

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday January 16, 2008
6:30 PM
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday January 16, 2008. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Senn gave the Invocation and Mr. Hadley led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, William Hadley, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, Michael Boomgarden, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent; Todd McKenna, Donald Parker, and Andrew Kuhlemeier. Nineteen members present. Three members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Detente made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting as received. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK: Ms. V. Hooper made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading carried unanimously.*

COMMUNICATIONS: The Clerk reported the following communications had been received;

- Public Defender Year-end report for 2007; 3117 New Cases, 2854 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$22,490.73
- Public Defender Monthly Report for December 2007; 227 New Cases, 183 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$1,712.60
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report
- Comcast and Insight Communications Company announcement

Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve all communications and place on file. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve all communications and place on file carried unanimously.* *Noted arrival of Mr. A. Kuhlemeier

RECOGNITION CEREMONY BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Mr. Groves was presented with the StormReady Award by Meteorologist, Donna Burkee. Achieving this StormReady recognition is a significant accomplishment, and shows that Stephenson County is committed to preparing for all kinds of severe weather and saving lives, both locally and as part of the complete warning process.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Blum reviewed the motion which was laid on the table from the December Meeting for the lease or sale of County property to the Lena Park District for a boat dock. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to amend the motion from "sale or lease" of the property to "lease" of the property. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. Much discussion followed on advantages and disadvantages of a sale or lease agreement. Ms. S. Hooper stated she felt no reason not to honor this intergovernmental agreement as requested by the Park District and the impact this could have on economic development. It was noted in discussion that this would not cause McConnell any change in their assessment. The Park District claims they have faced numerous road blocks in trying to purchase

this property and they are not interested in a lease agreement. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier stated he felt the property was more valuable because of the possibility that it could be a wetlands bank. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Mikkelsen, Graham, J. Kuhlmeier, A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton and Détente. Members voting nay: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Wire, Dotson, Kubatzke, Koch, Boomgarden, Senn and Blum. Six ayes. Fifteen nays. *Motion to amend the original motion from “sale or lease” of the property to “lease” of the property failed.* The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve sale of this property with terms and conditions as set by the committee. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, Koch, Boomgarden, Senn and Blum. Members voting nay: Mikkelsen, A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton and Détente. Sixteen ayes. Four nays. *Motion carried.*

SHERIFF’S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported that two deputies are graduating from State Training. Total Deputies is now at twenty eight. A Telecommunicator has been hired. Two new squads have been purchased; one will be reimbursed with through the State of Illinois Traffic Program. Sheriff Snyders is working with Whiteside County who may be in need for jail space.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions;

08-01-1532 HD 08-01 Awarding Bids Section 08-00000-00-PC Pipe Culverts

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-01. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 08-01 carried unanimously.*

08-01-1533 HD 08-02 Awarding Bids Section 08-00000-00-PC Pipe Culverts

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-02. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 08-02 carried unanimously.*

08-01-1534 HD 08-03 Spring Postings

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-03. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 08-03 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell updated the Board on the Cedarville Road and the Pearl City Road Bridge projects. He reported on the high volume of snow removal throughout the month of December and its impact on his budget. Mr. Isbell’s Department was complemented for their great job on the County’s snow removal.

ZONING REPORT: No report

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves distributed the Agenda for the January 17th meeting of the Jane Addams Trail Commission.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed his “Year of 2007 in Review” report.

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed the January meeting minutes.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema updated the Board on the Smoke Free Illinois Act. The Administrative rules were rejected by JCAR. There are legal issues of due process and signage yet to be worked out. For further information go to www.stephensonhealth.com. Mr. Beintema distributed and reviewed the Syndromic Surveillance Report for Stephenson County. The Health Department is in the process of completing a grant application for STD awareness and testing. Food scores for the month of December, the Animal Control report, the Infectious Diseases Program and Nuisance Complaints for 2007 were distributed. Mr. Beintema reminded everyone that flu shots are still available.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: No Report

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Eilders reported the monthly statistics.

STATE’S ATTORNEY REPORT No report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Blum presented the following report;

- On January 7, 2008 the second annual Joint Review Board meeting for Mill Race Crossing was conducted. All of the affected taxing bodies were invited to receive an update of activities within the Economic Development Project Area. Presentations were made by Bob Skurla of the Economic Development Foundation, Adam Holder of Fehr-Graham, as well as GVA-Williams. It was reported that there are more than 35 new leads being worked on for Mill Race. It is planned that the biodiesel plant will break escrow in early February and we will begin construction of the well, storage tank, water system, and internal roads during 2008.
- The State has all of the paperwork completed to release our \$1.1 million rail grant except the final release of funds by the Comptroller. IDOT is keeping us informed daily of the status.
- Chairman Blum was formally advised by Congressman Manzullo's office that the omnibus budget signed by the President includes \$150,000 in a special HUD appropriation for Mill Race. He is waiting to be advised of the process and timing to receive these funds for the County.
- The Blackhawk Biofuels project has been in the planning stages for many months and we are anxious to see construction begin.
- Mr. Quentin Davis, a member of Blackhawk Biofuels Board of Managers addressed the Board and reviewed what the construction process will look like and how the plant will be staffed and operated.

Action Items from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham presented the following Resolution;

Resolution 08-01-1528 authorizing application for Bond Volume Cap, issuance of bonds and execution of intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Housing Development Authority. This is an annual action item taken by the County Board for the First Time Home Buyer Program, as required by the State. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Resolution. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution 08-01-1528 carried unanimously.*

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper presented the following Ordinances;

Ordinance O08-01-1530; amending Chapter 3, Alcoholic Liquor, of the Stephenson County Code, providing for a Vineyard License. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Ordinance O08-01-1530 carried unanimously.*

Ordinance O08-01-1529; amending Chapter 3, Alcoholic Liquor, of the Stephenson County Code, providing for the addition of a Class "T-1" temporary liquor license. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Ordinance O08-01-1529 carried unanimously.*

Ms. S. Hooper presented the following raffles with all fees and bonding in order;

- 1435 Lena Lions Club, Manager Dean Holmes
- 1436 McConnell Fire Department, Manager Pete Grandstrand
- 1437 All Veterans Memorial Park Inc., Manager Clyde Fruth
- 1438 Cedarville Fire Department, Manager Doug Broge
- 1439 Lena Lions Club, Manager James A. Brenner
- 1440 Aquin Catholic Elementary Parent Teacher Connection, Manager Margaret Ehlbeck

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Raffles. Second by Mr. Newton. *The Chair called for a voice vote. Motion to approve the Raffles carried unanimously.*

Court Services: Ms. V. Hooper presented the following Resolution;

Resolution 08-01-1531 amending the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget for State's Attorney to reflect the receipt and expenditure of Grant Funds. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve the Resolution.

Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution 08-01-1531 carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen presented the following;

Resolution 08-01-1527 stating the official intent of Stephenson County toward the issuance of the County's revenue bonds to provide funds to be loaned to Freeport Regional Health Care Foundation to finance the cost of certain health facilities. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Resolution. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution 08-01-1527 carried unanimously.*

Engineering proposals for the EDA Grant from Fehr-Graham & Associates and Willett, Hofmann & Associates. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the proposal from Fehr-Graham & Associates. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. Discussion followed on pre-qualifications and perimeters for spending as outlined in the Grant. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve the proposal from Fehr-Graham & Associates carried unanimously.*

Information Items from Standing Committees

Mr. Graham encouraged Board Members to attend the UCCI Legislation Day on February 26 and Seminar on February 27.

Ms. S. Hooper reported the Soil & Water Conservation District would be holding their Annual Meeting on February 4 at the Four Seasons.

Ms. Kubatzke reported there will be a retirement party for Ms. Gravenstein on February 10th at Bethany UCC.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$ 1,521,295.94
Administration	\$ 116,623.04
Public Works	\$ 190,268.34
Nursing Center	\$ 482,086.65
Public Property	\$ 28,957.43
Court Services	\$ 20,418.16
Public Safety	\$ 95,606.78
Planning & Development	\$ 201.72
9-1-1	\$ 52,421.21

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Not available: Ms. Boynton. Nineteen ayes. *Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried.*

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 7 days, 0 miles-Boomgarden 4 days, 64 miles-Boynton 5 days, 71 miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Detente 4 days, 53 miles-Devine 4 days, 12 miles-Dotson 4 days, 145 miles-Graham 8 days, 34 miles-Hadley 4 days, 14 miles- Hilton 7 days, 20 miles-S Hooper 3 days, 6 miles-V Hooper 3 days, 6 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles, Kubatzke 7 days, 164 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 4 days, 16 miles-Mikkelsen 5 days, 10 miles-Newton 5 days, 10 miles- Parker 3 days, 12 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Hadley inquired about a 4' x 6' Flag for All Veterans Park. It was noted that the County is looking into the purchase of a flag.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION ILCS 5/120-2C1: Mr. Détente made a motion to move into executive session to discuss employment/appointment matters. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to move into executive session. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve move into executive session carried unanimously.*

REGULAR SESSION: Chairman Blum resumed the regular session. He stated that employment/appointment matters had been discussed in executive session with no action taken.

Ms. Kubatzke made a motion to hire Mr. Darnell Fortney, who has twenty-three years of experience, as the new Administrator for the Stephenson County Nursing Center at a salary of \$68,000. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair call for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, Hadley, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve hiring Mr. Fortney as the Administrator for the Stephenson County Nursing Center carried unanimously.*

Mr. Fortney addressed the Board.

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008: Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday February 13, 2008. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried at 9:01 p.m.*

Mr. Graham will lead the Pledge and Ms. V. Hooper will be responsible for the Invocation at the February 13th Meeting