

Minutes of the Legislative Subcommittee

The Legislative Subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bob Nuckolls, Members Rick Dean (arrived at 3:15 p.m.), George Gordon, Stan Hoselton and Benjamin Owens

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Judith A. LaCasse, County Administrator's Assistant

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Highway Department

Others Present: Mr. Phil Rever, Normal; Mr. Francis Smith, LeRoy; Mr. Richard Miller, LeRoy; Mr. Ron Darnall, Bloomington; Ms. Susan J. Darnall, Bloomington; Ms. Caitlin Darnall, Bloomington; Mr. Bruce McIlvoy, Normal; Mr. Clif Cralley, Bloomington; Mr. Donald Wey, Heyworth; Mr. Jonathon Stachura, Normal; Judge Ron Dozier, Downs

Chairman Nuckolls called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Nuckolls indicated that, if there is no objection from the Committee, he will present informational item A.4.B., Second Amendment Resolution, for review. He acknowledged the attendance of several individuals regarding the Second Amendment Resolution and asked if the spokesperson for the group would like to address the Committee.

Chairman Nuckolls asked Mr. Lindberg to review the rules of a guest speaking before the Committee. Mr. Lindberg advised that it is up to the discretion of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee meeting. The Rules of the County Board are that an individual can speak for three minutes, an individual representing a group can speak for five minutes and the total testimony taken can be limited to 15 minutes.

Ms. Susan Darnall, Bloomington, distributed some information and addressed the Committee. She presented the following testimony:

"I came here today to ask you to review this resolution and ask for your support to make sure that the citizens of McLean County are guaranteed as an Individual Right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution – the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Along with the resolution, we are submitting petitions that have over 2800 signatures from concerned citizens who live in McLean County. Many of the signatures you will recognize: Dan Brady, Ron Dozier, Bill Yoder, Bill Brady and David Owens. These signatures were collected by a grassroots committee throughout the County and, to the best of our knowledge, are a true and correct sample of our citizens.

In the State of Illinois, 71 other Counties have passed the same resolution protecting the rights of the law abiding citizens of their Counties to Keep and Bear Arms for the defense of Life, Liberty and Property.

McLean County is in the center of the richest farmland in the state with many small towns and villages throughout the rural community. Many of the citizens come from farms with the rich heritage of our forefathers. Just because we are not Cook County or located in the heavy metropolis areas does not mean we are less likely to become a target.

My husband and I were both born in McLean County and have spent our entire life here raising our five children and operating our Gun Shop and Shooting Ranges.

We have had the opportunity over the last 40+ years to be able to meet the people who own firearms and enjoy all safe forms of firearms recreations, such as hunting, competition or just as a hobby. These people are family oriented, dedicated and take the responsibility of owning a firearm. They have taken all the steps necessary as required by Illinois laws to legally own, possess or use a firearm in Illinois.

I receive calls almost every day from concerned citizens who are worried about the escalation of crime and want to learn more about protecting their families. Because of the social breakdown in society, these law abiding citizens can become easy prey to the criminals who walk the streets of our community and roam our countryside. These predators have no conscience or second thoughts about taking a life or the damages they do to our families, financially or emotionally.

Our law enforcement departments cannot be everywhere. They respond as quickly as possible when called, but, unfortunately, it may not be in time.

We as citizens must be able to defend our homes and families when necessary as guaranteed under the Second Amendment.

We do not want McLean County to be known as a gun free zone. This is an open invitation to all types of criminals and predators in our society.

This resolution even benefits those who choose not to own a firearm. Now these criminals still have to assume that they may encounter an armed citizen when plying their trade.

Homeland Security begins at home!!! I am not here asking for anything more than what has already been guaranteed as an Individual Right under The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and under the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

Thank you.”

Ms. Darnall indicated that she is very adamant about shooting sports and passionate about getting young people involved in the sport in the correct manner.

Chairman Nuckolls asked if the Counties that have already passed this resolution did so recently. Ms. Darnall replied that they have passed within the last year.

Ms. Darnall stated that there are laws in the State right now that are attempting to take firearms away from citizens. She indicated that Illinois is not a pro-gun State.

Mr. Gordon asked for a couple of examples of the proposed ideas that would take away firearms. Ms. Darnall noted that one proposal is to require serial numbers on bullets.

Mr. Hoselton advised that he has been informed that Illinois has some of the strictest gun regulations in the United States.

Mr. Francis Smith, LeRoy, noted that Ms. Darnall has been recognized as an exceptional person who goes out of her way to train youth in the safe use of guns.

Mr. Smith pointed out the following information regarding gun laws:

- Only two states do not have a concealed carry law, namely Illinois and Wisconsin.
 - Wisconsin has tried to pass a concealed carry law three times, but the Governor vetoes the law every time.
 - All other 48 states have a concealed carry law.
 - Florida has a no retreat law where if someone confronts you, you can defend yourself on the spot.
- One proposed bill is to put serial numbers on every bullet.
- Many of the proposed laws are ineffective or do not really accomplish anything.
- One proposed law states that you can obtain only one gun a month.
 - If someone should inherit a gun collection, it would mean that person could not acquire the guns.

Mr. Gordon asked if that law refers to acquiring a gun or purchasing a gun. Judge Dozier replied that it would apply to purchasing guns as well as acquiring guns through an inheritance.

Mr. Smith noted that there is a proposed gun ban in Cook County that would eliminate the sales of guns in that area and all gun stores would have to be at least ten miles apart, and a certain number of miles away from a library, school or church. If this law is passed, it will adversely affect a new Cabela hunting and fishing store that opened in that area.

Mr. Smith stated that if McLean County and other Counties pass this proposed Resolution, it could be used as ammunition for our local legislators to fight some of these proposals.

Mr. Gordon thanked Mr. Smith for his input.

Judge Dozier indicated that he spoke with Mr. John Weaver yesterday who told him that some of the Counties made minor amendments to the resolution. Judge Dozier noted that he and Mr. Weaver feel that the last paragraph of the resolution is somewhat confrontational. He suggested that the last paragraph be changed to say "...do hereby oppose the enactment of any legislation that would unreasonably infringe upon the Right of the People to keep and bear arms." Judge Dozier stated that arguments made before the United States Supreme Court this week are so draconian that they ban possession of any hand guns even in one's own home. He indicated that he believes these will be deemed unconstitutional.

Judge Dozier noted that there are some reasonable restrictions on persons keeping and bearing arms. He stated that most reasonable people will acknowledge that there are no freedoms that we have that are absolutely unrestricted. Judge Dozier indicated that the right to protect one's own home is a basic right of humanity.

Mr. Gordon asked in what form was this Resolution when it went to the other Counties where it was proposed as pending action, passed or failed. Judge Dozier responded that he believes that most of the Counties passed the Resolution as it was presented in the packet, but some Counties may have made slight amendments.

Mr. Phil Rever, Normal, submitted a list of proposed laws that Chicago legislators are trying to get passed through the Legislature in Springfield. He reviewed a few more bills which he opposes, including a bill that prohibits guns within 100 miles of Cook County.

Mr. Jonathon Stachura, Normal, stated that he lived in Cook County most of his life. He indicated that they treat gun owners as criminals in Cook County, which prompted him to move his family to McLean County.

Mr. Hoselton asked how this Resolution will be passed through the County. Chairman Nuckolls responded that, at this time, this Resolution is an informational item only. Another Legislative Sub-Committee meeting will need to be held if the Committee determines that they wish to recommend the Resolution as an action item to the Board.

Mr. Gordon recommended that the Committee gather information from the members of the public, as well as other sources to be fully informed at the next meeting.

Ms. Darnall asked how they will be notified of the next meeting. Mr. Lindberg responded that he will contact Ms. Darnall when a meeting is scheduled.

Mr. Gordon advised that he passed out a copy of an annotated copy of the Second Amendment to the Constitution from the American Government textbook he uses in teaching. He noted that he has some concerns with the wording of the Resolution presented in the packet.

Mr. Gordon indicated that he found an article from the Associated Press pertaining to the Washington, D.C. gun ban. He stated that a comment was made in the article that the central question is whether the Second Amendment guarantees the right of individuals to bear arms or instead protects the collective right of States to maintain militias. Mr. Gordon pointed out that the Resolution is worded on the basis of one interpretation of the Second Amendment, which concerns him.

Chairman Nuckolls thanked the citizens attending the meeting for sharing their concerns on gun control.

Chairman Nuckolls announced that there are several items for action under the proposed 2008 Legislative Program.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the items approved by the Legislative Sub-Committee will become part of a Resolution adopting a legislative program that will go to our local Legislators and to Metro Counties. He further explained that if the Legislative Sub-Committee approves the items, they will be forwarded to the County Board for Board recommendation and then will be presented to the Legislators for their support.

Mr. Lindberg reviewed the first item, which is a request to support legislation to adequately fund Probation Services. He indicated that this item includes two bills, namely House Bill 5182 and Senate Bill 2181. House Bill 5182 will create the Illinois Office of Probation Services. The Synopsis as introduced is: *Amends the Unified Code of Corrections and the Probation and Probation Officers Act. Abolishes the Division of Probation Services of the Illinois Supreme Court. Transfers the Division's powers and duties to the Illinois Office of Probation Services. Transfers various functions relating to probation services from the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court or his or her designee to the County Board or the County Board Chairman or President.*

Mr. Lindberg pointed out that HB 5182 has currently been referred to the Rules Committee, which means it is basically a sidelined issue. He noted that this was an attempt to get the Probation Services costs out from under the Supreme Court budget so the County could get fully funded.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the Committee is strictly voting in support of the bills. Mr. Lindberg replied that the Committee is voting to support the bill. He pointed out that just because the Committee supports a bill, does not mean that it will become law.

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Mr. Owens advised that Probation Officers' salaries have been an on-going struggle. He asked if we, as citizens, have representation on the Supreme Court that can be contacted with our concerns. Mr. Lindberg replied that the last time the General Assembly reduced the request of the Supreme Court, the Justices sued to make sure that their salary raises were taken out before consideration of Probation Officers' reimbursement. He advised that the motive for this bill was to get it out from under the Supreme Court so that it could stand on its own.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to Recommend the
McLean County Board Support HB 5182 – Create
Illinois Office of Probation Services.
Motion carried.

Mr. Lindberg advised that Senate Bill 2181 allows Counties to impose a special County Retailers' Occupation Tax for Probation Services. He indicated that this gives the County the option to raise the Sales Tax by quarter percent increments to fund Probation Services. Mr. Lindberg stated that this bill is on Second Reading, which means that it has come out of Committee and is on the floor. He indicated that it will come out of the Senate and go to the House.

Mr. Hoselton asked if this bill includes incorporated areas or only unincorporated areas. Mr. Lindberg replied that he believes it is an overall quarter percent across the County, with no distinction. He indicated that he will check on this issue and let the Committee know.

After a brief discussion, the Committee tabled this item and will make a recommendation at the next Legislative Sub-Committee meeting. Mr. Lindberg will determine if the tax covers everyone in the County, and if there is a cap on the tax.

Motion by Gordon/Dean to Recommend Tabling the
Recommendation on SB 2181 to the next meeting of
the Legislative Sub-Committee in order to garner
more information.
Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls presented the next item, namely a request for approval to support State Bill 2005 – Amendment to Inoperable Motor Vehicle Statute. The Synopsis as introduced is: *Amends the Counties Code. Provides that the definition of "inoperable vehicle" includes any motor vehicle that does not have a current license plate or current license tags attached to it if a current license plate or license*

tags are otherwise required under the Illinois Vehicle Code. Effective immediately. Senate Committee Amendment No. 1: Deletes everything after the enacting clause. Amends the Counties Code. Reinserts the substantive provisions of the introduced bill, and provides that those provisions apply in a non-home rule County with a population of more than 25,000. Effective immediately. Senate Committee Amendment No.2: Provides that, in a County with a population of more than 500,000 (instead of 250,000), the definition of "inoperable motor vehicle" includes a motor vehicle that does not have a current license plate or current license tags.

Mr. Lindberg advised that this bill was introduced by Senator Link from Lake County. He indicated that the bill started out to include in the definition of "inoperable motor vehicle" most of the vehicles with which McLean County has problems. Mr. Lindberg stated that Representative Brady was contacted to ask that he try to get the population down to include 150,000 or more. He added that a week later, a second amendment was introduced that increased the population to 500,000. Mr. Lindberg indicated that this bill is on its Third Reading, which means it is on its way from the House to the Senate.

Motion by Gordon/Owens to Recommend McLean County Board Support Senate Bill 2005 – provided that the proposed Legislation is amended to set the Population Threshold at 150,000 or more to Inoperable Motor Vehicle Statute.
Motion carried with Mr. Dean voting "no."

Chairman Nuckolls presented a request to support Amendments to the Emergency Telephone Systems Act. He noted that this item includes two House Bills. The first is HB 4505 – Allows ETSB funds to be spent for Emergency Warning System. Synopsis of HB 4505 as introduced: *Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that moneys in an Emergency Telephone System Fund account established by a Municipality or County may be used to pay for costs associated with emergency warning systems. Effective immediately.*

Mr. Lindberg explained that the County could use ETSB funds to help improve the Emergency Warning Sirens used for tornadoes and other emergencies. He indicated that currently this is not included in the ETSB Act and this bill would include it in the ETSB Act.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to Recommend McLean County Board Support HB 4505 – Allows ETSB funds to be spent for Emergency Warning System.
Motion carried.

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Chairman Nuckolls reviewed the second bill, which is HB 4725 – Allows County Board members to serve on ETSB. Synopsis: *Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Provides that County Board members may serve on an Emergency Telephone System Board.*

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend McLean
County Board Support HB 4725 – Allows County
Board Members to Serve on ETSB.

Mr. Gordon asked Mr. Lindberg how staff feels about HB 4725. Mr. Lindberg replied that three bills were introduced to accomplish this same thing. Mr. Gordon asked what are the concerns regarding this bill. Mr. Lindberg responded that ETSB problems and issues come to the County Board all of the time. As such, the Board members would like more direct representation and involvement in those matters.

Mr. Owens suggested that it is important for Board members to have representation on the different authority boards.

Mr. Gordon expressed concerns with this issue. He asked if there is a prohibition in State law. Mr. Lindberg replied that State law delineates who can be appointed and it does not include members of the County Board.

Chairman Nuckolls called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried with Mr. Gordon voting “no.”

Chairman Nuckolls presented a request for approval to support County Board authority to increase Court Fees. He stated that this item includes two bills. The first is House Bill 4956 – Allows County Board to increase Children’s Waiting Room Fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00. HB 4956 synopsis: *Amends the Clerks of Courts Act. Provides that a clerk may charge a Children’s Waiting Room fee of \$10.00 (instead of \$5.00). Effective immediately.*

Mr. Lindberg explained that support of this bill does not mean that staff is planning on asking the Board to increase the fees. However, he noted that any time the Legislature is willing to give the County some latitude; it would be prudent to accept.

Motion by Hoselton/Gordon to Recommend McLean County Board Support HB 4956 – Allows County Board to increase Children’s Waiting Room Fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00.
Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls advised that the second bill under consideration is State Bill 2321 – Allows County Board to increase Law Library Fees. SB 2321 synopsis: *Amends the Counties Code. Provides that the County Board may authorize a County Law Library fee of not more than (i) \$18.00 in 2008, (ii) \$19.00 in 2009, and (iii) \$21.00 in 2010 and thereafter (now, \$13.00). Effective immediately.*

Motion by Owens/Dean to Recommend McLean County Board Support SB 2321 – Allows County Board to increase Law Library Fees.

Mr. Hoselton asked for clarification on this bill as it pertains to maintaining the Law Library for the use of attorneys. Mr. Lindberg replied that the Law Library is maintained for the use of anyone who wants to use the library. He indicated that the Law Library was started with a donation of books from the McLean County Bar Association (“Bar”). The books were subsequently destroyed and the Law Library became automated. Mr. Lindberg stated that the Bar discontinued paying its annual fee since the books were destroyed. An Agreement was made within the last few months for a reduced fee to the Bar.

Mr. Hoselton asked who will pay this fee. Mr. Lindberg replied that the fee is collected every time someone files a civil case.

Mr. Hoselton asked how often is the Law Library used. Mr. Lindberg replied that he does not know how often it is used. He noted that the Library is used by the following individuals:

- attorneys when they are in Court,
- citizens representing themselves in Court,
- indigent people dealing with Orders of Protection.

Chairman Nuckolls asked for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls reviewed a request to support HB 4599 – Allows Property Tax Assessments to be published via Internet. HB 4599 Synopsis: *Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that in addition to or instead of publishing any property tax assessment in a newspaper, a County of less than 3,000,000 may publish the assessment on its internet website. Sets forth requirements for the Internet publication.*

Mr. Lindberg advised that this bill was Rule 19(a), which means that this bill is dead. He informed the Committee that the County paid \$136,000.00 in advertising in 2007.

Chairman Nuckolls reviewed SB 1965 – Increases State Reimbursement for Prisoner Medical Costs. SB 1965 Synopsis: *Amends the County Jail Act. Provides that if a person confined in a County Jail is in need of medical services and is determined eligible for medical assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code at the time the person is detained (rather than has already been determined eligible for medical assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code at the time the person is initially detained pending trial), the cost of such services, to the extent such cost exceeds \$500.00, shall be reimbursed by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services under that Code. Provides that “medical expenses” include medical and hospital services but do not include expenses incurred for medical care or treatment provided to a person on account of a self-inflicted injury incurred prior to or in the course of an arrest. Provides that when medical services are required by any person held in custody, the County, private hospital, physician, or any public agency which provides such services shall be entitled to obtain reimbursement from the County. Eliminates the ability of such entities to obtain reimbursement from the Arrestee’s Medical Costs fund. Changes the name of the Arrestee’s Medical Costs Fund to the County Jail Medical Costs Fund. Provides that in such cases, the County shall be entitled to obtain reimbursement from the County Jail Medical Costs Fund to the extent moneys are available from the Fund. Provides that moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for reimbursement to the County of costs for medical expenses and administration of the Fund. Effective immediately.*

Mr. Lindberg indicated that this would allow the County to request more Federal reimbursement for medical costs of the prisoners in the County Jail.

Motion by Dean/Owens to Recommend McLean
County Board Support SB 1965 – Increases State
Reimbursement for Prisoner Medical Costs.
Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls presented a request for approval to oppose HB 1518 – Raises Juvenile Delinquent age from 17 years to 18 years. Mr. Lindberg explained that this bill would extend the privileges and benefits of being in the Juvenile System rather than the Adult System. He advised that the costs are almost four times per person to deal with a juvenile delinquent than to deal with an adult felon.

Mr. Lindberg indicated that there may be some social benefit to this bill, but the cost implication is very severe for Counties.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to Recommend McLean County Board Oppose HB 1518 which Raises the Juvenile Delinquent Age from 17 Years to 18 Years.
Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls presented a request for approval to oppose HB 4164 – Limits Special Use Permits to five years. HB 4164 Synopsis: *Amends the Counties Code and the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a special use permit may not be granted for a term of more than five years. Provides that special use permits granted before the effective date of the amendatory Act expire five years after that effective date. Denies home rule powers. Effective immediately.*

Mr. Lindberg explained that all Special Use Permits would be invalid after five years. He noted that people build houses and permanent structures with Special Use Permits, making this bill devastating.

Mr. Gordon asked if this bill were to pass, would a Special Use Permit granted in 2008 have to be re-filed with filing fees in 2013. Mr. Lindberg replied that there is no “grandfather clause” – any Special Use Permit on the books will expire five years after this bill passes. It specifically denies any home-rule authority to overrule the law.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend McLean County Board Oppose HB 4164 which limits Special Use Permits to Five Years.
Motion carried.

Chairman Nuckolls presented the Metro Counties Legislative Update Memo. Mr. Lindberg pointed out that the Memo lists bills that Metro Counties supports and opposes. He indicated that Metro Counties and the Legislative Subcommittee both oppose HB 1518 and HB 4164. Mr. Lindberg added that Metro Counties did not take a public position on SB 2250, SB 1958, SB 1959 and SB 1960.

Mr. Lindberg noted that the County does not support any bills that raise the employer's cost.

Mr. Lindberg reviewed a Resolution of the McLean County Board Supporting full Federal Funding for Veteran's Health Care. He noted that this informational Resolution was presented by Mr. Jerry Vogler, Veterans Assistance Commission, at the Tuesday, November 13, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Lindberg indicated that the version included in the packet on pages 56-57 is a version that Mr. Zeunik redrafted. He stated that the Executive Committee referred this Resolution to the Legislative Sub-Committee for consideration. Mr. Lindberg pointed out that minutes from the Executive Committee meeting are also included.

Mr. Hoselton indicated that he agreed with Mr. Selzer's comments in the Executive Committee Minutes that he does not know of any veteran injured in service that is not getting care. However, he expressed some concern that today's veterans may not be receiving adequate care.

Chairman Nuckolls recommended that this issue be referred to the next Legislative Sub-Committee.

Mr. Lindberg pointed out that the intent of the Resolution is to notify your representatives in the U.S. Congress that you want them to draft, sponsor, campaign for, and support such legislation so that the Federal Government adopts full funding for veterans health care as a mandatory budget item.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to bring the resolution back as an action item for the next Legislative Sub-Committee meeting.

Chairman Nuckolls presented for discussion the "Illinois Works" Capital Construction Program.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, McLean County Engineer, advised that, over the last year, there has been discussion in Springfield for a Capital Bill to fund increased roadwork, schools and other infrastructures for the State of Illinois. He indicated that he does not believe this program has been introduced into the Legislature, but there probably will be a bill coming forth to fund a Capital Program.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that, in the past 30 years, when road funding has increased for the State, there is usually an equal increase in the level of road funding for Local Agencies. He expressed concern that this is not being discussed with the current Capital Bill.

Mr. Mitchell advised that County road construction costs have increased dramatically since the last funding increase in 1998. He indicated that asphalt resurfacing project costs have increased 118%. Mr. Mitchell reported that oil and chip construction and maintenance, which is the main work done on the 1,550 miles of Township Highways, has increased 94%. Bridge construction concrete has increased 134% since 1998. Mr. Mitchell stated that this means that the County can only resurface less than half the mileage of roads that could be resurfaced in 1998.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that he hopes there will be a Capital Bill that will have a Local Government share within the bill. He asked for the Committee's support in lobbying our legislature for increased funding for Local Highways when a Capital Bill emerges in the legislature. Mr. Mitchell stated that he wanted the Committee to be aware of this issue.

Mr. Owens asked if it was necessary to draft a resolution to be acted upon at the next meeting to be prepared in case it should come up in the legislature in the near future. Mr. Lindberg replied that he will work with Mr. Mitchell to draft a resolution requesting that the local delegation in Springfield make sure that any Capital Bills include Local Government Road and Bridge funding.

Chairman Nuckolls asked Mr. Owens to discuss the Federal Transportation Bill and Federal Bankruptcy Law. Mr. Owens indicated that these are information items. He distributed material that he received from the NACo Conference. Mr. Owens advised that NACo will be talking about funding a Capitol Program in transportation at both the State and Federal levels. He indicated that the material includes recommendations from a study. Mr. Owens noted that NACo will discuss this issue again in July. Mr. Owens pointed out the following questions NACo will discuss:

- Will they do away with the fuel tax and go with the miles traveled?
- How will alternative fuels be taxed?

Mr. Owens reviewed the Federal Bankruptcy Law, noting the concern with foreclosures nationwide. He stated that, when someone files bankruptcy, often the Bankruptcy Judge can renegotiate car loans, boat loans, etc. However, the Judge

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cannot negotiate the rate on home loans. Mr. Owens indicated that NACo is asking that Counties support legislation to allow Judges to negotiate the interest on home loans.

After a discussion, the Legislative Sub-Committee concurred that another meeting will be scheduled at a time and date to be determined.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary

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