

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
6:30 PM Wednesday September 10, 2008
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday September 10, 2008. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hilton gave the Invocation and Mr. Mikkelsen 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, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Andrew Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, Russell Cashmore, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Twenty-two members present.

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 AUGUST 13, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2008 meeting as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 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 September, 2008; 266 New Cases, 215 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$2,023.64

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

PRESENTATION BY GVA WORLDWIDE: Kent Sandstedt, Executive Managing Director of GVA Williams and Sandra Griggs, Senior Director of GVA Williams gave a marketing presentation. They updated the Board on their marketing efforts related to the Mill Race Industrial Park. . The site is being marketed using a number of ongoing marketing efforts including brochures, promotional presentations, advertising, signage and internet marketing. Two renewable energy companies are interested in building facilities in the industrial park

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported the jail population is down slightly. The ILEAS Trailer received excellent reviews at the Springfield Conference.

OLD BUSINESS: Action on the 9-1-1 Coordinator as a County Employee was deferred to the 9-1-1 report.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following items;

08-28, Contract with Willett, Hofman and Associates for engineering services for proposed improvements known as Section 08-09116-00-BR, Hillcrest Road over a branch of the Pecatonica River, and for payment not to exceed \$26,743.60. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve 08-28. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. 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, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve 08-28 carried unanimously.*

08-29, County Bridge Aid for improvements on Excelsior Road in West Point Township known as Section 97-17119-00-DR with the estimated construction cost of \$130,000. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve 08-29. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. 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, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and

Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve 08-29 carried unanimously.*

Approval of Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement. Mr. Isbell presented the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aide Network Agreement. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the Agreement. Second by Mr. Cashmore. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement carried unanimously.*

A special budget meeting will be held on September 17 to review the Public Works Budget. Mr. Isbell publicly thanked Lena Police Officer Schaible for his assistance with on overweight semi. The letting for the Cedarville Bridge project will be done at a later date so as not to have the bridge closed over the winter months.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves presented the following items;

Special Use #SU08-10/Residential-Single Family Dwelling request by Jeremy Stephan. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval of Special Use #SU 08-10. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve #SU 08-10. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Special Use #SU 08-10 carried unanimously.*

Special Use #SU08-11/Residential-Single Family Dwelling request by Jack James. The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommends approval of Special Use #SU 08-11. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve #SU 08-11. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Special Use #SU 08-11 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Groves distributed and reviewed a draft copy of “Proposed Amendments of the Stephenson County Zoning Ordinance”. This will be presented to the Zoning Board in October.

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: No Report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No Report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves reported resumes for the 9-1-1 Director/Coordinator position will be reviewed September 11. Mr. Senn made a motion the new Director/Coordinator be hired as a County Employee, with the full salary and benefits being reimbursed by 9-1-1. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to authorize the 9-1-1 Director/Coordinator position is a County Employee carried unanimously.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Food Scores for the month of August, Schedule for the County Need Assessment meetings, Flier on the used tire collection and the Animal Control Report were distributed. Mr. Beintema reported Stephenson County has no positive West Nile Virus cases. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports that Rabies vaccine is in short supply. Flu-shot season will begin in October. The Health Department has been awarded a MRC status for medical and non-medical volunteer status. They are also one of 25 in the nation to be awarded a FQHC planning grant.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: No Report

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley distributed the Departmental stats. He reported the Dependent Children Funds are almost depleted. They currently have one juvenile at Sleezer Home at a cost of \$6,000 per month. The Probation Department is currently applying for a \$250,000 redeploy grant.

STATE’S ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report

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

RC&D

The Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council have asked each County in the District to consider a proclamation recognizing RC&D Week from September 21-27, 2008. Board Members were distributed a copy of the proclamation. The Chair requested a motion to approve the proclamation. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to Proclaim September 21st – September 27th to be “National RC&D Week” in Stephenson County. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. *Motion to Proclaim September 21st – September 27th to be “National RC&D Week” in Stephenson County carried unanimously.*

CEDS

On this evenings agenda, under the Finance Committee report, there is an item to create a formalized Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee or CEDS. The formation of this committee is a requirement to continue qualifying for funding from the Federal Economic Development Agency, or EDA. Our county committee will be part of the 6-county regional CEDS Committee. A few weeks ago Chairman Blum

convened a meeting of all the mayors and village presidents in Stephenson County to explain the need for and the objectives of a county CEDS Committee. In addition, Chairman Blum requested recommendations from each city and village to serve on this committee. The Chair requested the Board deal with the required actions on this agenda item and relieve the Finance Chairman of this duty. On October 10, 1989 the County Board adopted resolution 89-10-617 to form a County Overall Economic Development Program committee, or OEDP. This was the predecessor of the CEDS Committee. Therefore, we need to take action to retire this resolution and the associated OEDP Committee. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to retire the old Committee as designated in Resolution 89-10-617. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to retire the old Committee as designated in Resolution 89-10-617 adopted October 10, 1989 carried unanimously.*

Board Members received a copy of the new resolution forming the CEDS Committee. Chairman Blum requested approval of the resolution. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Resolution. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adopt Resolution to create the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to be an advisory committee to the County Board in the development, maintenance and implementation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Stephenson County carried unanimously.*

Chairman Blum presented the recommended members of the new CEDS Committee for the Board's concurrence. The proposed members are: Cheryl Kneubuehl (Chairman), Matt Diehl (Pearl City), Tyson Terune (Lena), Caryl Buford (Orangeville), Mark Jewell (German Valley), Beverly McPhillips (Winslow), John Hanson (Dakota), Kim Kopp (Ridott), Leslie Mastroianni (Freeport), and Adam Holder (Stephenson County). Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to concur with the recommended appointments. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointments to the new CEDS Committee carried unanimously.*

NIDA

Chairman Blum attended the bimonthly board meeting of NIDA. Work is continuing on revisions to the bylaws and policies along with the development of a new strategic plan. It is planned to have both of these projects complete within 2-3 months.

MRC

The presentation by GVA earlier in the meeting covered much of Mill Race Industrial Park. In addition, we expect positive approval from FAA on the proposed water tower by September 15, 2008. Fehr-Graham is ready to submit the plans and specifications for this to EDA immediately upon FAA approval. Fehr-Graham will be advertising for bids very soon for the road work associated with the HUD grant. They are just waiting for the final environmental clearances that are scheduled for September 15, 2008. We may have (2) letters of intent signed for projects to be built in the park. Both of these projects are involved in renewable energy. We just reached agreement on a term letter with one of these projects and will now begin the final stage of generating a redevelopment agreement. Negotiations continue on the second project to reach agreement on a term letter. We are unable to announce these prospective projects until DCEO finishes their review.

Ecogrove

The Ecogrove wind project continues to progress at a rapid pace. Large components have been arriving at the construction sites since the middle of last month. The next project update briefing is scheduled for next week with Acciona and Ecoenergy. 15 students have begun the first semester of the new Wind Tech program at Highland Community College.

LWIB

The Local Workforce Investment Board met in Lanark. The necessary program modifications caused by the federal funding rescission were finished. This has caused a reformulation of priorities in the various workforce training programs since there is not enough funding to meet all of our needs. The LWIB is also finishing all of the tasks necessary to receive recertification from DCEO. These tasks need to be complete by October 1, 2008. Recertification is for a 2-year period. Partners for Employment, the operations segment of the LWIB has been working with CSI in Eleroy as they approach complete shutdown. As of today they are down to 10 employees as they finish a few remaining contracts. The LWIB has been working with the IDES and the unions to secure alternate employment for those displaced from CSI. On November 6, 2008, the IDES is hosting a Veterans Job

Fair. It will be held at the Freeport Public Library from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. All veterans, their families, and prospective employers are invited. In addition, there will be an apprenticeship workshop held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm including bricklayers, carpenters, sheet metal, electrical, plumbing, ironworkers, operating engineers, and more.

Brownfields

The new application period has opened for Brownfield grants with the USEPA. We are resubmitting the (2) assessment applications and a revolving loan fund application. The application period closes November 14, 2008 and the awards should be announced in the early spring of 2009.

Homebuyer

IHDA is finishing the details on a new first-time homebuyer program that will be competitive and accessible. The details should be complete by mid-October. Lenders are being informed of the program details to insure they will participate.

Phone Tax

Chairman Blum sent a letter to Mayor Gaulrapp requesting that the County receive a rebate of the City's telephone tax. The County is already exempt from the electric and gas taxes enacted by the City. The telephone tax statutes do not allow for exemption, but do allow for rebates. This rebate would save the County thousands of dollars annually through a rebate of the 5% portion of the overall 12% tax. The Mayor informed the Chairman that the City was unwilling to approve a rebate agreement for fear of setting an untenable precedent. The Mayor's response in writing has not yet been received.

Rise N Shine

On October 1, 2008 Stephenson County will host a Chamber of Commerce Rise N Shine breakfast. The purpose of these breakfasts is to network with other current and potential chamber members. With the cooperation of the County Highway Department and the Emergency Management Agency, we will hold this breakfast at the Highway garage from 7:00 am to 8:30 am. We will have our emergency response equipment and personnel on display for inspection by the Chamber members as well as members of the public. Please attend if possible.

Reminders

The UCCI Fall seminar will be held on September 29, 2008 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Sauk Valley College. The seminar topics are: Controlling Liability Exposure, Addressing OMA and FOIA requirements, and Oversight Responsibilities for Elected Officials Budgets. All County Board Members and Department Heads are invited. Please advise Mr. Mulnix of your intentions to attend no later than Monday, September 22, 2008. We plan to car pool from the courthouse at 4:45 pm. The biannual UCCI meeting will be held in Springfield on October 17-18 at the Lincoln Presidential Library. Reservations have to be in no later than October 3, 2008.

9/11

Tomorrow is the seventh anniversary of the tragic acts of terrorism that happened on September 11, 2001 causing the deaths of more than 3,000 innocent Americans. United Airlines flights 175 and 93 along with American Flights 11 and 77 became weapons used against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Chairman Blum knew the pilots of both United flights: Captains Vic Saracini and Jason Dahl and First Officers Mike Horrocks and Leroy Homer. Lately, it seems we are forgetting what it was like that sunny morning and the days after 9/11 as we all have carried on with our lives. While we all grumble about security lines at airports, the heightened levels of security at public buildings and events, as well as debate and worry over our actions to deter further terrorism; please keep in mind there are more than 3,000 fewer voices in this debate. Families lost fathers, mothers, and children. While it may not be the wound it was in 2001 it will continue to leave a very noticeable scar. The Board held a moment of silence for those who were lost on 9/11 and for those that stepped into harm's way to protect our people and our principles in the years since.

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Blum recommended the following reappointments to the 708 Board;

- Taylor Rockwell
- Joyce Wilhelms
- Leroy Wilson

Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the reappointments. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointments to the 708 Board carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

Finance: Mr. Graham made a motion to approve a Resolution transferring seven real estate property titles to purchasers, at auction, of delinquent tax properties. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Resolution transferring seven real estate property titles to purchasers, at auction, of delinquent tax properties carried unanimously.*

Mr. Graham made a motion to receive and layover the 2007 Audit. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to receive and layover the 2007 Audit carried unanimously.*

The Committee reviewed salaries for the Circuit Clerk and Coroner. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the salary proposals. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. Mr. Hadley questioned the timing of approving the salaries for Elected Officials. The State's Attorney stated that State Statute does call for the salaries of Elected Officials to be set 180 days before taking office. Chairman Blum said the salary review had been over looked and did not want to see the Office Holders penalized for four years because of the oversight. Following much discussion on complying with State Statute as well as budget restraint, Chairman Blum requested the State's Attorney investigate our legal recourse. Mr. Hadley made a motion to layover the salary increases for the Circuit Clerk and Coroner until the October meeting. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to layover the salary increases for the Circuit Clerk and Coroner until the October meeting carried unanimously.*

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper presented the following Raffles with all fees and bonding in order;

- 1475 Dakota Athletic Boosters, Manager Leanne Reidelbaugh
- 1476 Children's Home & Aid Society - Freeport Auxiliary, Manager Cindy Kleckner
- 1477 United Way of Northwest Illinois, Manager Annette Hartman
- 1478 Conservation & Ag Partners Foundation, Manager Martha Ebbesmeyer

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the raffles as presented. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the raffles carried unanimously.*

Nursing Center: Ms. Kubatzke reported her committee approved a budget amendment to fund hiring a third maintenance person. Ms. Kubatzke made a motion to approve a Resolution to amend the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget to appropriate \$28,000 from "Ward Secretary Salaries" to "Maintenance Salaries. Second by Mr. Détente. Discussion was held on Nursing Center finances and repayment of intergovernmental loans. It was noted the Nursing Center has been struggling with maintenance problems over the past nine months. With the Ward Secretary position being eliminated this past year this would be a good way to help reduce the burden on Mr. Snavelly. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton, Détente, Senn and Blum. Members voting nay: Koch and Cashmore. Nineteen ayes. Two nays. *Motion to approve the Resolution amending the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget to appropriate \$28,000 from "Ward Secretary Salaries" to "Maintenance Salaries carried. *Noted absence of Mr. Newton.*

Information Items from Standing Committees

Public Safety: Mr. Senn reported the "conceal carry" issue which was referred to his Committee by the County Board was laid over to next month. The issue on restricting cell phone use in the Courthouse was referred to the State's Attorney, to draft an ordinance. The issue on making the Courthouse grounds smoke free failed.

Nursing Center: Ms. Kubatzke reported the front parking lot at the Nursing Center is an ongoing concern. There will be a Christmas Bizarre held in December. The Budget meeting is scheduled for September 11.

Public Works: Mr. J. Kuhlmeier reminded Board Members the Special Budget Meeting for the Public Works Budget would be held on September 17.

CLAIMS:

Finance & Procurement	\$	624,851.61
Administration	\$	36,335.98
Public Works	\$	332,739.91

Nursing Center	\$	223,649.11
Public Property	\$	56,470.05
Court Services	\$	34,232.23
Public Safety	\$	108,807.18
Planning & Development	\$	30,710.96
9-1-1	\$	31,669.23

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: Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, 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 10 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 5 days, 27 miles-Hadley 3 days, 14 miles- Hilton 5 days, 12 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 16 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles- Koch 3 days, 72 miles, Kubatzke 5 days, 124 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 4 days, 16 miles-Mikkelsen 4 days, 68 miles-Newton 4 days, 8 miles- Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 5 days, 70 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Mike King of 5003 N Dakota Road, Dakota addressed the Board with his concern for motorists’ safety on the dangerous curve in Waddams Grove where the Wind Towers are being constructed. He encouraged the Board to take action to stop this process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2008: Mr. Cashmore made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 15, 2008. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:45 p.m.*

Ms. Devine will lead the Pledge and S. Hooper will be responsible for the Invocation at the October 15th Meeting