

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council
FULL COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Illinois State Library
300 South Second St., Room 403/404
Springfield, IL 62701

A 06/06

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Piazza called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and read the following statement, “I have determined that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the Open Meetings Act is not practical or prudent because on March 9, 2020 the Governor of Illinois declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.”

He then asked Micah Miller to take the roll call. The following were present:

Council Members	Present	Absent
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X	
Lt. Col. David Byrd, Illinois State Police	X	
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X	
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department	X	
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department		X
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X	
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X	
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X	
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X	
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X	
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X	

Council Staff	Present	Absent
Micah Miller, Program Director	X	
Sherry Brticevich, Grant Monitor	X	
Amy Williams, Legal Counsel	X	
Bill House, Budget Analyst	X	
Dave Fuchs, Program Assistant	X	

Chairman Piazza recognized that a quorum was present (6 or more).
The following individuals were also in attendance:

Capt. Elmer Garza, ISATT
Sgt. Adam Broshous, ISATT
Dwayne Killian, TCAT
Sgt. Ed Grizzle, TCAT
Doug Beckman, Village Administrator, Village of Thornton
Lt. Matt Jany, MEATTF
Lt. Gary Brewer, Jr., MEATTF
Kevin Martin, Illinois Insurance Association
Tiffany Baum, Dept. of Information Technology, Secretary of State
Terri Coombes, Deputy Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
Josh Potts, Programs and Policies, Secretary of State
Lana Shatat, General Counsel's Office, Secretary of State
Jim Roach, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
Michael Cooke, Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Chairman Piazza welcomed everyone and noted the following new members who have joined the Council:

Charles Dougherty, Manager of Pekin Insurance's SIU Department, will be filling the rest of the term for Dana Severinghaus who has taken a position as the new Director of the Illinois Department of Insurance. Consequently, she has stepped down from her position as a member of the Council and of the Grant Review Committee.

Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago PD Major Auto Theft Investigations Unit, has taken over for Sgt. Keith Blair, who accepted a new position and will no longer be serving on the Council.

Molly Hart, Government Relations for AAA Insurance, will be serving as the official designee for AAA – The Auto Club Group, replacing Nick Jarmusz who previously served for AAA on the Council.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Piazza asked if there were comments on the minutes from the September 25, 2020 meeting. Hearing none, Chairman Piazza made the motion to approve and Lt. Col. Byrd seconded. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote, 10 yes – 0 no.

Vote on minutes from September 25, 2020

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Col. David Byrd, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department	X		
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X		

3. Program Director’s report – Micah Miller

a. Vote of Grant Review Committee member

Mr. Miller welcomed the new members and reminded everyone that they serve 4-year terms by statute (100-0373), those terms took effect on January 1, 2018 and they expire on January 1, 2022. He also noted that the 5-member Grant Review Committee (GRC) currently had a vacancy and those appointments are handled by a vote of the Full Council. Mr. Miller explained that the GRC meets four times a year, they have more in-depth conversations with the grantees, review budget request and make recommendations to the Full Council.

Chairman Piazza made a motion for Matt Gall to serve on the Grant Review Committee, noting that he would be replacing a sitting member of the insurance industry (Allstate being the former, COUNTRY Financial being the latter). Mr. Gall said that he would be happy to accept the position. Larry Johnson seconded the motion, which passed with 9 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain.

Vote for Matt Gall to be appointed to the Grant Review Committee

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Col. David Byrd, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department	X		
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial			X
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance	X		

Mr. Miller mentioned that the GRC met on January 14 and discussed the feasibility of opening the RFP process to solicit grant applications for year 3 and year 4 funding. He noted that Council Staff recommended against opening the RFP, due to long-term funding issues. He also noted that the GRC members did not express objection to the recommendation, but did express concern over carrying a high balance in the Trust Fund.

Mr. Miller noted that the new Council, which was restructured in 2018 allocates a significant portion of funding (50% annually) for a new mandatory insurance program and therefore the overall Trust Fund balance does not accurately account for the portion of funding available to be granted out.

4. Financial Report – Bill House

Chairman Piazza asked Bill House to update the members on the trust fund. Mr. House reported a current Trust Fund balance of \$17,288,833. He also noted that incoming revenue from annual insurance payments are split 50/50 between the Mandatory Insurance division and the MVTPIV Council.

Chairman Piazza asked what level of funding was currently available to be granted out. Mr. House indicated approximately \$8 million. Mr. Johnson asked if that included current collections for 2021 and Mr. House said that it did not. Mr. Miller reminded the members that they collect just under \$7 million annually, which would add approximately \$3.5 million to the current \$8 million for MVTPIV Council grants. He noted that many of these payments would not arrive until March, which is their busiest month.

There was discussion about the amount of funding that the mandatory insurance program would need moving forward. Mr. Miller indicated that the pandemic affected the rollout of their program last year, but hopefully this year they will get better indications of their annual funding level. Todd Feltman where the fees for noncompliance of insurance would be going and Mr. Miller said he would follow up.

5. Grant Monitor's report – Sherry Brticevich

Ms. Brticevich informed the new members that the Council entered into 4-year contracts with five different grantees in 2019. She noted that the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) grant award was redirected in 2019 by the Office of the Comptroller, which led the Council to vote against awarding any further awards to CPD without having a position from the Comptroller indicating that future grants will not be redirected. She also noted that Bartonville did not request year-2 funding, however they were eligible to ask for further funding due to the 4-year grant cycle.

Ms. Brticevich discussed the timeline moving forward, which would allow the Council to approve year-3 grants by the fiscal year 2022 (July 1). In order to meet that deadline, she proposed a date of March 11 to have all year-3 funding requests submitted to her. She indicated that it would provide sufficient time for her to forward the requests to the GRC

members ahead of their already scheduled April 15, 2021 meeting. The recommendations from the GRC would then be reviewed at the scheduled May 13, 2021 Full Council meeting, which should leave sufficient time for all of the requests to be processed ahead of the new fiscal year.

6. Electronic Payment System Update – Tiffani Baum

Tiffani Baum said that total insurance payments were just over \$500,000 and approximately \$100,000 of those were electronic payments. She noted that while the total appeared to be low, when compared to last year we are right on track. Mr. Miller noted that many companies wait until March to make payments.

7. Old business

Matt Gall updated the Council on the towing issues in Chicago. He noted that there was some progress regarding an ordinance that the city was looking to pass to try and combat this issue.

8. New Business

Matt Gall asked if any of the law enforcement officials have seen spikes in auto theft. Sgt. Finegan said that they have seen increased activity along with vehicle hijacking. Lt. Col. Byrd indicated that the increased activity is throughout the entire state and nation. He indicated that New Orleans and other bigger cities have seen significant increases. Sgt. Grizzle noted that Kankakee County has seen increased activity by approximately 200% and Will County has maintained high levels as well. He noted that activity is as high as he has seen in the past 20 years.

Larry Johnson asked about funding for the CPD's Major Auto Theft Unit. He mentioned that there was interest in ISATT providing support to them and asked if there were any updates. Capt. Garza said that they had a recent conversation with the Commander in Chicago and they believe they have a plan in place to provide support and are looking forward to discussing it with the Council. Capt. Garza said that they were working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a separate line-item in the ISATT budget specifically for CPD's unit, and a budget from CPD explaining their proposal.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Feltman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.