

from the Executive Director's Desk

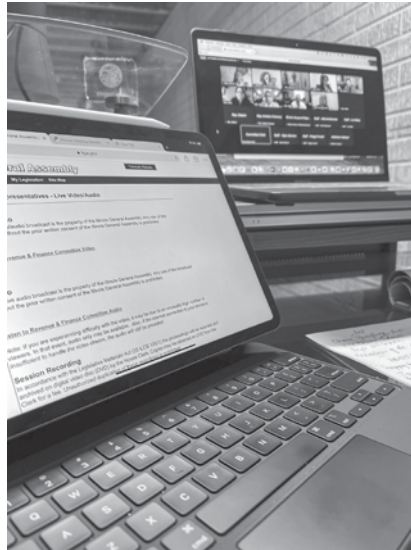


By Jerry B. Crabtree

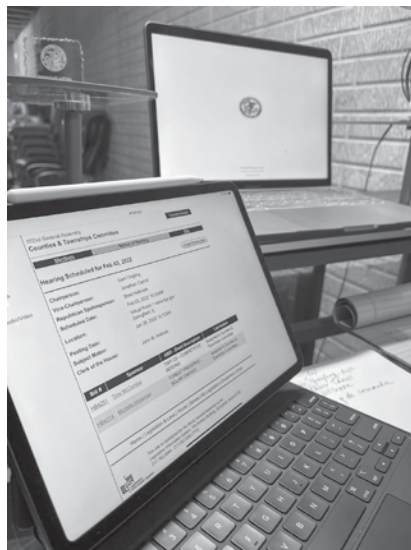
TOI Executive Director

WELL, SIX (6) MONTHS are behind me in my new role as YOUR Executive Director. I must admit that it has gone extremely fast. Managing the administrative components of the office is a bit underestimated. With minimal changes and one new hire behind me, we are incrementally settling into the new normal for the TOI administrative office. I am committed to working for YOU our members to improve township government, provide educational services and to assist in planning, organizing, and executing activities, operations, and business of the association built to serve Illinois townships. Together, we will continue the long-standing benefits of the government at the most local level.

I experienced a first in TOI history this past month. The TOI legislative consultant, Taylor Anderson, and I were contacted in the fall by Representative McCombie regarding TOI's support for HB 4251 proposing to increase the bid threshold dollar amount from \$20,000 to \$30,000. After critically reviewing the proposal, we agreed to support the initiative as it was a move to make all local governments unified regarding the bid threshold dollar amount. Fast forward to the House Counties and Townships committee consideration of the bill. I was asked to be a witness and provide testimony if members of the House committee had questions. I agreed of course. However, this was virtual. A virtual committee and virtual testimony. I was working from home due to the Winter Storm



DURING WINTER STORM LANDON, the TOI Office closed, but the work didn't stop! TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree attended the virtual House Counties and Townships Committee meeting.



Landon central Illinois experienced the week of February 1st and the House and Senate committee work was being conducted remotely. For those wondering, no questions were asked, but TOI was ready if needed. The bill passed the committee process unanimously and will be reported favorably to the floor for second reading. Not the preferred method of the legislative process but a method that allows the work of the Illinois General Assembly to continue during a pandemic and snowstorm all the same.

The legislative agenda and bill update is not available from the legislative component of our website. You can review the report at www.toi.org or if we have your email address on file with your township's membership you will receive the report weekly during the weeks the Illinois General Assembly is in session. Please check with your township board members to validate that we have the correct email addresses on file. You can always email our office anytime to check on what address we are utilizing for distribution.

Don't forget, the annual town meeting is April 12, 2022 (the second Tuesday in April annually). Get ready!

Jerry B. Crabtree
jerry@toi.org