

League of Women Voters

Kane County Government Monitoring Report

MEETING: [Public Service Committee](#)

DATE: September 15, 2008 REPORTING: D Bakk

Members: Chairman Michael Kenyon, Allan, de la Isla, Lewis, Kudicki

Absent: Collins, VanCleave

Press in attendance: Steve Lord, Sun-Times Sting/Beacon

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

- Approval of August 18th, 2008 minutes: Not in packet for public at meeting. passed
- Monthly Financial Report: Public Service Budget Report. See attached pdf file. Mentioned that clerk was over budget by 3%. Kenyon remarked "It's expensive to have democracy. We would save a lot if we didn't have to have elections."
- Public Comment: Steve Anderson, Attorney-Pingree Grove & Montgomery on Special Service Areas (SSA) Lengthy discussion. Anderson asked to have \$2,000 per year added assessment to 6 property owners in SSA area be removed. Collector/Treasurer Rickert asked the county to "please not entertain this request." He has been told to cut back on his budget and this is the actual cost for his department to process. He said if the county would like to come up with those funds, then fine. He also asked the lawyer how much he was making to represent his clients. Kenyon said that wasn't necessary to ask. Clerk representative mentioned that the state's attorney was requested to investigate costs of what can be charged and not charged regarding these matters.
- Recorder: (Wegman) Monthly Report. see pdf.
- Collector: (Rickert) Monthly Report. See pdf. Kenyon wanted to know how many people did their taxes at the office and wondered why they wouldn't spend a stamp to mail and paid all that money for gas to get to county office. Rickert reported 2,000 paid at the office.
- Supervisor of Assessments (Armstrong) see attachment on programs and community outreach he is offering: Property tax clinics, help for homeowners clinics on housing rehab programs, emergency repair programs, first-time homebuyer programs, foreclosure prevention counseling, homestead exemptions. First program was on Sept. 6th. Five people attended. Armstrong stated that media did not cover it sufficiently. Also go to www.co.kane.il.us/soa
- County Clerk (Cunningham-absent) Monthly Report, Resolutions. See pdf attached. Early voting date is wrong. Actual start date is October 13, even though it is a holiday. Voters in precincts which have been reapportioned have been notified. Would like to do early voting with City of Aurora but haven't heard back. One Jewel site they requested to have early voting at turned them down because they thought it was "political."

- *Regional Office of Education* (Johnson). Handed out “Kane County Regional Office of Education 2007-08 Annual Report.” Report uses information from end of year reports of programs and services and from end of year school reports from the Illinois State Board Education Website to make as comprehensive as possible. Organizational charts, budgets, school safety and security, juvenile justice center, general educational development, dropout intervention project, etc. included. HLS Visits by District and School listed. Not on website yet: www.kaneroe.org. Call 630-232-5955 or visit 210 S. Sixth Street, Geneva, IL

CRITICAL ISSUES: The Help for Homeowners Clinics is an expensive program to put on. Federal Community Development Block Grant/HOME funds are used--well over \$100,000. An investigation into why only five people appeared at the first clinic needs to be conducted to justify the cost of using funds that could have gone to affordable housing projects instead.

FUTURE ACTION: The League should continue to have representatives at public meetings whether they be at the county or local levels. Again, the low number--at this meeting only one reporter showed--should be a concern to citizens living in Kane County.