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December 1, 2017

To: UCCI Membership

Re: *County Budget Meetings*

Issue:

Are Counties required to hold more than one public meeting regarding their proposed budgets prior to taking final action to adopt such budgets?

Analysis:

Section 6-1001 of the Counties Code (the "Code") requires each County to adopt a budget and establish a timeline for doing so.¹ According to the Code, a County budget "shall be prepared by some person or persons designated by the county board and such budget shall be made conveniently available to public inspection and provided to the public at a public meeting at least fifteen days prior to final action."² Once that public meeting is held, no subsequent public County budget meeting is required prior to the budget's adoption. This is true even if there are amendments made to the budget during the period between the initial public budget meeting required by Section 6-1001 of the Code and the public meeting when the final vote to adopt the budget is to occur.³ Indeed, the Code permits a County Board to take up any such amendments at the public meeting when the County Board takes final action to adopt the without the need for an intervening meeting.⁴

¹ 55 ILCS 5/6-1001.

² 55 ILCS 5/6-1001.

³ As long as the initial meeting occurs at least fifteen days prior to final action.

⁴ "[N]othing in this Act shall restrict a county board or board of county commissioners from acting at a public meeting to amend a budget after making that budget available to the public and prior to final adoption." 55 ILCS 5/6-1001.

Put another way, a meeting between the time when the initial public budget meeting takes place and the public meeting when the budget vote occurs is unnecessary even if amendments are made.

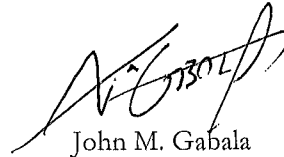
Conclusion:

In sum, it is the opinion of this office that there is no statutory requirement that a County must hold another public budget meeting between the initial public budget meeting required by Section 6-1001 of the Code and the public meeting when the final action to adopt the County's budget occurs.

At the request and direction of UCCI this opinion was prepared by
GIFFIN, WINNING, COHEN & BODEWES, P.C.



Herman G. Bodewes



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