The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in the Kane County Board Room, Government Center, Building A, Geneva, Illinois.

Present: Chairman Wyatt, Jones, Kissane, Neuberger, Leonberger, Kenyon. Absent: Van Cleave. Also present: Co. Bd. staff Maureen Anderson; Treasurer Rickert; Transportation Dir. Schoedel, staff Rickert; Dpty. Auditor Sanders; and members of the press and public.

Chairman Wyatt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

MINUTES
February 27, 2008 Minutes - were approved on motion by Kenyon, seconded by Kissane. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION

SB2275 Juvenile Age Limit - Wyatt stated the legislation continues to be moved around but the county’s representatives are aware of the county’s opposing position. Wyatt stated he did speak to Rep. Nolan on the bill, who was receptive to not only Kane County’s concerns but other counties’ as well. Members expressed concern about the older incarcerated youth having a negative influence on the younger youth as well as the youth losing their family support system by placing them in counties located further away. Wyatt reminded the committee this bill was a Cook County initiative and offered to draft another letter to the legislators. Kenyon suggested writing a Letter to the Editor and the committee going public with its opinion. Wyatt agreed to draft a letter to the editor under the committee’s signature.

HB6309 IDPH - Health Access Network - Kane County - This initiative takes the pilot healthcare program of ensuring individuals who are uninsured or underinsured to becoming a regular program that receives funding. Jones discussed the benefits of the program and hoped the bill would receive the funding. He will follow up with Sen. Linda Holmes.

HB5069 Property Tax Payment Adjustment (Treasurer):
Resolution Opposing HB 5069 - Rickert stated the bill makes mandatory the acceptance of payment by specification. An example followed. Rickert explained the legislation caused issues four years ago and the law was changed at that time to make it optional for counties. His office does not have the staffing for such legislation and the legislation also burdens his office to process the payments. He noted that protection of other interested parties involved in the specification was another issue. He did not support the bill and asked for support from the county. Rickert believed if the committee expressed its concerns on this matter it would be beneficial, specifically to Rep. Bob Biggins, who has not been very receptive to Rickert’s concerns. Kenyon moved that the committee forward the draft resolution to the Executive Committee and that the chairman contact State’s Attorney Joe Lulves to draft a letter to the sponsors with copies to all of the county’s legislators, seconded by Kissane. Motion carried.

HB5592 Criminal Cd - Forfeiture Procedures - Wyatt explained the current forfeiture process, how the distribution of the proceeds takes place, and the fact that the proposed legislation will streamline the cumbersome process. Kenyon voiced concern about how the process can become burdensome to families, i.e., if a vehicle is taken away it can impact some families and their reliance on the only car for the family. Members voiced arguments for and against the proposed bill and its original intent.

HB6323 Robocalls - Wyatt believes this bill will be opposed by supporters of the First Amendment and others. Dialog followed on how this legislation initially started and the positives and negatives of the legislation, i.e. used by the school districts, used for emergency situations, political advertising, etc.

METRO COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
The following legislation was for the committee’s review. Wyatt stated the following legislation was opposed.
OPPOSES:
HB158, House Bill 5343 and Senate Bill 2275 - Raising the age from 17 to 18 for juveniles in the county court system
HB4164 - Limits special use permits issued by local governments
SB2250 - Adds County Coroners to SLEP Pension System - Wyatt explained that SLEP was reserved for those individuals who are placed in the “line of fire”.
SB1958 - Increases IMRF separation benefit- Wyatt believed that Metro Counties viewed this legislation and the following two legislative bills as being fair already.
SB1959 - Increase IMRF supplemental benefit
SB1960 - Lowers IMRF vesting from 8 to 5 years

SUPPORTS:
HB4294 - Allows some counties to impose motor fuel tax by referendum
SB2304 - Changes ballot question for local senior services property tax to broader human services tax and use
SB1965 - Requires State to pay Medicaid health care costs for jail inmates above $500
SB2052 - Allows counties to impose taxes for flood control purposes
HB4725 and SB2031 - Allows county board members to serve on 911 board
HB4766 - Allows counties to lease space on telecommunications towers
SB2005 - Allows counties to more easily enforce prohibitions on inoperable vehicles
SB2014 - Further clarifies process for appealing local government land use decisions

Resolution: Approval of Government Relations/Transportation Services with Illinois Governmental Consulting Group, LLC for Kane County Div. of Transportation - was held over for 30 days on motion by Jones, seconded by Kenyon. Dialog followed on when the county’s lobbyist was going to report to the committee, i.e., either the Legislative Committee or the Transportation Committee. Dir. Schoedel stated that Mr. Frank Cortese provides written reports which were being forwarded. The committee recommended that Mr. Cortese report to the Transportation Committee next month. Wyatt would follow up. Motion carried.

Illinois Works Capital Program - Wyatt conveyed that the governor has put together a bipartisan committee to support the vision of a capital bill entitled “Illinois Works”, a $25 billion capital bill. Approximately $4.9 billion is earmarked for schools, $14.4 billion for roads and bridges; $3.2 billion for public transit; $1.1 billion for environmental and energy technologies; $1 billion for economic development; and $600 million for improved/expanded state facilities. Wyatt stated it has been 9 years since a capital bill has been approved but how the capital bill was to be funded was the main concern. Possible funding sources being discussed include taking 80% of the lottery or gaming industry and retaining 20% for education. Wyatt reminded the committee that Kane County continues to push for the capital bill and the committee will be updated in the future.

Legislative Trip - The committee was reminded about the legislative bus trip to Springfield on April 16. There will be no Legislative Committee meeting in April due to that trip.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m. on motion by Kenyon, seconded by Kissane.

Celeste Weilandt,
Recording Secretary