

Tax Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Members present: Chris Balkema, Ralph Wagner, Ken Iverson.

Members absent: John Galloway, Frank Halpin.

Also present: Ron Severson, David Henderson, Shawn Hamilton, Lois Phillips & Jolene Franciskovich of the Coal City Library District, Mitch Baily of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Kent Bugg of the Coal City Unit #1 School District, and Brent Newman, CEO of the Grundy County Housing Authority.

A motion was made by Iverson and seconded by Wagner to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting. The motion carried.

No public comment.

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Iverson to approve the submitted claims. The motion carried.

The committee was distributed copies of the revised Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement for the Dresden Generating Station. It was noted that the only change was the fact that Goose Lake Road and Goose Lake Township had decided to not participate in the intergovernmental agreement, so they were removed, which caused the percentage splits for Grundy, and the other taxing districts, to increase. Hamilton informed the committee that the revised agreement was distributed by Susan Bates at the last finance committee meeting and would appear on the agenda at the next finance committee meeting on March 12. Balkema acknowledged the audience members present who represented other taxing districts signing onto the agreement. The taxing districts all agreed that they were happy that Grundy will be included in the agreement and that Whitt Law will be representing the taxing districts. Bugg noted that, in speaking with Whitt Law, that the deadline to begin work would be March 21, so it is imperative that the county approve the agreement at the next Board meeting. Balkema stated that the county can expect to save significant money by approving the agreement, as all costs are shared among all the taxing districts who sign the agreement. A motion was made by Iverson, seconded by Wagner, to send to the full Board with a positive recommendation for approval, the revised Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Negotiation or Litigation of the Tax Issues Related to Dresden Nuclear Generating Station owned by Exelon Corporation. Motion carried.

Balkema also thanked the other taxing districts for the opportunity to share in the total expenses and invited them to attend the finance meeting and the full Board meeting, if possible.

Brent Newman, CEO of the Grundy County Housing Authority, addressed the committee regarding a request for a waiver of the 2011 Annual Service Charge. Hamilton distributed a letter he received, and forwarded onto Balkema and Severson, from Newman. Newman explained that the Grundy County Housing Authority, in lieu of property taxes on Saratoga Tower in Morris, pays a service charge equal to five percent of aggregate annual shelter rents to Grundy County, which is subsequently distributed to the corresponding taxing districts. Newman was requesting to have the 2011 charge, payable in 2012, in the amount of \$14,152.00 waived. In the letter, Newman documented the decreases in funding from HUD the Housing Authority is receiving, and a list of cuts he has implemented over the past 2 years to offset the lost in revenue. It was noted in the letter from Newman that Mayor Kopczick of Morris, Dr. Halloran of Morris High School, and Ms. Shaw of Morris District 54, all supported the waiver request. Wagner asked if there were other public housing entities that could ask the board for the waiver. Newman stated that Saratoga Tower is the only public housing facility in Morris that this service charge impacts. Balkema asked what the outlook moving forward is for HUD subsidy. Newman stated that, in the preliminary budget, HUD budget is slated to increase by 3% while the public housing budget is slated to remain flat. Newman pointed out he would not have final numbers until the final Federal budget was approved. Severson acknowledged the housing authority and the services they provided as he has had family members who have resided at Saratoga Tower. Balkema acknowledged the list of cuts Newman documented, and stated that Newman is definitely making tough decision. A motion was made by Iverson, seconded by Wagner, to send to the finance committee with a positive recommendation the service charge waiver request submitted by the Grundy County Housing Authority. Motion Carried.

Newman asked whether or not this waiver request would need to go before the full Board for approval. Hamilton stated that there was plenty of time to have the item added to the March full board meeting agenda, if necessary. Balkema asked to have the item added, and if necessary, after the finance committee meeting, action could be taken at the March Board meeting. It was noted that if the full board did not need to act on the waiver request that it could be removed from the agenda the night of the meeting.

There was no executive session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Iverson and seconded by Wagner at 4:55 pm. Motion carried.