

**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
**EVELYN SANGUINETTI – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Board Room  
Village of Romeoville  
1050 W. Romeo Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
Noon

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Evelyn Sanguinetti	Lt. Governor	State of Illinois	Yes
Tom Demmer	Representative	90 <sup>th</sup> District	Yes
Mark Batinick	Representative	97 <sup>th</sup> District	Yes
Jack Franks	Representative	63 <sup>rd</sup> District	No
Emmanuel Chris Welch	Representative	7 <sup>th</sup> District	Yes
Dan Duffy	Senator	26 <sup>th</sup> District	Yes
Dale Righter	Senator	55 <sup>th</sup> District	Yes
Martin A. Sandoval	Senator	12 <sup>th</sup> District	No
Linda Holmes	Senator	42 <sup>nd</sup> District	Phone
Karen Darch	Mayor	Barrington	Phone
Karen Hasara	Former Mayor	Springfield	No
Brad Cole	Executive Director	Illinois Municipal League	No
Ryan Spain	City Council Member	Peoria	Phone
Dan Cronin	Chairman	DuPage County	Phone
Michael Bigger	Former Chairman	Stark County	Yes
Mark Kern	Chairman	St. Clair County	No
John Espinoza	Board Member	Whiteside County	Yes
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	Regional Superintendent	DuPage Schools	Phone
Steffanie Seegmiller	Chairman	Arthur School Board	Phone
M. Hill Hammock	Senior Fellow	Metropolitan Planning Council	No
Char Foss-Eggemann	Trustee	Park Ridge Library Board	Phone
Warren L. Dixon III	Township Assessor	Naperville	Yes
George Obernagle	Chairman	Kaskaskia Regional Port District	Phone
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>			
Clayton Frick		Deloitte Services LLP	No
Mr. Aranowski		ISBE	Yes
Mr. Kersey		IDOL	No
Mr. Zigmund		IDOR	No
Mr. Perkins		DCEO	Yes

The Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force met for the eleventh time on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 with Lieutenant Governor and Chair Evelyn Sanguinetti presiding.

## **MEETING LOCATION**

Board Room  
Village of Romeoville  
1050 W. Romeo Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446

## **MEETING START**

Meeting Scheduled Start: 12:00PM

Meeting Actual Start: 12:03PM

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti called the meeting to order at 12:03PM and welcomed members.
- b. Roll was taken and quorum was met.

### **II. Approval of meeting minutes from October 19, 2015**

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor for corrections to the minutes from the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - i. Dixon made a spelling correction in the member discussion section.
- b. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti then motioned to approve the minutes with corrections.
  - i. Dixon moved and Espinoza seconded. All ayes with no nays recorded.

### **III. Chairman's Remarks – Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti**

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti welcomed members to the eleventh Task Force meeting and thanked them for their participation. She said that members would have the opportunity to discuss park districts and park departments, and that Illinois is unique because there are so many special purpose park districts. She noted that in other states, park and recreational services are often provided by a municipal or county government department. Additionally, Lt. Governor Sanguinetti reminded members that if they would like to see something on the agenda at a future meeting, they may reach out to Brian Costin, Policy Director, or Brian Colgan, Chief of Staff.

### **IV. Presentations**

- a. Parks
  - i. Jason Anselment – Illinois Association of Park Districts. Jason gave an overview about Illinois Park Districts which first came to Illinois in an 1893 act which provided “for the creation of pleasure driveway and park districts”.

The modern Park District Code was combined in 1951 and contains all of the authority for the governance and operation of park districts. Park districts can only be created through voter referendum, and have between 5-7 non partisan trustees. Park district code allows for merger into coterminous municipality by referendum.

Park districts provide many services at more than 6,000 sites throughout Illinois including; community centers, senior centers, daycares, zoos, museums, community gardens and recreational programs.

Anselment explained, park districts are unique because a large share of their revenues comes through user fees, 40-50%. Park Districts don't receive direct state dollars, such as LGDF, and instead get most of their tax revenue through property taxes. Some state money does come in the form of grants.

A PowerPoint presentation was entered into the record. IAPD also provided documentation of "Intergovernmental Agreements & Partnerships" from Champaign, Glenview, Joliet, Lockport Township, Naperville, Schaumburg, Waukegan and Wheeling Park Districts.

- ii. Sue Micklevitz – Lockport Park District gave an overview of the Lockport Park District, which is unique due to it being coterminous with the township and servicing three communities totaling 71,000 residents. The district has 1000 acres of open space, a golf course and 45 playgrounds.

Micklevitz explained that Lockport Park District tries to ensure that programs and opportunities are expanded and not duplicated among the overlapping local governments.

In the past the Park District received property from Valley View School District, and the district now operates a water park and pool at the property.

Micklevitz give details on how the Park District shared services and facilities with the local school districts to provide low cost before and after school programs for 600 children. They also partner with the schools for science, technology and fitness clubs.

The Park District also engages in shared service programs with other local governments including; mowing equipment, tree trimming, water trucks, etc. The park district has several IGA's and collaborative initiatives with other local governments

- iii. Jay Tetzloff – City of Bloomington. Tetzloff is the Director of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts programs in Bloomington. Tetzloff gave an overview of the department, community programs and facilities and it's relation to the rest of the city.

The department has a FY 16 budget of \$15.3 million, and recovers 44.9% of its costs through user fees which is just under the upper quartile nationally. The goal of the department is to get into the upper quartile as soon as possible.

The department shares resources with the city of Bloomington in many ways including; human resources, finance, technology services, construction equipment, project management assistance, legal, etc.

Some of the major unfunded mandates noted by Tetzloff were Prevailing Wage, Affordable Care Act and IMRF. The parks department is also affected by the unfunded mandates on other departments because there's less to go around, and department is often lower priority than public safety and public works needs.

A PowerPoint presentation was submitted into the record.

- b. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor for discussion.
  - i. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked Tetzloff if he sees any value in parks falling within a department rather than a special service district. Tetzloff said at times it is beneficial when considering consolidated administrative duties, but there are also difficulties and restraints on parks departments that park districts do not have.
  - ii. Senator Holmes noted that some duties that the Bloomington Parks Department has are not necessarily traditional duties of park districts. She asked if the money they receive from user fees is dedicated to go into park district or if they go into general city funds. Tetzloff responded it depended on if it was an enterprise fund or not. Revenues generated in enterprise funds, like the golf course and U.S. Cellular Coliseum, stay in those funds. Other revenues generated from park services go into the city's general fund.
  - iii. Senator Holmes then inquired if they have to create a tax referendum when seeking more funding. Tetzloff stated that park districts can do referendums to increase revenues. Home rule municipalities such as Bloomington can raise taxes, within limits, without a referendum.
  - iv. Senator Holmes asked Jason to elaborate about the freezer that he discussed in his presentation regarding a \$10,000 expenditure difference. Tetzloff responded that it was as large industrial freezer and the increased costs were due to labor for installing and prevailing wage.
  - v. Representative Batinick asked Tetzloff about the financial hit caused by the emerald ash borer to the city of Bloomington, and questioned how they could have made that a smaller hit. Mr. Tetzloff stated they try to use in house staff but at times needed to go outside of the city and was subject to prevailing wage regulations.
  - vi. Representative Batinick inquired to Sue Micklevitz about what challenges there are regarding shared services amongst different districts with different boundaries. Rep. Batinick asked if daycare is offered to the schools

having some territory outside of the Park District and if the park district charge different rates based on district of residence for the student.

c. Will County Local Governments

- i. William Mayer, DuPage Township talked about the basic functions and programs of DuPage Township. Mayer also explained how DuPage Township and the Township's Road and Bridge District combined. They were legally able to do this after they dropped below 5 miles of maintained roads, by contracting road duties to other local governments.

For the township roads they continue to maintain, those duties fall under the responsibilities of the Township Supervisor. This is instead of the Highway Commissioner position which has been eliminated.

- ii. John Noak, Village of Romeoville talked about the various services the municipalities provides to the public. Romeoville has experienced a large amount of growth over the past few decades in comparison to other communities.

Romeoville has engaged in shared services with other communities and local governments, when appropriate. Mayor Noak introduced the idea of shared services and shared equipment between public works departments.

d. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor for discussion.

- i. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti asked what unfunded mandates are there on the township side. Supervisor Mayer noted that townships have less mandates than other units of government, and that they are sometimes able to provide more cost efficient services.
- ii. Dixon asked why there is not more partnership with not-for-profits occurring. Supervisor Mayer noted that DuPage Township had many partnerships with non profits and directly were helping thousands of township residents through their food bank, foreclosure assistance, a Senior Center. It also helps other local governments who refer people to the townships when those governments are unable to help.
- iii. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti noted that there are 1391 Township road and bridge districts in IL. She asked Supervisor Mayer if he thought they can be combined with general township while retaining the quality of service. Supervisor Mayer stated it was working for DuPage Township, but each township is unique and there are differences circumstances throughout the state to be considered.
- iv. Senator Holmes commented that she thinks we must be careful and that the need for making general recommendations for the entire state when it comes to consolidation. We have to ask if the government is willing and capable to take over the responsibilities of townships, and look at things on a case by case basis.

- v. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti added that the Task Force is being very careful and strategic with its determinations, and that it is mindful that township situations are unique in different communities.
- vi. Dixon asked at how many miles it would make sense to consider merging the road and bridge district with the general township. Supervisor Mayer stated it perhaps may be 25 or 50 miles of road where it made sense according to the individual communities need.
- vii. Representative Batinick asked Mayor Noak to estimate how much it costs to publish notices in newspaper. Mayor Noak responded that it was probably in excess of \$10,000 per year, and that many of the things they are required to publish in newspapers were already available online. Less people have subscriptions to paper, and more people have access to the internet. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti noted that the task force had already
- viii. Dixon asked if Mayor Noak could speak on the issue of building the tax base, and inquired what the challenges are in recruiting companies to Romeoville. Mayor Noak spoke on the large growth in Romeoville population over time in comparison to other communities.
- e. Task Force Report Update
  - i. Norm Walzer, Northern Illinois University, gave an update on the research report progress and shared a short presentation with the task force. A PowerPoint presentation was submitted into the record.

## **V. New Business**

- a. Member comments
  - i. Jeff Aranowski, ISBE: Gave an update on the concept of Innovation Districts. While still in draft form, the general concept of Innovation Districts is to give school districts increased flexibility on how they operate, including unfunded mandate relief, in exchange for setting academic achievement goals. Regular progress would have to be made on the academic goals in order to maintain the Innovation District status.

Aranowski reported that more information on Innovation Districts would be coming from ISBE in the near future.

## **VI. Public Comment**

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti opened the floor for members of the public.
  - i. No members of the public signed up to comment.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- a. Lt. Governor Sanguinetti motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:17 PM.
  - i. At this time it was noted by General Counsel Chastity Boyce that meeting attendance no longer met quorum due to member drop-off on the phone.
  - ii. Therefore, adjournment was tabled until the next Task Force meeting.