CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 28, 2012
Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 4
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, C. Pius Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Elliott

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Borowski (City of Champaign Township Supervisor), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), Matthew Roeschley (Attorney for the City of Champaign Township)

CALL TO ORDER

Weibel called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rhodes called the roll. Magsamen, Rusk, and Weibel were present at the time of the roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Rusk to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Magsamen. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

PUBLIC AID APPEAL FROM THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN TOWNSHIP REGARDING APPELLANT #01.11

Receipt of Evidence from Appellant and Township

Weibel swore in Appellant #1.11. Appellant said the Statement of Facts made it sound as if he was irrational and that was not the case. Appellant said he spent a lot of time getting together the requested paperwork only to learn he did not qualify. Appellant did not understand why he was not told he did not qualify in the first place.

Weibel asked the Appellant to clarify what he considered unfair. Appellant stated the caseworker told him he would probably qualify, so he took the time to collect the necessary paperwork only to be denied.

Weibel swore in the Assistant Attorney for the City of Champaign Township, M. Roeschley and the City of Champaign Township Supervisor, P. Borowski. Borowski stated the first time she met Appellant #1.11 was when he brought in some of the paperwork and the caseworker was not in at that time. Borowski stated she showed Appellant a copy of the law that says if an applicant has record of either of these felonies, they are considered ineligible for General Assistance. Borowski informed Appellant he had the right to appeal and he did.

Roeschley cited the section of the Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/1-10) Drug Convictions: *Persons convicted of …a Class X felony, or a Class 1 felony,…shall not be eligible for cash assistance provided under this Code.*

A copy of the General Assistance Questionnaire, which, was filled out by the Appellant, was entered into evidence. At the bottom of the form in large bold letters, it states… ***if you answered YES to any of the following questions, then you are ineligible for General Assistance-Transitional Assistance.***

Appellant #1.11 reiterated again that if the Township already knew that he was ineligible why they had him gather the necessary paperwork. Borowski responded that she was not present the first time Appellant visited the office for assistance. Borowski said her office always asks if an applicant has a felony conviction. Borowski said since she was not present she could not say that the caseworker did this. Borowski stated that they still give out the application even when the applicant states they have a felony. Borowski said if the Appellant could get his record expunged then he could be eligible.

MOTION by Rusk to enter into Closed Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(4) to Consider Evidence or Testimony Presented in Open Hearing to This Quasi – Adjudicative Body; seconded by to accept the township's statement of facts into evidence; seconded by Magsamen. **Magsamen, Rusk, and Weibel voted in favor of the motion.**

The committee entered into Closed Session at 4:21 p.m. The committee resumed Open Session at 4:23 p.m.

Announcement of Decision

MOTION by Rusk to uphold the City of Champaign Township's decision to find Appellant #01.11 ineligible for general assistance benefits based on a Class 1 Felony conviction; seconded by Magsamen. **Magsamen, Rusk, and Weibel voted in favor of the motion. Appeal denied.**

OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant