

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
6:30 PM Wednesday July 9, 2008
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday July 9, 2008. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Senn gave the Invocation and Mr. Detente led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, William Hadley, Donald Parker, Vicki Hooper, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, Russell Cashmore, Salvatore D tente, Forrest Senn and John Blum. Member absent; James Graham and Andrew Kuhlemeier. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. McKenna 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 JUNE 11, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2008 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 Monthly Report for June, 2008; 249 New Cases, 297 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$1,762.20
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report
- Additions to ComCast’s Channel Line-up
- Davis TIF District I - 2nd Amendment
- Report of Official Acts performed by the Regional Office of Education – April 1 through June 30, 2008
- Local Government Conference sponsored by the Farm Bureau
- Letter of acknowledgement from Senator Obama referencing our concerns over a possible gas tax holiday at either the federal or state level

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.*

COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Mr. Joe Crawford reported the Community Youth Development Council is a part of Vision 20/20. Their mission statement is to help the Stephenson County Community build an environment for the healthy development of its young people using a data driven and research driven method. The Council uses data collection to determine community intervention regarding social issues within the County.

Noted arrival of Mr. A. Kuhlemeier during presentation

OLD BUSINESS: None

SHERIFF’S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported there will be an open house for Lt. Freeman’s retirement on July 18th. Gary Schroeder is currently training to take over charge of the Jail. The Sheriff reported on his flyover of the County to check on the flooding. He took a video of the flooding and has copies available.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following items;

HD08-24; obtaining Engineering Firm Willett and Hoffman for 08-17128-00-BR, North Crossroads over a branch of Yellow Creek not to exceed \$21,858.80

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-24. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD08-24 Resolution #08-07-1577 carried unanimously.*

HD08-25; obtaining Engineering Firm Willett and Hoffman for Section 08-08115-00-BR, West Goddard Road over a branch of Yellow Creek not to exceed \$21,858.80

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-25. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD08-25 Resolution #08-07-1578 carried unanimously.*

Illinois Route 75 ROW; Sale of .77 acres of land located at Cedarville Road and Route 75 to the State of Illinois for \$3,000 with the land to be used for intersection improvements

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the sale of the property. Second by Mr. Cashmore. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the land sale for \$3,000 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported on the Cedarville Road Project and wetland banks.

The Annual Tour is scheduled for July 24th; Board Members are encouraged to call the Highway office to reserve a seat.

ZONING REPORT: No report

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Minutes of the Jane Addams Trail Meeting were distributed to Board Members. The Pecatonica Prairie Path has received final documents of the plats from Fehr-Graham; they can now proceed with contacting property owners for easements or acquisition.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed minutes of the Flooding Unified Command Meeting outlining the process and agencies involved in the process.

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed minutes of the July 7th Meeting and a Status Report of the 9-1-1 Projects.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema distributed the Food Scores for the month of June and the Animal Control report. He reported the “21st Century Health Communities” is in full swing. The four assessment groups have been formed and will be working on their assignments during the next 6 to 8 weeks. The last two weeks of mosquito testing has been above the nuisance level. Freeport Mosquito Abatement District will begin applications. The Health Department was notified they would receive an American Heart Association Community Action grant. They are one of 38 grants chosen from a total of 150 applications submitted. 100 females from the Clinic will be referred to the Health Department for case management and cholesterol testing. The Health Department will be participating in a pandemic flu exercise with four other counties on November 6.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported there will be a breakfast fund-raiser from 6 to 8 a.m. July 11 at the Nursing Center. They are also working on a Cookbook to have available for sale at the County Fair.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley reported the monthly stats. The Dependent Children’s fund budget is on schedule; although he noted that we do have two juveniles currently in group homes. The Probation Department has completed the Re-deploy Illinois Grant.

STATE’S ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report

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

EcoGrove Project

Work has begun on the (67)-unit EcoGrove wind development located NW of Lena, IL. The project administration location will be located just north of the intersection of Galena Road and Baker Road. This will also be the site for the new Administration and Maintenance building currently being designed by Fye and Associates. Turbines and tower structures are en-route to the site along with the large cranes that will provide the heavy lift and extensive reach for the construction of the units. The County is working with the owners, Acciona and Eco-energy, to insure the maximum amount of local content in the construction phase. Last week Acciona paid the County a significant e-zone fee. This fee, coupled with the zoning application fees and the turbine permit fees, provided more than \$750,000 of revenue for the County. We are working to organize, permit, and establish Phase 2 and 3 of Acciona and Eco-energy’s plans by the fall of 2008. This could involve another 70-100 turbines to be located within Stephenson County.

Ezone

Representatives of the (4) units of government met with the e-zone Chairman/Administrator about 2-weeks ago to discuss priorities for the operation of the enterprise zone. My take away from the meeting was a more clear set of priorities for the e-zone:

- Priority (1) is a review/audit of e-zone documentation to insure all properties are correctly annexed and that all taxing bodies are appropriately included for abatement. The e-zone committee would oversee this process and would be allowed to involve technical assistance in support of the effort.
- Priority (2) is the extension for the life of our e-zone authorization. This is a process to be worked through with DCEO and will require the completion of Priority (1).
- Priority (3) would be the coordinated marketing of the e-zone in conjunction with NIDA or other appropriate partners.

The distribution of e-zone fees was discussed and, in general, it seemed the consensus was to proceed with the earlier concept of sharing the project fees 50-50, after zone expenses for the project are paid, between the zone committee and the host government. It was also agreed that out of the 50% retained by the zone committee a reasonable amount should be retained by the zone as a contribution toward their overall operating budget. The balance of fees retained by the zone committee over and above the operating budget share can then be returned to the host government for use in economic development activities. These items need to be more fully described and agreed to by the e-zone committee and the host governments.

CEDS

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee is a required entity in the process of seeking funding eligibility from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). The local CEDS Committee will interact with the regional CEDS Committee to develop the 1-year and 5-year plans required for EDA funding. The Stephenson County CEDS Committee was established in 1989 when it was referred to as the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). It has become apparent that we need to revitalize our local CEDS Committee and form a new committee with members that represent all economic areas and interests within Stephenson County. The first step in this process will be to get input from all the City/Village Mayors in the County. A meeting has been planned for all the mayors for July 21, 2008 from 4-6 p.m. at the Rafters Restaurant in Lena. During the meeting the Economic Development Specialist from the RC&D will present information on the form and function of a CEDS Committee. The Executive Director of NIDA will be in attendance to assist in the coordination of the structure of the new CEDS Committee and will act as Chair and Stephenson County's representative to the Regional CEDS Committee. Stephenson County pays approximately \$8,000 per year to support a portion of the annual planning grant for the RC&D and CEDS.

Mill Race Crossing Industrial Park

Engineering and planning work continue in support of the County's EDA and HUD grants. We are required to begin construction on some portion of work covered by the EDA grant no later than March 2009 and must be complete with the entire scope of work before June 2012. The general components of work to be completed will include the well, water tower, internal roads, and a bridge upgrade on Lamm Road. The first application to FAA for a water tower design was turned down, but we are resubmitting a revised design that will meet the FAA requirements. The location will be the same, but the height will be slightly lower. NIDA and the County are working on a number of prospective projects for Mill Race Crossing. Any description of these projects will be provided by NIDA when appropriate.

Illinois Works Initiative

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week there will be a Special Session of the State Legislature in which the two major funding mechanisms for the Capital Plan will be taken up by the "Committee of the Whole". These two components are increased gaming and a leasing of a portion of the State Lottery. Without these components there will be no capital plan. Written testimony has been sent in support of the Capital Plan. Any support from you as individuals would be beneficial to this effort.

Local Workforce Investment Board

The LWIB annually recognizes an individual from each of the five counties in the region with a special achievement award. The 2008 award winner from Stephenson County is Robin Koester of Freeport, IL. Robin will be recognized at the annual awards dinner to be held on July 16 at the Rafters Restaurant in Lena.

NIDA

Today, the Board of the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance announced the selection of Cheryl Kneubuehl as their Executive Director. Cheryl has served as Interim Director since February 2008. Ms. Kneubuehl has been working very closely with the County, RSAD, GVA-Worldwide, and Fehr-Graham to market and develop the Mill Race Industrial Park and EDPA.

Brownfields

Chairman Blum distributed copies of the quarterly newsletter outlining the activities within our USEPA Brownfields program. The next opportunity to apply for further grant funding begins in August 2008 with awards being announced in the Spring of 2009.

“Pec” River Fest

The Lena Community Park District will host the first “Pec” River Fest weekend on August 16 and 17 at the Rafters in Lena to raise funds to improve the McConnell Landing.

HCC

Highland College will conduct a ground breaking ceremony on campus at 12:15 p.m. on July 15, 2008 to celebrate their investment in regional healthcare by constructing the new Ray and Betty Stamm Health Science Nursing Wing. All Board Members are invited to attend.

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Blum recommended the appointment of Beth Gilmour to the Mosquito Abatement District Board. Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the appointment. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to appoint Beth Gilmour was appointed to the Mosquito Abatement District Board carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

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

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)
 - 1463 S.T.A.R.S., Manager Michelle Beske
 - 1464 Freeport Sunrise Rotary, Manager Mary Vogel
 - 1465 CONTACT Stephenson County, Manager Randy Hornung
 - 1466 FHN Partners In-Giving Program, Manager Mary Freidag/Kathy Terhark

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

Nursing Center: Ms. Kubatzke presented the following action items from Committee;

Purchase of Washing Machine; One of the three washing machines at the Nursing Center is not operating. The proposals for outsourcing the cleaning were extremely costly. The facility is barely getting by with 2 machines that run almost constantly. With 3 machines, the schedule can rotate to allow one machine to have some down time. Also, the machine that is broken is about 15 years old. Ms. Kubatzke made a motion to approve the purchase of a washing machine for approximately \$11,000. Second by Mr. Détente. *Motion to approve purchasing a new third washing machine carried unanimously.*

Air Conditioning/Heating Units; There are currently 23 units that need to be replaced according to the maintenance schedule. Ms. Kubatzke made a motion to approve the purchase of 23 new air conditioners at a cost of \$13,996.42. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the purchase of 23 air conditioning/heating units carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen presented the following action item out of Committee;

Resolution #08-07-1579 District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the resolution adopting the Annual Report of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the six-county region. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution #08-07-1579 carried unanimously.*

Information Items from Standing Committees

Finance: The Employee Health Insurance Fund is in its 4th negative month. State payments are current.

Public Property: The Sheriff is not renewing the mental health contract with FHN. Effective August 1, 2008, Health Professionals will also handle the mental health needs of the inmates, at a lower cost than FHN. The TLEP traffic deputies have written over 2,000 tickets.

Administration: The committee is reviewing the proposal from the company working on re-codification of the County Code.

Nursing Center: There will be a breakfast fund-raiser from 6 to 8 a.m. July 11 at the Nursing Center. Bingo games have proven to be quite popular with the community and will be held on a quarterly basis.

Public Works: The Rock Grove Road project was delayed because the bids came in 30% over the estimate and were rejected.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	914,729.23
Administration	\$	312,700.28
Public Works	\$	563,407.57
Nursing Center	\$	210,771.05
Public Property	\$	46,919.24
Court Services	\$	35,866.95
Public Safety	\$	127,581.86
Planning & Development	\$	2,409.58
9-1-1	\$	22,894.69

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier 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, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried unanimously.*

Mileage & Per Diems – *Subject to review by Finance Chairman*

Blum 9 days, 0 miles-Boynton 2 days, 26 miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Cashmore 3 days, 60 miles-Detente 4 days, 53 miles-Devine 3 days, 10 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Graham 3 days, 17 miles-Hadley 3 days, 14 miles- Hilton 5 days, 12 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 14 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles- Koch 3 days, 72 miles, Kubatzke 3 days, 92 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 2 days, 4 miles-Newton 4 days, 8 miles- Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 5 days, 66 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr. Cashmore. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS: The proposal to ask local voters through referendum whether they would support establishing a recall procedure for Illinois public officials has been previously considered twice by the Administration Committee and failed on both occasions. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier requested a minority report asking the board consider the matter despite the fact that it failed in Committee. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier made a motion to place the recall issue on the agenda for the August 13, 2008 County Board Meeting. Second by Mr. Hadley. Mr. Koch requested a roll call vote on the motion and called for the question. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to call the question carried with nay votes noted. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the original motion. Members voting aye: Hadley, Wire, Dotson, A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton, Détente and Blum. Members voting nay: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Parker, V. Hooper, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, Koch, Cashmore and Senn. Seven ayes. Fourteen nays. *Motion to place the recall issue on the agenda for the August 13, 2008 County Board Meeting failed.*

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13, 2008: Mr. McKenna made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday August 13, 2008. Second by Mr. Brown. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Mr. Newton will lead the Pledge and Mr. Brown will be responsible for the Invocation at the August 13th Meeting

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