

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

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2015  
 County of DuPage Board Room  
 421 N County Farm Road  
 Wheaton, Illinois  
 1:00 PM

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Evelyn Sanguinetti	Lt. Governor	State of Illinois	Y
Tom Demmer	Representative	90 <sup>th</sup> District	Y
Mark Batinick	Representative	97 <sup>th</sup> District	Y
Jack Franks	Representative	63 <sup>rd</sup> District	Y
Emmanuel Chris Welch	Representative	7 <sup>th</sup> District	Phone
Dan Duffy	Senator	26 <sup>th</sup> District	Y
Dale Righter	Senator	55 <sup>th</sup> District	N
Martin A. Sandoval	Senator	12 <sup>th</sup> District	N
Linda Holmes	Senator	42 <sup>nd</sup> District	Y
Karen Darch	Mayor	Barrington	Y
Karen Hasara	Former Mayor	Springfield	Phone
Brad Cole	Executive Director	Illinois Municipal League	Y
Ryan Spain	City Council Member	Peoria	Phone
Dan Cronin	Chairman	DuPage County	Y
Michael Bigger	Former Chairman	Stark County	Y
Mark Kern	Chairman	St. Clair County	Phone
John Espinoza	Board Member	Whiteside County	N
Rev. James T. Meeks	Chairman	Illinois State Board of Education	N
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	Regional Superintendent	DuPage Schools	Y
Steffanie Seegmiller	Chairman	Arthur School Board	Phone
M. Hill Hammock	Senior Fellow	Metropolitan Planning Council	Y
Char Foss-Eggemann	Trustee	Park Ridge Library Board	Y
Warren L. Dixon III	Township Assessor	Naperville	Y
George Obernagle	Chairman	Kaskaskia Regional Port District	Phone
	Non-Voting Member		
Clayton Frick		Deloitte Services LP	Phone

- produce information including annual financial and budget reports to the county.
- DuPage County then utilized a consulted firm to examine 24 county-appointed agencies and this revealed the need for reform, which prompted the ACT (Accountability, Consolidation, and Transparency) Initiative.
  - DuPage County then utilized a consulted firm to examine 24 county-appointed agencies and this revealed the need for reform, which prompted the ACT (Accountability, Consolidation, and Transparency) Initiative.
  - To date, this has saved taxpayers over \$100 million through shared services, joint purchasing, employee benefit reforms, and modifications to procurement policies.
- SB494 allowed DuPage County to dissolve up to 13 county-appointed agencies
- Dan Cronin discussed lessons learned in DuPage
  - Progress is slow and incremental
  - The streamlining of government needs to be incentivized and encouraged
  - Members of the General Assembly should be put on record acknowledging the size and cost of local government in Illinois is burdensome and reduces transparency.
  - Local government officials need to have the necessary tools to determine which units of government should be dissolved.
- Dan Cronin then introduced Mayor Martin Tully of Downers Grove to discuss their successful dissolution of the “paper” Fairview Fire Protection District.
  - Mayor Tully:
    - Fairview Fire Protection district levied a property tax on households within borders yet it provided little service.
    - It also amassed over \$110,000 in debts over time.
    - They created a special service area to assess the assessment of the properties within the Fairview Fire District which then provided a reliable source of funding for the services residents were receiving, and eliminate past debts.
    - Also allowed for dissolution of the Fairview Fire District.
- Time is allotted for questions:
  - Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti: “Where would you like to see the ACT Initiative five years from now?”
    - Dan Cronin responded they want to take this to the next level, and he believes Lake and McHenry counties will soon be embracing SB494. He also said he sees things moving incrementally and elected officials need to respond to the

- We have the legislative authority to dissolve thirteen and we have dissolved two, progress can be slow. We dissolved the Fairview Fire Protection District and Timberlake Estates. Currently we are working with a few units to consider sharing services. There is a lot being done involving the adoption of best practices and collaborative measures in the way of mosquito abatement.
  - Representative Demmer: “Are their hurdles in state law that makes sharing services more difficult? What might be some incentives for consolidation?”
    - In respect to the hurdles for shared services, there is a built-in inertia. There are jobs, lawyers, and lobbyists that hinge on some of these services. There is not currently an incentive beyond providing good government, but there is an opportunity to incentivize through state law. There should be incentives to counter the inertia of local government.

b. Brian Costin, Policy Director, Lt. Governor, Current Consolidation Laws

## V. New Business

a. Discussion of proposed consolidation bills

- HB228: Local Government Creation Moratorium (Rep Franks)

- Senator Holmes: “When is the last time we created a new unit of government?”
  - Costin: That is something we can work with the Comptroller to get a better handle on the units of government and produce that at a future meeting.
- Warren Dixon III: “ (1:36:40)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Six individuals signed up and participated in Public Comment.

- Steve R. Scott: As a past President of the Illinois High School and College Drivers Ed Association, Steve Scott was concerned with the discussion of the last Task Force meeting held in Bloomington regarding Drivers Ed. He wanted to remind Task Force members that Drivers Ed is not an unfunded mandate, and the money comes from permit applications. Seventy-three percent of young drivers that get certificates of completion are from public high schools in Illinois. He argued that we need to consider that it takes money and time to prepare the next generation for the world, and if there would be dire consequences to having the mandate removed from schools.
- Brent Johnston: Brent Johnston represents the Illinois Drivers Ed Association and during his comment asked Task Force members to think beyond dollars and cents, and that we are discussing the lives of our young. He also mentioned that all state statutes are a mandate in some form, and that we can’t attack driver safety.