

Attachment B – Meeting Agendas and Minutes

This section includes the agendas and minutes for Commission meetings through November 2017 in chronological order.

1. Agenda for May 31, 2017
2. Minutes for May 31, 2017
3. Agenda for June 21, 2017
4. Minutes for June 21, 2017
5. Agenda for July 19, 2017
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10. Minutes for September 13, 2017
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13. Agenda for November 15, 2017
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16. Minutes for December 20, 2017

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

3:00 PM

Central Permit Facility, 2nd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval Of Minutes**
3. **Chair's Remarks**
4. **Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**
5. **Old Business**
6. **New Business**
 - 6.1 [17-0591](#)
Introductions and Welcome.
 - 6.2 [17-0592](#)
Presentation by County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor on Commission purpose, charge and responsibilities (enumerated in County Board resolution).
 - 6.3 [17-0593](#)
Presentation on County government structure and decision-making process.
 - 6.4 [17-0594](#)
Overview of Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, Lake County Ethics Ordinance and Standards of Conduct.
 - 6.5 [17-0595](#)
Discussion on Commission governance and meeting schedule.
 - 6.6 [17-0596](#)
Members Comments and Questions.
7. **Adjournment**

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

3:00 PM

Central Permit Facility, 2nd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present 12 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Shaw, Member Magalis, Member Kim, Member Darch and Member Schaafsma

Absent 3 - Member Link, Member Msall and Member Bensinger

Designees:

Annie McGowan representing Member Msall

Others present:

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Aaron Lawlor, County Board Chairman

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Jennie Vana, Communications Manager

Ben Gilbertson, County Administrator's Office

Paul Frank, Lake County Board

2. Approval Of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed the group.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0591](#)

Introductions

All members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their biographies.

6.2 [17-0592](#)

Presentation by County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor on Commission purpose, charge and responsibilities (enumerated in County Board resolution).

Chairman Lawlor presented on the Commission purpose and gave an overview of the chairman's roles/responsibilities, and also differences between other chairman positions in the region.

6.3 [17-0593](#)

Presentation on County government structure and decision-making process.

Barry Burton provided an overview of Lake County government structure, departments,

and the Board rules.

6.4 [17-0594](#)

Overview of Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, Lake County Ethics Ordinance and Standards of Conduct.

Jennie Vana gave an overview of FOIA, OMA and other standards and laws.

6.5 [17-0595](#)

Discussion on Commission governance and meeting schedule.

6.6 [17-0596](#)

Members Comments and Questions.

Commission members discussed the management track of the commission's work and that there will need to be further discussion on how to sequence the work. The consultant Management Partners will offer their advice on this and assist the Commission in developing a plan. The group agreed to work as a committee of the whole rather than breaking into committees.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennie Vana.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-0684](#)

Minutes from May 31, 2017.

Attachments: [Gov Reform Final Minutes 5 31 17](#)

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

5. Old Business

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0591](#)

Introductions

6.2 [17-0697](#)

Commission Ground Rules

6.3 [17-0698](#)

Discussion of Committee Charge Issues: Identify questions, topics to pursue, or ideas and/or issues from Commissioners about each component of the Commission's Charge:

- a. Independent Redistricting: Analyze state and county governments; evaluate their governance structure, methodology, implementation and outcomes
- b. Countywide Elected Chairman: Study similar counties; identify key issues, challenges, opportunities and decisions; identify best practices and policies to balance authority between the County Board, Chairman and County Administrator; ensure strong accountability, professional standards and high ethical standards and safeguards
- c. Reduce the size of the board: Examine, assess and report on similar counties' efforts; identify positive and negative impacts on efficiency, constituent services, policy decisions, and compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act
- d. Other Reform Proposals: Share ideas on additional reforms that could be studied in the future

6.4 [17-0699](#)

Discussion of overall Commission schedule of topics.

7. Adjournment

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present 9 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim and Member Darch

Absent 6 - Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Bensinger and Member Schaafsma

Others Present:

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Amy McGowan, Civic Federation of Chicago

Ann Maine, County Board

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

Jerry Newfarmer, Management Partners

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Susan Hoyt, Management Partners

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-0684](#)

Minutes from May 31, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Ryg, seconded by Member Darch, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: 9 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim and Member Darch

Absent: 6 - Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Bensinger and Member Schaafsma

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed members to the second meeting of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0591](#)

Introductions

Chair Foreman asked for public introduction and introduced Jerry Newfarmer, Management Partners consultant, to the meeting. Jerry Newfarmer briefly introduced his two colleagues Kevin Knutson and Susan Hoyt who will also serve as staff to the Commission. Mr. Newfarmer thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work on the County's Government Reform and Accountability initiative. He described the role of Management Partners in assisting local units of government on a variety of areas for the past 23 years. All Management Partners staff have had local government experience.

6.2 [17-0697](#)

Commission Ground Rules

The Commission discussed and agreed upon draft ground rules for conducting the Commission's business. Kevin Knutson stressed to Commission that attending every meeting is very important. Commission was also reminded that Jennie Vana will be the point of contact for answer any media questions. Members also agreed that the public adhere to the same 3-minute rule as followed at County Board meetings. Also noted, that decisions on recommendations are not final until the Commission report is approved for submission to the County Board and that Commission discussions are open to the public. Chair Foreman asked members to read all materials provided and be ready to discuss at meetings. Discussion regarding redistricting took place.

6.3 [17-0698](#)

Discussion of Committee Charge Issues: Identify questions, topics to pursue, or ideas and/or issues from Commissioners about each component of the Commission's Charge:

- a. Independent Redistricting: Analyze state and county governments; evaluate their governance structure, methodology, implementation and outcomes
- b. Countywide Elected Chairman: Study similar counties; identify key issues, challenges, opportunities and decisions; identify best practices and policies to balance authority between the County Board, Chairman and County Administrator; ensure strong accountability, professional standards and high ethical standards and safeguards
- c. Reduce the size of the board: Examine, assess and report on similar counties' efforts; identify positive and negative impacts on efficiency, constituent services, policy decisions, and compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act
- d. Other Reform Proposals: Share ideas on additional reforms that could be studied in the future

Commissioners discussed an interest in receiving information on how redistricting is done in Lake County and to hear presentations from outside experts on the Federal Voting Rights Act, Illinois laws on redistricting, on the pending Supreme Court Case related to the State of Wisconsin's redistricting and independent proposals for redistricting being discussed in Illinois.

Commissioners discussed and requested information on the options available for electing a County Board Chair under Illinois law including the pros and cons of the three options: elected by the Board, elected at large, and an at large elected county executive. It was recommended that a cheat sheet be provided with the powers of each option and are these the only 3 options. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners discussed the relationship between redistricting and the reduction in the number of Lake County Board members. The Commission is interested in how board size impacts board effectiveness, costs and representation. What would be achieved if the size is reduced? Discussion ensued.

Commissioners discussed exploring potential opportunities for consolidation of local governmental units within the County.

6.4 [17-0699](#)

Discussion of overall Commission schedule of topics.

Commissioners reviewed the timeline for its work and put a priority on receiving information from legal, academic and other experts at the July and August meetings. Next meeting will take place on July 19, 2017.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan Hoyt & Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 [17-0771](#)

Minutes from June 21, 2017.

Attachments: [LCCGR Final Minutes 6 21 17](#)

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

5. Old Business

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0772](#)

Update on Commission activities since the June 21st meeting.

6.2 [17-0773](#)

Presentation by Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel for Voting Rights and Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center.

6.3 [17-0774](#)

Presentation by George Tzanetopoulos, Partner at BakerHostetler.

6.4 [17-0775](#)

Discussion of Commission research agenda.

7. Adjournment

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

**Lake County Commission on Government Reform
and Accountability**

1. Call to Order

Chair Foremen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Kim and Member Darch

Excused 4 - Member O'Connor, Member Bensinger, Member Magalis and Member Schaafsma

Others Present:

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Jennie Vana, County Administrator's Office

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

Aaron Lawlor, County Board Chair

Jeff Werfel, Board Member

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel Voting Rights & Redistricting

Annabelle Harless, Senior Legal Counsel Voting Rights & Redistricting

Annie McGowan, Civic Federation

George Tzanetopoulos, Partner at BakerHosteller

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 [17-0771](#)

Minutes from June 21, 2017.

Commissioner Msall entered the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

A motion was made by Member Darch, seconded by Member Shaw that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Kim and Member Darch

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed members to the third meeting of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability. He thanked all of the County representatives in the room for their efforts during the recent flood. Barry Burton gave update on the flooding issues in the area.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments. Chair Foreman asked for public introduction.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0772](#)

Update on Commission activities since the June 21st meeting.

Chair Foreman introduced Kevin Knutson from Management Partners, who gave an overview of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Background and Research Materials document that was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document contains a listing of relevant research, background materials, and organizations that will assist members in understanding the issues before the Commission. Each has a link to a website or to a document located in a Dropbox directory established for the Commission. The document will be updated monthly and will indicate additions by inserting "[NEW]" after each added entry.

6.2 [17-0773](#)

Presentation by Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel for Voting Rights and Redistricting at the Campaign Legal Center.

The Commission heard a presentation on "Redistricting Reform Options for Lake County." Ms. Greenwood discussed considerations in the modification of redistricting practices, including: Goals of county board representation; Choosing an electoral system; and Choosing a redistricting process.

Ms. Greenwood described county demographics and offered several observations about them, including that there is a good distribution of race and ethnicity across the county; that more than half of recent elections were among multiple candidates, although many remained uncontested; that the margin of victory showed many races were not competitive; and that the county had fairly high voter turnout.

For the electoral system, Ms. Greenwood made a case for using ranked choice voting instead of the current single vote system. This approach allows voters to select more than one candidate, in a ranked order, to reduce the potential for "split votes." It has been used successfully in a number of jurisdictions across the country and she provided examples.

Ms. Greenwood recommended and described the use of an independent redistricting commission to assist county officials in future redistricting efforts. Her comments focused on the elements of determining the commission membership; strategies for assuring public participation and transparency; and the mechanics of the map approval process. She recommended members view the film Gerrymandering, produced by Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause and National Redistricting Director, Common Cause.

Members asked questions about how the county could improve racial and ethnic candidacy, how ranked choice voting works in practice, and how gerrymandering impacts competitiveness of elections. Ms. Greenwood was also asked to comment on the Supreme Court's Gill v. Whitford case she is involved in.

6.3 [17-0774](#)

Presentation by George Tzanetopoulos, Partner at BakerHostetler.

The Commission heard a presentation on "Redistricting: Selected Legal Issues." Mr. Tzanetopoulos provided an overview of potential legal challenges inherent in the redistricting process and recommended that the county seek legal representation in the development of their approach and process to ensure defensibility.

He discussed the principles behind districting, including compactness, contiguity, preservation of political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act, among others. A key to successfully responding to dilution claims is consistent application of the principles.

Mr. Tzanetopoulos provided background on the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, the "equal protection" clause. He also defined some of the common gerrymandering techniques used in single-member districts, called "packing" and "cracking."

He outlined the issues in partisan gerrymandering and explained why it has been difficult to adjudicate claims associated with the practice. Lastly, he described the efficiency gap calculations used by academics to estimate the partisan fairness of districts.

Members asked questions about whether disaffected voters were ever considered in efficiency gap calculations, how "independent" boards can be created, and how has incumbency affected redistricting in Illinois.

6.4 [17-0775](#)

Discussion of Commission research agenda.

Members reviewed the research topics for the Commission's work and requested additional information on the potential for local government consolidation efforts at the State legislature, as well as historical information on consolidation efforts of the Recorder and County Clerk functions, and the Sheriff and Coroner functions.

Commissioner JoAnn Osmond left meeting early.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Motion was made by Member Kim, seconded by Member Darch.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Knutson and Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Ave, 3rd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-0813](#)

Minutes from July 19, 2017.

Attachments: [LCCGR Final 7 19 17 Minutes](#)

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

5. Old Business

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0878](#)

Update on Commission activities since the July 19th meeting.

6.2 [17-0879](#)

Presentation by Cynthia Canary, Executive Director, Independent Map Amendment.

6.3 [17-0880](#)

Presentation by Jim LaBelle, Former Lake County Chair, 1984-1987, 1998-2000.

6.4 [17-0881](#)

Presentation by Dr. Norman Walzer, Senior Research Scholar, Center for Governmental Studies, Northern Illinois University.

6.5 [17-0882](#)

Discussion of Commission research agenda.

7. Adjournment

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Ave, 3rd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Present 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis and Member Kim

Absent 1 - Member Roberson

Excused 3 - Member Bensinger, Member Darch and Member Schaafsma

Others present:

Judy Martini, Board Member

Linda Pedersen, Board Member

Jeff Werfel, Board Member

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Jennie Vana, County Administrator's Office

Dakisha Wesley, County Administrator's Office

Amy McEwan, County Administrator's Office

Cynthia Canary, Executive Director, Independent Map Amendment

Dr. Norman Walzer, Senior Research Scholar, Northern Illinois University

Jim LaBelle, Former Lake County Chair

Susan Hoyt, Management Partners

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Mary Mathews, Public

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-0813](#)

Minutes from July 19, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Osmond, seconded by Member Link that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Magalis and Member Kim

Not Present: 2 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel and Member Msall

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recounted the positive experience he recently had talking with eastern Europeans about their perception of the United States while he was traveling.

Vice Chair Ryg thanked Commissioners for their participation and engagement at the July 19, 2107 Commission meeting.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments. Chair Foreman asked for the public in attendance to introduce themselves.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0878](#)

Update on Commission activities since the July 19th meeting.

Chair Foreman introduced Susan Hoyt from Management Partners, who gave an overview of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Background and Research Materials document that was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document contains a list of relevant research, background materials, and organizations that will assist members in understanding the issues before the Commission. The document is updated monthly. The August update included reports on the 1977 and 1990 Lake County Governmental Study Commission Reports, the Lake County Prior Referenda on Elected Officials, the Lake County Board Chair Role, and Illinois County Board Sizes and Structures.

6.2 [17-0879](#)

Presentation by Cynthia Canary, Executive Director, Independent Map Amendment.

Ms. Canary gave a presentation on "Redistricting Principles" to the Commission. She explained the importance of establishing principles to guide redistricting decisions because clearly stated principles help officials determine 'what to advance and protect' and 'what to change' in making decisions. Stated principles also provide more transparency to the public and lead to more informed public engagement, which is a critical element in redistricting discussions.

Ms. Canary described the eight principles being considered by the CHANGE Illinois in its work around redistricting and an Independent Review Board. These principles are:

- Be in accordance with the requirements of the U. S. Constitution*
- Emphasize representation and be fully compliant with both the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) and all state voting rights laws including the Illinois Voting Rights Act.*
- Be independent of partisan political considerations.*
- Result in maximum voter choice, encouraging electoral candidacy, and enhancing electoral competitiveness.*
- Consider true communities of interest.*
- Accurately represent the permanent residents of Illinoisans.*
- Be transparent and accountable.*
- Allow for meaningful public participation and have the confidence of the public.*

Ms. Canary concluded her presentation by advising the Commission that regardless of the institution that is responsible for redistricting decisions, be it an independent review board or elected officials, the public must be fully engaged in the process because it is about representation of the people.

Commissioners asked the speaker questions and discussed the complexities and challenges of redistricting.

Member Rummel entered the meeting at 8:55 a.m. Member Msall entered the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

6.3 [17-0880](#)

Presentation by Jim LaBelle, Former Lake County Chair, 1984-1987, 1998-2000.

Mr. LaBelle described his role as Lake County Board Chair from 1984-1987 and from 1998-2000. His responsibilities included being a policy leader and managing the agenda, including finding ways to lead the Board to agreement and action as well as coordinating and negotiating with independent elected officials. In addition, as Chair, he addressed regional and intergovernmental issues and represented the County on regional, state and national issues. He also represented his own district and served as a forest commissioner.

Mr. LaBelle was initially elected to the County Board when there were multi-member districts (5 districts of 5 members each) with a majority and a minority designation in each district. Later, the County moved to single district representation. He preferred the multi-district representation because one learned more about Lake County issues from the larger geography covered by the multi-member district. It also provided more opportunity for candidates with fewer resources to compete, since you didn't have to be the top vote getter to get a seat on the County Board.

Mr. LaBelle reflected on the difference between being elected by the County Board or elected at-large. He concluded that both models work. The job of leading the County and knitting the Board together exists under either option. Overall, he believed that being elected at-large would have the benefit of getting public countywide support for the Chair as the County's policy leader. It would provide more independence for the Chair and more continuity with a four-year rather than a two-year term. However, the Chair's election would be more expensive and, therefore, potentially more limiting as to who could serve in this role.

Mr. LaBelle believed that being elected by the County Board resulted in spending less money to become County Board Chair, but the majority support from colleagues may be tenuous. It also results in divided accountability between the countywide role as Chair and

constituents in the Chair's district. In addition, a two-year term limits the Chair's visibility and leadership potential.

Commissioners asked the speaker questions and discussed the pros and cons of electing the Chair under the current model, elected by County Board peers, and the at-large option. They also shared experiences with the multi-member districts and raised questions about it as an option for the future. Mr. LaBelle stated his support for the opportunity the Commission's work offers to put forth new ideas that could serve as the laboratory for innovation and reform for the state.

6.4 [17-0881](#)

Presentation by Dr. Norman Walzer, Senior Research Scholar, Center for Governmental Studies, Northern Illinois University.

Dr. Walzer described his work as Project Director with the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates in the Report Delivering Efficient, Effective and Streamlined Government to Illinois Taxpayers, December 31, 2015. The purpose of the bi-partisan Task Force was to explore ways to reduce duplication of services in local governmental units and property taxes. The Task Force identified several possible solutions to reduce costs and maintain services resulting in Senate Bill 003 and House Bill 607. (Public Acts 100-106 & 107)

Dr. Walzer provided data on the rising costs of public services in Illinois, the effective property tax rates in the U.S. of which Illinois is 2nd highest, and the number of units of government in Lake County (192). Dr. Walzer said the actual number of local governmental units is not really known, since many units go unreported in surveys of local government entities.

Dr. Walzer reported that the Task Force identified several obstacles contributing to higher property tax costs in Illinois. These included changing technologies impact on how services are delivered, the existence of over 7,000 local governmental units with some duplication of services, the relative ease of creating new governments to deal with specific problems, the statutory obstacles to removing existing governments, and the lack of an organized approach to reviewing governments.

Dr. Walzer concluded his remarks by explaining that today's environment allows people to discuss the option of collaboration, consolidation and shared services.

Commissioners discussed the challenge of reducing the number of local governmental units to reduce costs.

6.5 [17-0882](#)

Discussion of Commission research agenda.

Due to time, there was no additional information on the Commission research agenda.

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Ave, 3rd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Approval Of Minutes**

[17-0965](#)

Minutes from August 23, 2017.

Attachments: [LCCGR Final 8 23 17 Minutes](#)

3. **Chair's Remarks**

4. **Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**

5. **Old Business**

6. **New Business**

6.1 [17-0966](#)

Update on Commission activities since the August 23rd meeting.

6.2 [17-0967](#)

Welcome to Legislators and Legislative Comments (Optional).

6.3 [17-0968](#)

Presentation by Dr. Eric Zeemering, Department of Public Administration, School of Public and Global Affairs, Northern Illinois University.

6.4 [17-0969](#)

Video interview with Chair Dan Cronin, DuPage County Board Chair, 2010 to present.

6.5 [17-0970](#)

Video interview with Chair Jack Franks, McHenry County Board Chair, 2016 to present.

6.6 [17-0971](#)

Video interview with County Executive Lawrence (Larry) Walsh, Will County Executive, 2004 to present.

6.7 [17-0972](#)

Presentation by Senator Karen McConnaughay, Former County Board Chair, Kane County, 2004-2012.

6.8 [17-0973](#)

Purpose of Commission meeting on October 4, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

6.9 [17-0974](#)

Discussion of Commission Research Agenda.

7. **Adjournment**

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Ave, 3rd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foremen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Present 12 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Lamphere, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim, Member Darch and Member Schaafsma

Absent 2 - Member Roberson and Member Link

Excused 1 - Member Bensinger

Others present:

Jeff Werfel, Lake County Board Member

Judy Martini, Lake County Board Member

Steve Carlson, Lake County Board Member

Linda Pedersen, Lake County Board Member

Dianne Hewitt, Lake County Board Member

Carol Calabresa, Lake County Board Member

Sanda Hart, Lake County Board Member

Barry Burton, County Administrators' Office

Dakisha Wesley, County Administrators' Office

Paul Fetherston, County Administrators' Office

DonnaJo Maki, County Administrators' Office

Jennie Vana, County Administrators' Office

Nickalus Vana, Public

Susan Hoyt, Management Partners

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

State Representative Rita Mayfield

State Senator Melinda Bush

State Representative Sam Yingling

Michael Dobrow, Aid to Representative Yingling

Dr. Eric Zeemering, Northern Illinois University

Annie McGowan, Civic Federation

Jo-An Sabonjian, Chief of Staff for State Senator Julie Morrison

Mary Mathews, Public

Nikki Kelly-Schmeisser, League of Women's Voters

2. Approval Of Minutes

[17-0965](#)

Minutes from August 23, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Osmond, seconded by Member Shaw that the minutes be approved.

Aye: 10 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Lamphere, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis and Member Kim

Abstain: 1 - Member Darch

Absent: 2 - Member Roberson and Member Link

Not Present: 1 - Member Schaafsma

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed commissioners to the meeting, thanked everyone for their participation and asked for public introductions.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 Update on Commission activities since the August 23rd meeting.

Chair Foreman introduced Susan Hoyt from Management Partners, who gave an overview of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Background and Research Materials document that was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The document contains a list of relevant research, background materials and organizations that will assist members in understanding the issues before the Commission. The document is updated monthly. The September document included reports on Multi-Member Districts, a Comparison of Lake, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and Will Counties Board Chairs and an Amicus brief provided by Howell Shuster and Goldberg LLP for the Supreme Court Case Gill vs. Whitford.

6.2 Welcome to Legislators and Legislative Comments (Optional).

Member Schaafsma entered the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Foreman welcomed Representative Mayfield, Senator Bush and Representative Yingling. He asked them to provide their perspective on the four questions the Commission is considering: how to elect a board chairman, the size of the board, redistricting and other reform topics.

Representative Mayfield stated that representation is the key issue in considering reform. She believed a countywide elected chairman would provide the best representation of the county since the current method, board elected, required the board chairman to represent both his/her district and the entire county. She supports holding the election in a regular election cycle, not in an off year. She supports fewer than the 21 board members, but

cautions that any change in number must be sensitive to minority representation on the board.

Senator Bush, a former Lake County Board Member, believes a countywide elected chair provides voters an important opportunity to vote for the chairman. It is also the best representation for the whole county because it eliminates the potential conflict between the chairman representing both his/her own district and the entire county. Senator Bush has no specific changes in county board size in mind. However, she said it is the right time to consider reducing the size of the board without negatively impacting representation because the Lake County population is flattening and many townships (unincorporated) have been annexed into municipalities. Senator Bush said she is introducing legislation that requires all local government entities to participate in discussions to develop supportable options to reduce the layers of government and duplication of services.

Representative Yingling, a former Avon Township Supervisor, said the major issue for him is consolidating entities and reducing duplicative services, in particular the road districts and township highway commissions. He cited current state legislation (Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 607) that provide opportunities to combine some non-elected units of government. He suggested studying some east coast county centered governments, where the county provides many services.

Representative Mayfield, Senator Bush and Representative Yingling responded to questions from the Commission with additional comments.

All three legislators stated their support for the fair maps movement. Each clarified that it needs to begin at the federal level then move to the state and the county.

When asked about making some elected county officials appointed officials, Representative Yingling and Senator Bush said the expertise required for the coroner's position made it a candidate for being appointed rather than elected. Senator Bush supports appointing the assessor as a county position. Representative Mayfield did not see the necessity of appointing rather than electing any county officials because the elected officials interact well with the community.

Senator Bush said there is merit in exploring the use of multi-member districts as a way to expose county board members to a more diverse constituency than a single member district does. Representative Mayfield supports continuing with single member districts. She believes that minority candidates living in a single district are the best representatives of these communities. Representative Yingling said multi-member districts were worth considering if there was guaranteed minority party representation as in the past.

All legislators acknowledged the importance of having a voter elected chairman work

closely with his/her colleagues on the board on county issues, especially fiscal and tax issues.

Representative Mayfield, Senator Bush and Representative Yingling thanked the Commission for their work on these important Lake County government reform issues.

Chair Foreman thanked Representative Mayfield, Senator Bush and Representative Yingling for sharing their time and perspectives with the Commission.

6.3 [17-0968](#)

Presentation by Dr. Eric Zeemering, Department of Public Administration, School of Public and Global Affairs, Northern Illinois University.

Dr. Eric Zeemering began his remarks by acknowledging the importance of the Commission's reform and accountability work. He noted the importance of engaging the public in these discussions as they evolved.

Dr. Zeemering addressed three questions. He cited academic studies to answer these questions throughout his presentation.

Question 1: What evidence do we have about county government reforms? Dr. Zeemering reviewed the history of government reform movements in the twentieth century. These reforms focused mostly on municipal, not county, reform. He said county reforms tended to address financial reforms and negotiating counties' legal authority with their states rather than political reforms. The major finding concluded that a professional manager overseeing day-to-day operations has positive consequences for local government performance. The question of an at-large elected chairman versus a board elected chairman has not been singled out for study. It is documented that local governments often replicate their neighboring communities' governance models, labeled 'institutional isomorphism', when they consider reform measures.

Question 2: What advice have experts in local government provided regarding the work of governing boards? Dr. Zeemering explained that research on the effectiveness of governing bodies more frequently studies the dysfunctional behaviors of boards rather than the effectiveness of their organizational structure. These studies found that the more interpersonal, not political, disagreements there were among board members, the more unlikely the boards were to be innovative. Positive results emerged from the chairman and board's use of 'facilitative leadership', which recognizes the synergy of bringing the different strengths of individuals together to develop consensus. Research also demonstrated that county leaders frequently relied upon personal and informal resources for performing their work rather than high visibility in the public because this space frequently focused on local mayors and not county leaders.

Question 3: By discussing board structure are we enhancing the accountability of county government? Dr. Zeemering said that government reform today is prompted by a demand for better government accountability and representation. He explained that there is value in asking what is the best mechanism for greater accountability, but there is no clear evidence on what model is best. It is also important to ask what problem is being solved in this work. One study described a cycle of reform that begins with increased neutral competence to improve efficiency, then moves to more citizen based representative structures, then returns to neutral competence for improved efficiency. He stressed the importance of asking the public about their preferences when engaged in public policy decision making.

Dr. Zeemering described recent work being done on the stress created for elected officials because there are so many ways for constituents to directly interact them. He believes providing more tools to elected officials, including strategic planning, foresight exercises and ongoing performance data, will help these representatives better manage the challenge of serving.

Dr. Zeemering addressed the topic of consolidation by explaining that he avoids the term consolidation because it generates strong reactions and impedes positive discussion around change. He focuses on collaborative efficiencies and intergovernmental sharing services. These approaches increase efficiency in service delivery without requiring statutory changes and/or formally eliminating entities.

Dr. Zeemering responded to questions from the Commission with these additional comments.

He reiterated that there are no research studies that demonstrate that changing the way the county board chairman is elected or that one particular county board structure is more effective than another.

He explained that inter-governmental service sharing arrangements are efficient because they utilize the excess of service delivery capacity of some governments. However more work needs to be done on the financing of these shared services to assure there is equity in who is paying for the service.

He briefly described his experience with county centered government in Maryland and California, where some counties provide almost all local government services. He volunteered to provide an example of a county centered government to the staff.

Dr. Zeemering concluded by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to speak with them and for their commitment to studying reform measures for Lake County.

Chair Foreman thanked Dr. Zeemering for sharing his time and expertise with the Commission.

6.4 Video interview with Chair Dan Cronin, DuPage County Board Chair, 2010 to present.

Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor interviewed DuPage County Chairman Dan Cronin about his role as a countywide elected chairman. Chairman Cronin explained that the countywide elected chairman was adopted in DuPage County in 1972 to improve accountability for the chairman to voters. In his role Chairman Cronin focuses on the agenda, the budget, making appointments, maintaining internal and external relationships and countywide initiatives. He sees the value in single member districts for board representation, but finds that the six districts with three members per district in DuPage are working well. Chairman Cronin is leading on consolidating local entities through the ACT (Accountability/Consolidation/Transparency) initiative. DuPage recently got state authority to allow for closer management of the many appointed taxing districts. He said this won't save the county lots of money because the entities are not big-ticket items, but it will increase accountability. Chairman Cronin thanked Chairman Lawlor for his leadership. Chairman Lawlor thanked Chairman Cronin for sharing his time and experience with the Commission.

6.5 [17-0970](#)

Video interview with Chair Jack Franks, McHenry County Board Chair, 2016 to present.

Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor interviewed McHenry County Chairman Jack Franks about his recent transition to county board chairman. Chairman Franks said that, as a state legislator, he sponsored legislation to hold a referendum on an elected county board chair because he believes that all voters should have a voice in choosing the chairman of a major taxing authority (county). The referendum passed overwhelmingly. Chairman Franks believed the board size needs to be reduced from the current 24 members in six districts. He shared how McHenry County has improved government transparency in its decision-making through streamlining meetings on the web and electronic voting. Chairman Franks thanked Chairman Lawlor for his leadership. Chairman Lawlor thanked Chairman Franks for sharing his time and experience with the Commission.

6.6 [17-0971](#)

Video interview with County Executive Lawrence (Larry) Walsh, Will County Executive, 2004 to present.

Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor interviewed Will County Executive Larry Walsh about his role as a county executive. County Executive Walsh explained that Will County voted to have the county executive form of government in a 1988 referendum because residents believed this would be a more responsive form of government. He said that in 2012 Will County dropped from 27 to 26 seats and increased the number of districts to thirteen districts with two representatives per district. County Executive Walsh explained

the distinction between his role as overseer of twenty-six county departments and day to day operations and the county board speaker's role as manager of the agenda and appointing committees. County Executive Walsh thanked Chairman Lawlor for his interest in Will County's governance. Chairman Lawlor thanked County Executive Walsh for sharing his time and experience with the Commission.

At Chair Foreman's request Lake County Board Members in attendance introduced themselves: Linda Pedersen, Diane Hewitt, Judy Martini, Steve Carlson, Carol Calabresa and Jeff Werfel.

6.7 Presentation by Senator Karen McConnaughay, Former County Board Chair, Kane County, 2004-2012.

Senator Karen McConnaughay addressed the Commission via the web. She reflected on her role as the third countywide elected Kane County Chairman. The countywide elected chairman position resulted from a 1990 citizen initiated referendum. She also served in the role of county administrator because Kane County has no administrator. In hindsight, she believes it was a mistake not hiring a county administrator especially when dealing with other county elected officers. Kane County reduced the size of the county board from 28 to 26 members during her tenure as chairman.

Senator McConnaughay said she is a proponent of a countywide elected chairman because it is more accountable to voters. It is extremely important for the county board to define the responsibilities and authority of the chairman at the beginning of the chairman's term. She gave the example of two lawsuits that emerged during her chairmanship partly due to a lack of clarity in the chairman's authority.

Senator McConnaughay said that the county is the government best suited to provide leadership in the consolidation effort because counties are so involved with all the local entities including making many of the appointments to their governing bodies.

Senator McConnaughay responded to questions from the Commission with additional comments.

Her experience as a county board member for twelve years was useful background for the chairmanship because it prepared her for the administrative duties associated with the job. She found that being elected as a countywide chairman was significantly different than representing a district. The elected chairman role gave her more credibility working with other county elected officers. She restated that it was critical that the chairman and the board be very clear about the chairman's responsibilities to avoid misunderstandings. It was also important that the board allow the chairman some flexibility in his/her position.

Senator McConnaughay thanked the Commission for their important work on Lake County government reform issues.

Chair Foreman thanked Senator McConnaughay for sharing her time and perspective with the Commission.

6.8 [17-0973](#)

Purpose of Commission meeting on October 4, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

At Chair Foreman's request Susan Hoyt, Management Partners, updated the Commission on the October 4, 2017 meeting. It is an opportunity for the Commission to discuss the topics that it has been studying for the past five months. The extended meeting time from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. will provide additional time for the discussion.

6.9 [17-0974](#)

Discussion of Commission Research Agenda.

Two additional research requests were raised. These include a review of the county board structure for other AAA rated counties in Illinois and contacting the National Association of Counties (NACo) about studies specifically focused on the question of board size and election of the chairman.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Susan Hoyt and Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085*



Agenda Report - Final

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Approval Of Minutes**

2.1 [17-1043](#)

Minutes from September 13, 2017.

Attachments: [LCCGR 9 13 17 Final Minutes](#)

3. **Chair's Remarks**

4. **Public Comments (items not on the agenda)**

5. **Old Business**

6. **New Business**

6.1 [17-1047](#)

Update on the Commission's activities since the September 13, 2017 meeting.

6.2 [17-1049](#)

Introduction to today's meeting.

6.3 [17-1051](#)

The method of election of the County Board Chairman.

6.4 [17-1052](#)

The size of the County Board.

6.5 [17-1053](#)

Redistricting

6.6 [17-1054](#)

Other Reform Topics

6.7 [17-1055](#)

Meeting Wrap Up

6.8 [17-1056](#)

Discussion on the Commission's Research agenda.

6.9 [17-1057](#)

Purpose of Commission meeting on November 15, 2017 from 11:30-1:30 at Division of Transportation.

7. **Adjournment**

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Division of Transportation
600 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville IL 60048*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

11:30 AM

Division of Transportation

**Lake County Commission on Government Reform
and Accountability**

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Present 13 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim and Member Darch

Excused 2 - Member Bensinger and Member Schaafsma

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Werfel, Board Member

Linda Pedersen, Board Member

Aaron Lawlor, Board Member

Carol Calabresa, Board Member

Steve Carlson, Board Member

Mary Cunningham, Board Member

Judy Martini, Board Member

Sandy Hart, Board Member

Chuck Bartels, Board Member (participated via telephone)

Roger Zellner, Public

Farrah Watson, Circuit Clerk

Mary Mathews, Public

Nikki Kelly-Sehmeisger, Public

Jeanne Kearly, Public

Amy Knutson Strack, Public

Trisha Steele, Public

Barry Burton, County Administrator's Office

Amy McEwan, County Administrator's Office

Jennie Vana, County Administrator's Office

Dakisha Wesley, County Administrator's Office

Paul Fetherston, County Administrator's Office

Susan Hoyt, Management Partners

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Mike Casey, Management Partners

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-1212](#)

Minutes from October 4, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Msall, seconded by Member Darch, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 12 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis and Member Darch

Not Present: 1 - Member Kim

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman thanked everyone for being at the meeting and being prepared for the discussion.

Vice Chair Ryg thanked everyone for being so engaged throughout the process and for participating in a great opportunity to demonstrate leadership in Lake County. This included gathering information, studying best practices, and providing actionable direction to the county to keep Lake County as a leader in local government.

Chair Foreman asked for public introduction.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

Ms. Trisha Steele, of Round Lake, addressed the Commission on the Independent Redistricting recommendation. She explained that the county board should be limited to one of two options when it considers action on a redistricting plan proposed by an Independent Redistricting Commission. The options would be to accept the plan or to reject the plan. There would be no option to modify the plan. If the proposed plan was rejected by the county board, it would go back to the Independent Redistricting Commission for revisions.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-1282](#)

Review Draft Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Report

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners, explained that the June through September Commission meetings focused on fact finding. The October 4 meeting was a discussion of recommendations which provided the basis for the discussion today.

Member Kim entered the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

6.2 [17-1283](#)

General Comments

Member Mike Rummel, an ex officio member representing county board members, reported on comments that Chair Lawlor and he received about the Commission's work from their county board colleagues. Member Rummel explained that the Chair Lawlor had requested written responses to four questions. He also noted that Chair Lawlor was

committed to maintaining a high level of autonomy for the Commission throughout the process and that this had been accomplished.

Five county board members, Chuck Bartel, Steve Carlson, Judy Martini, Jeff Werfel, and Vance Wyatt responded to the request for input. A summary of their comments follows.

They were comfortable with how authority is currently shared among the board, chairman and county administrator in helping them accomplish their goals.

Three respondents said that they were proud of the county's record of fiscal management, outreach and partnership efforts, strategic planning and ability to serve as a model for other counties to follow such as the Smoke Free Lake County and Tobacco 21 initiatives.

One respondent supported the concept of an at large elected board chair, but only if the board chair was designated as a non-partisan position. Others opposed the concept of an at large elected chair because it might create a partisan divide in the county, might increase the cost of campaigns, and might increase county costs by adding staff for the chair. It was also noted that an at large elected chair is not a predictor of the county's overall success.

One respondent expressed an interest in understanding why the county board changed its election process from multi-member districts to single member districts.

No respondents supported a change in the size of the board. Some respondents expressed concern that a decrease in the board size might lead to an increase in the cost of campaigns and the dilution in a majority – minority district making it more challenging for a member of a majority minority community to get elected.

6.3 [17-1284](#)

Redistricting Options

Vice Chair Ryg updated the Commission on the Illinois Redistricting Collaborative's recent adoption of redistricting principles. The Commission agreed to recommend these principles since they were consistent with those already considered by the Commission. It also recommended that the county advocate for these redistricting principles.

Recommendations:

Apply redistricting principles to any process for reapportionment following the 2020 census.

- 1. Comply with the U. S. Constitution*
- 2. Comply with federal and state voting rights act*
- 3. Comprise and uphold a non-partisanship process*

4. *Maximize voter choice, electoral, candidacy and competitiveness*
5. *Recognize and preserve communities of interest*
6. *Accurately include permanent residence of all Illinoisans*
7. *Comprise and uphold a transparent and accountable process*
8. *Provide for open, full, and meaningful public participation*

Use county data and technology to support the drafting of a redistricting map that complies with federal and state voting rights and other legal requirements of redistricting.

Develop a process for establishing an Independent Advisory Redistricting Commission, a transparent public awareness and engagement process, and public education efforts based on approved redistricting principles.

Monitor the Supreme Court case (Gill v. Whitford) along with other legal actions and decisions related to redistricting.

6.4 [17-1285](#)

The Size of the County Board

The Commission expressed support for the current 21 districts in the county while they recognized that circumstances may change. Any changes can be addressed during the redistricting process. The Commission acknowledged that unincorporated areas may generate a larger workload for a county commissioner than incorporated areas because, so many decisions rise to the county level when there is no municipal government. Commissioners also expressed an interest in exploring how multi-member districts with majority and minority representation might be used in lieu of single member districts in the future.

Recommendations:

There is no evidence to suggest that a change in county board size from 21 members is needed or would be beneficial.

Conduct an analysis of districts and services in advance of the redistricting process to determine if there would be a more effective distribution of representation with attention to differences in workload in unincorporated and incorporated areas.

Research the potential to improve opportunities for minority party representation through the use of multi-member districts before making any changes.

Continue the practice of appointing some minority party representatives on the board as committee chairs in the rules of order and operating procedures.

6.5 [17-1286](#)

The Method of Electing the Chair

The Commission had a rich discussion on the at-large elected chair. The Commission acknowledged the testimony of state legislators, Representative Mayfield, Representative Yingling and Senator Bush, that supported an at-large elected chair as well as other collar county at large elected chairs, Chairman Franks and Cronin and County Executive Larry Walsh. These elected officials testified that an at large elected chair provided an opportunity for voters to select an identifiable leader for the county and allowed the chair to focus on countywide, regional and state issues without dealing with possible conflicts from representing a district too. Former Kane County Chair McConnaughay stressed the importance of having the county board clarify the chair's roles and responsibilities when there is an at large elected chair. Commission member (Senator) Link expressed his support for the at large elected position because of greater visibility and voter selection. After careful consideration, the Commission supported the peer elected board chair because of the collaborative nature of the position and the current success the county has experienced under a peer elected chair's leadership. The peer elected chair also maintains the entire county board's accountability for decisions, especially budgeting and taxing rather than tying these decisions exclusively to the at large chair. The Commission recognized that the county's needs may change over time. If the county finds that an at large elected chair may serve it better, it can be addressed during the redistricting process. The Commission agreed that the report would include a footnote reflecting the perspective of Senator Link and the testimony of the legislators on the at large elected chair.

Recommendations:

There is no evidence to suggest that a change from a peer-elected county board chair is needed or would be beneficial.

Should a referendum on an at large elected chair be required by citizen initiative, county board action, or legislation; conduct a voter awareness campaign to share information gathered by the Lake County Government Reform and Accountability Commission.

Clarify the chair's duties and responsibilities in the rules of order and operational procedures prior to the next election of the county board chair in 2018.

6.6 [17-1287](#)

Other Reform Proposals: Review of Elected Positions, Intergovernmental Collaboration, Multi-Member Districts, Alternative Voting Methods

The Commission discussed the recommendations on other reform issues that emerged during its deliberations.

Recommendations:

Review all countywide elected official positions subject to the county's authority (recorder, coroner) to understand their function, policy authority, costs and opportunities for

increased effectiveness and cost efficiency to determine areas for consolidation or collaboration.

The report will footnote that the clerk of circuit court position was raised during the Commission's deliberations.

Engage local governmental agencies in a discussion about potential collaboration or service-sharing that is based on data that includes the impact on taxing bodies and cost effectiveness from these initiatives.

Research alternative voting options other than simple majority (e.g. ranked, cumulative, and open list ballots) as ways to increase minority representation using the information gathered by the Lake County Government Reform and Accountability Commission.

6.7 [17-1288](#)

Additional Comments

There were no additional comments.

6.8 [17-1289](#)

Next Steps and Purpose of December 20, 2017 Commission meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Lake County Health Department, Waukegan

Chair Foreman reported that the next Commission meeting was scheduled for December 20, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Lake County Health Department to consider the final report.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan Hoyt, Kevin Knutson and Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department
3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor
Waukegan IL 60085*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

8:30 AM

Lake County Health Department, 3010 Grand Avenue, 3rd floor,
Waukegan

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Present 11 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Kim, Member Darch and Member Schaafsma

Absent 1 - Member Roberson

Excused 3 - Member Osmond, Member Bensinger and Member Magalis

Others Present:

Linda Pederson, Board Member

Steve Carlson, Board Member

Mary Ross Cunningham, Board Member

Annie Gonwa, Civic Leaders Federation

Judy Martini, Board Member

Jeff Werfel, Board Member

Chief Judge Ortiz, Court Administration

Barry Burton, County Administrator's Office

Farrah Watson, Circuit Clerk

Ann Maine, Board Member

Aaron Lawlor, Board Member

Jennie Vana, County Administrator's Office

Lisa Hancock, Communications

Erin Cartwright Weinstein, Circuit Clerk

Marty Mathews, Public

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-1313](#)

Minutes from November 15, 2017.

Minutes approved by voice vote, the motion carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman explained that the Commission meeting on November 15, 2017 was a review of the draft report. The purpose of the meeting today was to review and, if possible, approve the final report for presentation to the County Board at its January 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting. Chair Foreman thanked Commissioners for their participation and input into the Commission's work.

Vice Chair Ryg expressed her appreciation for the Commissioners' engagement throughout the process and for the information provided in the report. It includes some

good direction and will be a stand- alone document for years to come.

Chair Foreman asked for public introductions.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

Chair Foreman introduced the Honorable Chief Justice Jorge Ortiz, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge and asked him to provide a legal perspective on the clerk of circuit court position to clear up any misunderstanding that may have surfaced during the Commission's prior discussions of this position.

Judge Ortiz explained that there are 102 clerks of circuit court in Illinois, one for every county. There have been four state constitutions and each of them have addressed the clerk of circuit court. The clerk of circuit court is a non-judicial officer in the judicial branch of state government. Article 6 in the 1970 Illinois State Constitutions contains a provision which invests the legislature with the authority to determine how the clerk of circuit court is selected through election or appointment. The clerk of circuit court cannot be consolidated into another county position because this position is a member of the judicial branch, not the administrative nor legislative branch. Any change in this would require a constitutional amendment.

Judge Ortiz explained that each circuit court is required to have at least one resident circuit judge. Each county has its own clerk of circuit court, its own filings, and its own business to conduct. In circuits a judge may travel two to three hundred miles from one county to another county to hear circuit court cases. Reducing the number of clerks of circuit court to less than one per county would burden citizens, especially those in more rural counties, who are required to file in a circuit court. Some circuit court judges work with 8 to 10 clerks of circuit court because they work in multiple county circuits. Consolidating these operations would be a logistical nightmare and challenge citizens' access to justice.

When asked if the Supreme Court might appoint clerks of circuit court upon the recommendation of the circuit court judges, Judge Ortiz explained that the appellate court clerks are appointed by the appellate court judges and the Supreme Court clerk is appointed by the Supreme Court judges. However, having the clerk of circuit court appointed by the Supreme Court presents at least two issues. First, the legislature would need to change the current method from election to appointment of the clerk of circuit court, which the legislature has the power to do under the Constitution. Second, having the clerk of circuit court appointed by the Supreme Court may not provide the best fit for the

work since the circuit court judges are in the best position to know what is needed locally.

6.1 [17-1371](#)

Research Update

Kevin Knutson from Management Partners referenced the research memo that was provided to Commissioners via email on December 6, 2017 regarding other county fair maps initiatives throughout the country. These included the three counties of San Diego County, California (San Diego); Dane County, Wisconsin (Madison), Tompkins County, New York (Ithaca).

6.2 [17-1372](#)

Review the Final Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Report

Kevin Knutson summarized four changes made in the report based on the discussion at the November 15, 2017 meeting.

- Recommendation 1 uses the Illinois Redistricting Initiatives' principles as the recommendation for the Commission's redistricting principle.*
- Included a correction and background on Senate Bill 669.*
- Recommendation 8 includes language noting that the Commission found no evidence that a change in board size was needed.*
- Recommendation 5 includes language noting that the Commission found no evidence that supported the need to change from a peer elected to an at-large elected chair and recommends maintaining the peer elected chair.*

Commissioners reviewed Recommendation 11 "engaging local governments in a discussion about potential collaboration or service sharing that is based on data that includes the impact on taxing bodies and cost effectiveness from these initiatives."

The Commission acknowledged that it received information on this topic, but did not have time to explore it in depth. Commissioners discussed that it was important that the Report stress the necessity that the County Board take the leadership around collaboration, service sharing, and consolidation by assigning the work to a commission. The discussion is both timely and critical given the need for improved local government efficiency, modernization, and understanding the impact on property taxes, especially with the change in the federal tax law.

County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor explained that the County recently adopted a Consolidation Action Plan to study and address some specific consolidation efforts. He will also be seeking legislation to strengthen the authority of counties undertaking this work.

The Commission recommended that Recommendation 11 be revised to read:

"Establish a commission to actively explore opportunities for potential collaboration,

consolidation, or service-sharing that is based on data that includes impacts on taxing bodies and potential cost savings."

The Commission recommended that the narrative preceding Recommendation 11 in the report:

- Include a statement of support for current collaboration and consolidation efforts.*
- Acknowledge the increased importance of this work with the new federal tax law and the growing pressure on property taxes.*
- Recommend that the newly constituted Commission should include local government representatives, taxpayers, businesses along with other leaders. The outcomes of the Commission's work would include assessing current conditions, identifying best practices, finding and reviewing opportunities for consolidation, articulating potential savings or service improvements, and recognizing pre-conditions necessary for or barriers to implementation.*

The Commission agreed that the draft language related to Resolution 11 should be reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair for consistency with the Commission's direction and for their approval, if found consistent. If the Chair and Vice Chair deemed it necessary, they would circulate the language to the entire Commission for its final comments in time to get the report to the County Board on or before December 31, 2017.

6.3 [17-1373](#)

Adopt the Final Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Report

A motion to accept the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability Report as revised was made by Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Lamphere. The motion was approved by voice vote.

6.4 [17-1374](#)

Comments from Chairman Lawlor

County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor thanked the Commission for its work. He explained that government reform can be a negative concept, but the Commission's work has been very positive and added a lot of value for now and the foreseeable future in the lives of Lake County residents. He said the redistricting recommendation recommended by the Commission, if followed, will make Lake County as leader in local government reform. He shared his belief that leadership is not 'being in charge' but is 'caring for those in our charge'.

6.5 [17-1375](#)

Next Steps

- Transmit the Report to the County Board before December 31, 2017
- Presentation of the Report to the County Board at its January 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Central Permit Facility, 500 West Winchester Road, Libertyville

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- Future opportunities to evaluate the process of the Commission's work

Chair Foreman announced the Report would be presented to the County Board at its January 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, 8:30 AM, Central Permit Facility, 500 West Winchester Road, Libertyville.

6.6 [17-1376](#)

Closing Remarks

Chair Foreman and Vice Chair Ryg thanked the Commissioners for their good work.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan Hoyt, Kevin Knutson and Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*