



Kane County

KC Legislative Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

GUMZ, LINDER, Bates, Daugherty, Gripe, Molina, Strathmann, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

10:30 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Gumz called today's meeting to order at 10:40 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member Gary Daugherty Board Member Myrna Molina
ABSENT	Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Allan*, Arroyo, Kious*, Penesis*, Tepe*; OEM Dir. Buziecki; Deputy. Dir. of Transportation Rickert; McGuireWoods Consultant Bales*; KCHD Exec. Dir. Isaacson; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Gumz announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Members Daugherty and Molina attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: February 19, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Mavis Bates

5. Public Comment

Kane County resident Marc Avelar spoke on the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM). He referenced three affordable pharmacies including CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, and Optum RX. All three pharmacies are owned by insurance companies. He stated that in 2019, he attended a round table meeting hosted by then Congressman Sean Casten, discussing prescription drugs and affordability. During this time, Avelar stated that the House leadership was to pass the legislation for prescription drugs with Big Pharma. On April 4, 2025, Avelar stated that Senate Bill 709 was amended with Senate Amendment 1, and has been renamed the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This is a significant set of reforms to regulate PBM's. Avelar requested that the Legislative Committee monitor this Bill, and if necessary, report it to the May 7 Executive Committee meeting in order to help Kane County residents afford their prescriptions. Lastly, Avelar highlighted that the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) issued a letter co-signed by a bipartisan group of 39 State Attorney Generals, in order to ask Congress to pass this legislation.

6. Legislative Update

McGuireWoods Consultant Greg Bales stated that the House passed the Senate budget resolution for the Budget Reconciliation Process. Last week, the House passed the Senate Budget Resolution. He explained that the chambers pass a resolution that instructs committees to develop plans to reduce or increase taxing authorities, and spending plans. Bales anticipates public hearings in early May. Once committees start having public hearings, more information will be provided. Secondly, Bales reported that Members of Congress and the respected appropriation committees in the House and Senate are starting to solicit fiscal year 2026 requests for congressional directive spending for community project funding. He reminded the committee of the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2025, which was passed, and extends federal spending for fiscal year 2025 through September into October 1. Unfortunately, when a CR was passed, mass congressional directive spending was eliminated nationally. Currently, all requests for FY25 are re-submitted and ideally selected for FY26. Bales stated that Senate Bill 1909, which is a Quick-Take authorizing a bill, was passed unanimously through the Senate. The bill will move to the House, with no expected oppositions. House Bill 2442, which is a traffic signal preemption bill requested by emergency management, was passed unanimously through the House with bipartisan sponsors. Senate Bill 1424, which is the leasing of county property legislation, currently has an extension on the bill, along with a third reading in the Senate. Lastly, Senate Bill 71, which is a school safety bill with local and state emergency management offices developing safety plans with school districts in case of a derailment incident, is being negotiated with Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Dir. Scott Buziecki, and the City of Aurora. The Bill is expected to move forward smoothly. Bales addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion took place.

Deputy Dir. of Transportation Rickert thanked the lobbyists for all their efforts in assisting with projects to go smoothly. He stated that the Community Funding Project is currently being worked on, with assistance from Exec. Dir. of Planning and Transportation Heidi Files. Applications have been submitted. The project at Randall Road and Big Timber is an ongoing federal project. Rickert reported that to be eligible for federal funds for the "Safe Streets for All" aspect, it is required to be adopted at the regional level by the end of May. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is engaged with the Kane County Transportation department to submit applications by the end of June.

Kane County Health Department (KCHD) Exec. Dir. Isaacson explained that a lot of federal funding goes into local health initiatives. He stated that the federal freezes on grants has negatively impacted the health department and multiple positions. Isaacson hopes to continue to work with the state health department, representatives at the state and federal level, as well as lobbyists for legislation assistance.

7. New Business

A. Legislative Budget, Bills & Webpage

Chairman Gumz suggested having a legislative breakfast for a meet-and-greet with legislators and elected officials to discuss the legislative budget and high priorities for the county. She asked the committee and department heads to share their experience with participating at the breakfasts, and provide their input.

ITD staff Blair Peters shared his most recent experience with setting up the legislative breakfast. He stated that legislative committee members attended a breakfast in Springfield, Illinois, where boxed lunches were delivered. He noted that for several years, the legislative breakfast was held in the auditorium at the government center. Legislators and Elected Officials would normally attend, with the meeting lasting about an hour.

McGuireWoods Consultant Greg Bales stated that he remembers attending a legislative breakfast as a staffer for Senator Durbin. The meetings were conducted smoothly with great conversations and questions amongst all members and legislators who attended.

Deputy Dir. of Transportation Rickert commented that the legislative breakfasts were occasionally set up as a panel where questions were directed, and county priorities were highlighted. He indicated that these breakfasts helped to unify the county's position on high priorities.

Committee Chair Gumz took all recommendations into consideration. The committee came to an agreement to set up a small legislative breakfast. Further discussion took place. Gumz announced that the legislative draft agenda is being developed. She is collaborating with Public Information's Officer (PIO) Julie Mann to create a designated legislative webpage. The draft legislative agenda will be presented at the next meeting.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Dir. Scott Buziecki referenced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and explained how the grant process works. He reported that a mitigation grant was recently applied for to assist in developing a emergency recovery plan. Buziecki reminded the committee of the passing of the Kane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan earlier this year, which will be due for approval in year 2029. Much discussion ensued.

8. Old Business

A. Removal of Legislative Co-Chair

Chairman Gumz reviewed the suggestions that were made at the last committee meeting on the removal of the Co-Chair language. Specific language is currently being edited in the resolution. Once a draft resolution is created, it will be presented at the next meeting.

9. Co-chair Comments

Co-Chair Linder believes the Legislative Committee is on the right track. He strongly suggested that committee members and lobbyists continue to communicate efficiently.

10. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

11. Reports Placed on File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Mavis Bates

12. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Mavis Bates
SECONDER:	Jon Gripe

This meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary