PA996 in June. The law changed the 911 surcharge and mandated that all counties with a population less than 200,000 people consolidate to no more than 2 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Peoria County plan needs to be submitted by July 1, 2016 and will go into effect by July 2017. The four current PSAPs – Peoria, Bartonville, Chillicothe and Peoria Heights – are meeting monthly.

Regarding a potential co-location of Emergency Management (EMA) and Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), City Manager Urich suggested that space could be available in the City's Municipal Services building when the Election Commission moves out. The space would leverage the nerve center of 9-1-1. Urich reported that Chicago has successfully modelled a joint ECC-EOC. He felt it was worth a discussion with Sheriff McCoy. Vice Chair Rand said that Scott County, IA had a similar set up. He felt it was also worth pursuing. He asked if the County's bunker would close. County Administrator Sorrel said that his staff was evaluating whether could be completely abandoned given the technology infrastructure. Tuttle stated that the City's bunker also had some technology that would need to be considered.

Urich stated that simply co-locating the EMAs would have value. Member Ardapple stated it would be safer. Tuttle commented that there was value in everyone knowing where to go.

In answer to a question by Chairman Spain regarding PSAP consolidation waivers being sought, Tuttle stated that some were thinking about it but the state 911 board will be very strict.

#### *Proposed Property Tax Freeze*

City Manager Urich discussed Gov. Rauner's proposal to cap property tax rates. Under the proposal, rates would be frozen at current (2016) levels. A debt service levy could be established, but only if done before the freeze goes into place. Urich stated that one unintended consequence of the proposal is that many taxing bodies are raising their rates now in anticipation.

Vice Chairman Rand and County Administrator Sorrel discussed the impact a freeze would have on the County. It would be less if debt was financed in its present manner. The proposal raised a good policy question about future flexibility. Urich commented that a property tax freeze does nothing to balance the state budget. In response to a question from Member Phelan, Sorrel said that he did not know what the impact of a property tax freeze would be on bond ratings.

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of the freeze. Chairman Spain suggested that local officials stress to Springfield the importance of local control and further suggested that the joint legislative agenda address this issue.

*State Task Force for Consolidation of Local Government and Elimination of Unfunded Mandates*

Chairman Spain discussed the task force, of which he is a member. He reported that Illinois has over 8000 units of local government. The task force was given two roles: eliminate unnecessary units of government and eliminate unfunded mandates. The task force was very aware of the efforts of this Committee and PASS Forward. The task force is meeting in Peoria on October 19 at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Speakers will discuss drainage and soil and water conservation districts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Member Ardapple expressed her hope that City-County roads remain a top priority of the Committee.

City Manager Urich reported that he met with the County Treasurer to discuss trustee lots and placing City garbage collection fees on the property tax bill.

Member Ardapple thanked the City for its support of the Gifts In the Moment Foundation.

Vice Chairman Rand asked for the Committee to revisit its charter to determine if Committee membership could be widened.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Griffin, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Chamber's Small Business Saturday efforts. He also said that the Chamber was working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and City and County staff to develop a Shop Peoria campaign.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Phelan; seconded by Member Ardapple. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Spain at 3:35 PM.