

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, April 8, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Ed Whitcomb, Jeff Fore, Bob Lott and Allan Anderson were physically present. A quorum was present. State's Attorney Ken Baumgarten and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

Chairperson Kirby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Hearing of Citizens (Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action)

There were no unscheduled public comments/requests for Board action.

Health Insurance Claim Appeal (Internal Review & Deliberations)

The Board gathered to further discuss and review a health insurance claims appeal made by Clarilee Belt. Denise Barr, an attorney representing former employee Clarilee Belt and a retiree participant in the County's self-funded health insurance program, was in attendance along with Ms. Belt.

Commissioner Lott asked how Ms. Belt became aware that the County's health insurance program was deducting monies from a Consec health insurance cancer policy that Ms. Belt had purchased. Ms. Barr informed it was around February 2012 when Ms. Belt received her diagnosis. Ms. Barr informed that Ms. Belt became aware when bills/explanation of benefits arrived from Mutual Medical indicating deductions based on the amount the Consec health insurance cancer policy would pay. She informed that it was in December 2012 that Mutual Medical provided Ms. Belt a letter denying her appeal that these monies should not have been deducted.

Commissioner Anderson asked what kind of input Ms. Belt received from the Department of Insurance. Ms. Barr indicated they informed they had no jurisdiction over the matter as it was a self-funded plan.

Chairperson Kirby asked for confirmation on when the self-funded plan was adopted. Alex Snedeker and Jason Boothe (attorney), representing Snedeker Risk Management and broker of the County's self-funding health insurance, were in attendance and informed that the self-funded plan started July 1, 2010.

Commissioner Lott asked how the County knows about such policies. Ms. Barr informed that the County, at some point, had allowed sales people to sell such products to employees.

There was discussion about how BlueCross/BlueShield handled claims for Ms. Belt in 1998 were largely irrelevant to the matter at hand. There was much discussion about how these salespeople were given access to employees and whether the County needed to stop such products from being sold. Mr. Duncan clarified that the non-Fraternal Order of Police plan had not "mirrored" the BlueCross/BlueShield plan the County was on when the transition was made to self-fund, since the Board started approving various amendments with the most recent amendments made to largely "mirror" the HOPEtrust plan. He stated that he believed the "mirroring" of the BlueCross/BlueShield plan only had relevance to the Fraternal Order of Police plan at this point (which is Ms. Belt's plan).

Commissioner Anderson asked the Snedeker Risk Management representatives if they had experienced any such claim appeals in the past. They informed they had not.

There was additional general discussion about the matter.

Executive Session

Commissioner Lott moved to enter into executive session to discuss as allowed by (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12) at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting reconvened at approximately 7:39 p.m.

State's Attorney Ken Baumgarten provided an overview of a criminal matter involving EMS Department employee Billy Gum, informing that he had plead guilty to a class 3 felony (related to theft).

Bill Wheat, EMS Department employee, was in attendance and stated that there was more money that was missing from the Paramedic's Association bank account. State's Attorney Baumgarten informed that his office could not prove that Mr. Gum was involved in all monies missing from the Paramedic's Association and if another person could be proven to have committed a theft, the person would be appropriately charged.

Mr. Gum was in attendance and apologized to the Paramedic's Association, informing that he had "messed up". Mr. Gum informed that he was still employable as a paramedic, with a class 3 felony, as his license could remain valid. He informed that he would attempt to repay the monies.

Mr. Wheat, representing himself, informed that he believed, per County policies, that Mr. Gum's crime was reason for termination, expressed concern of the liability that a felon working for the EMS Department would cause and informed that EMT's partnered with Mr. Gum may be exposed to additional liability issues since his credibility may called into question as someone who could defend the actions of his fellow EMTs, if needed.

Mr. Gum informed that he had served the County for 25 years and that he had volunteered much of his time to the County.

Executive Session

Commissioner Fore moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel/specific employee(s) as allowed by (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting reconvened at approximately 8:13 p.m.

Commissioner Lott moved to terminate Mr. Gum's employment with the County due to the commission of a felony. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EMS Chief, Larry Graf, informed Mr. Gum that he had been terminated from his employment with the County and that he would receive pay for three days he was suspended, in addition to other pay he was owed (e.g., unused vacation).

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Fore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.