

**MINUTES  
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2013  
2:30 PM**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Timothy Riggerbach, Chairman Andrew Rand	Michael Phelan Ryan Spain
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Mary Ardapple	W. Eric Turner
<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>	Alex Rusciano, WCBU Amy McClaren, County Engineer Beth Deery, Assistant Regional Superintendent Bill Atkins, State's Attorney Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women's Voters Chris Setti, Assistant City Manager Dennis O'Kief, County Regional Development Coordinator Jeff Gilles, Assistant County Engineer	Kate Green, Assistant to the City Manager Lori Curtis Luther, County Administrator Maggie Martino, Tri-County Regional Planning Mark Rothert, County ED Director Mike Rogers, City Public Works Director Patrick Urich, City Manager Randy Brunner, County Finance Analyst Scott Reeise, City Engineer

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013, meeting was made by Member Rand; seconded by Member Phelan. The motion was approved unanimously by viva voce vote.

**DISCUSSION**

*Update on Joint Purchasing through Regional Office of Education*

Ms. Deery began her remarks by stating that all but one school district are in deficit spending this year. She said that the discussion regarding joint purchasing was taking place at the beginning of the current school year in order to enact it in the following year. Ms. Deery said that the sooner the topic was considered, the more momentum it could gain. She also mentioned the possibility of a professional development co-op, which would utilize Title I dollars. She said that the focus on both the joint purchasing as well as the co-op signaled the focus on both commodities as well as human capital. She said that a Superintendent meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 13, which would include discussion regarding the County Schools Facility Sales Tax. Chairman Riggerbach requested a report back or a memorandum drafted to the Committee with updates from that meeting. Ms. Deery agreed.

*Stormwater Management*

Ms. Martino discussed the grant received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for stormwater management. She said that the problems caused by stormwater must be managed, as directed by the unfunded federal mandate. She said that counties and townships in non-urbanized areas are required to put stormwater management practices in place. Ms. Martino noted the list of 13 jurisdictions in the agenda that are participating in local efforts to meet the regulations.

Ms. Martino continued to discuss the consulting firm which was hired to study what means it would take to implement a stormwater utility within the 13 jurisdictions. She said that it would be a fee and not a tax, which would then be applied to non-tax producing entities as well, including schools, parks, and hospitals. She said that there may not be a fee instituted at the end of the process, but the consultants are examining what steps would need to be taken in order for the utility to be established. She noted that Morton is the only local community that currently has the utility.

Ms. Martino stated that the consultants will be reviewing budgets for implementation as well as the potential costs incurred by property owners if the utility is put in place. She said that the charge is approximately \$4 per property owner in Morton. She commented that it is not a huge burden on the property owner, but would add up to provide the funding necessary to institute appropriate stormwater management tools.

Ms. Curtis Luther stated that stormwater utilities are considered best practice and are as critical as any other utility. She noted that there would be a challenge in passing the referendum to establish the utility, but that it is a good way to generate revenue for a relevant expense. She said that there are a number of ways of instituting the fee, but that the creation of the fee is crucial to the region.

In response to Chairman Riggerbach's question, Ms. Martino stated that the fee is typically determined based upon the amount of impervious surface on a parcel. She said that GIS can be used to identify the approximate amount of such surface on a property. She said that an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) can be established, and then different sized parcels pay according to the number of ERUs. She said that commercial and industrial areas are typically considered individually. She commented that credit programs can be established if a property has a significant amount of pervious pavement, a rain garden, or other means of promoting proper water movement. She said that each jurisdiction can set up its own credit system. She commented that a regional program was considered in the past but did not have enough political support. She said that she would still prefer a level of consistency across the region. Member Phalen asked who would be responsible for defining the credit program. Ms. Martino said that typically there is an application process that the property owner goes through, which the local unit of government (city, village, county) then processes. She said that it could require more administrative time spent on the program, but that the cost could be combined into the budget for the utility. She noted that other costs associated with the utility including public education and outreach should also be built into the budget.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that the billing process could be difficult, and that a mechanism would need to be created for collecting the fee. Mr. Ulrich commented that following the amount of rain over the past spring and summer, it is necessary to take a serious look at how to begin planning for better stormwater management. He said that it needs to be considered on a regional basis, which could take a significant amount of time to make sure it is planned and implemented correctly. Mr. O'Kief noted that the concerns regarding stormwater issues have been around for years and that a regional stormwater committee has been meeting for the past four years. He complimented the County for the efforts put forth in garnering the grant for stormwater management.

Chairman Riggerbach inquired about the level of dialogue between the City and County on this topic. Mr. Ulrich replied that there have been conversations between the City and County, but a challenge exists on the County's side because municipalities have the legislative authority to collect the utility, but counties do not. Riggerbach suggested a report back on the information from the consultants at the end of the year in order to continue the momentum on this topic. Mr. Ulrich requested to wait until the study

was finalized in early spring. Chairman Riggerbach agreed and slated the item for the February 2014 agenda.

#### *Update on Springdale Cemetery*

Mr. Setti indicated that Mr. Manning was unable to attend the September meeting, but that he would plan to attend the October meeting with an update on Springdale Cemetery.

#### *Overview of Issues Involving County Roads within City Limits*

Ms. McClaren explained that the current agreement between the City and County regarding County roads was signed in the mid 1960s, and stated that the County had to upgrade cross sections to City standards before the roads could be transferred to the City's jurisdiction. She said that some of these areas, including Radnor Road, are in the process of these upgrades; however, the cost for the projects were so high as to not be economically feasible. She said that the cost to upgrade to an urban cross section has increased drastically since the agreement was signed. Ms. McClaren continued to tell the Committee that about 16 miles of road still require the upgrades. She said that this is a relatively small portion of the road system, but is very expensive. Mr. Reeise provided maps which indicated where the County roads are still within City limits. He said that the funding for road improvements is usually composed of 70 percent federal funds with the remaining 30 percent split between the City and County. He noted that the City and County portion is typically paid for by Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds.

Member Phalen asked if the list of streets that require improvements will grow as the City grows geographically. Ms. McClaren said that it is possible, especially to the north. In response to Member Spain's question regarding how MFT funds work for the County, Ms. McClaren said that the County receives about \$2,000,000 annually and also pays for operation supplies and partial salaries with that money. Ms. Curtis Luther stated that the decline in MFT revenues is a major concern. Mr. Reeise continued to explain that for every 19 cents the State collects in MFT, 55 percent is designated for local use. The 55 percent is divided amongst cities, counties and townships. The city portion is calculated based on population, the county portion is calculated by the number of vehicle registrations, and the township portion is calculated by the number of miles.

In response to Member Spain's question regarding the reimbursement rates for one jurisdiction performing services on the other jurisdiction's roads, Ms. Curtis Luther said that the snow removal is collaborative, so no money is exchanged. Member Spain then indicated that the map showed an inequality in the amount of roads that the City takes care of for the County compared to vice versa. Ms. McClaren said that the routes were based on proximity. Mr. Reeise said that the plan was a logical attempt for the routes, but he was not sure if the lane miles equalized out or not. Mr. Rogers offered to conduct an analysis of the number of miles that the County and City maintain for the other entity.

Member Spain inquired if the original agreement stands as a barrier to future progress. He stated that there may be a level of tolerance in specific areas for differentiation from the agreement. Chairman Riggerbach asked what the alternative would be to a full urban cross section. Mr. Rogers stated that the priority needs to be discussions with residents within the areas that require improvements in order to make appropriate decisions. Mr. Reeise said that in order to reduce costs, it may be useful to find a way to minimize the use of MFT funds, which require Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approval for projects using those funds. He said that the percentage of time allotted to engineers on those projects tend to be high, which increases the overall cost.

Member Rand asked if the City and Council stopped performing reciprocal services in the upcoming year, if it would be noticed by either jurisdiction. He asked if the amount of services could be quantified in dollars. Mr. Rogers said he believed so.

Member Spain noted that the current agreement created a stalemate which effectively lowered the overall level of maintenance on the roads in discussion. He said that the current agreement needed to be repealed and replaced. Member Phalen said that County Board could do a better job of prioritizing County dollars toward road improvements. Member Rand said that he was not aware of how the dollars were currently prioritized outside of bridge improvements which receive scores.

Mr. Urich stated that MFT distribution is predicated on the County side by the number of vehicle registrations within the County, a number to which citizens within City limits contribute. He asked if a proportionate share of the County's MFT funds are spent within the City since those residents within the City limits contribute to the County's MFT funds. He noted that roads do not have to be ignored completely just because they will not be brought up to City standards at the time of the improvements. Ms. Curtis Luther brought forth the idea of doing some of the improvements and allowing the transfers even if the cross sections are not quite up to the level of the current agreement. Chairman Riggerbach suggested that the City and County look into potential changes to the current agreement and report back to the Committee in 60 days.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*Election Function Consolidation*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Member Phalen distributed a flyer regarding the role of townships in Illinois.

Chairman Riggerbach requested follow up at the next meeting regarding outdoor restaurants. He requested that the Health Department outline the requirements for those restaurants and report back at the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Riggerbach at 3:45 PM.