

**STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**6:30 PM Wednesday October 15, 2008**  
**Stephenson County Board Room**

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday October 15, 2008. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. S. Hooper gave the Invocation and Ms. Devine 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 Kuhlmeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Member absent: Russell Cashmore. Twenty-one members present. One member absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Chairman Blum noted the Conceal Carry Resolution, on tonight's agenda, is in the process of being drafted. It will be brought to the full Board next month. Mr. Détente made a motion to approve the agenda as received and noted. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received and noted carried unanimously.*

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 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 October, 2008; 284 New Cases, 269 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$2,661.18
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report
- Regional Superintendent's report containing an overview of the various activities of the office covering July 1-September 30, 2008

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.*

**PRESENTATION BY PORK ASSOCIATION:** Carrie Pollard addressed the Board regarding changes in Agriculture; issues the industry is facing and the importance of agriculture to our communities.

**PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE SACIA AND SENATOR BIVINS:** Representative Sacia and Senator Bivins addressed the Board with a number of other major issues, including the state's budgetary process, Medicaid funding, and the need for a state capital bill. During the presentation, they were asked how the county should go about influencing lawmakers on the concealed carry issue. Options include submitting letters from County Board members and/or citizens, sending the state a County Board resolution in support of concealed carry, or holding an advisory referendum on the issue. Sacia and Bivins responded that all of these methods would be great ways for the county to be heard on this issue.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Blum reported the State's Attorney has researched the Elected Officials salaries for the Circuit Clerk and the Coroner. At this time he recommends the issue be taken back to the Finance Committee. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to refer the Elected Officials salaries back to Finance. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to refer the Elected Officials salaries for the Circuit Clerk and Coroner back to the Finance Committee carried unanimously.*

With no question or concerns noted on the audit received and laid over at the September County Board Meeting, Mr. Graham made a motion to accept and adopt the 2007 Audit. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to accept and adopt the 2007 Audit carried unanimously.*

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff Snyders reported the jail population numbers are back up to 160.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** Mr. Isbell presented the following item;

**HD 08-30 #08-10-1595 Florence Township County Bridge Aid to replace structure on Kermit Road with the estimated cost of \$6,000.** Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve 08-30. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 08-30 carried unanimously.*

**ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Groves presented the following items;

**Zoning District Map Amendment MA 2008-06 and Special Use SU 2008-12 requests by Dave Pizzolato.** The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommends approval. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Zoning District Map Amendment and Special Use request. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Zoning District Map Amendment MA 2008-06 and Special Use SU 2008-12 requests by Dave Pizzolato carried unanimously.*

**Residential Special Use SU 2008-13 request by Tim Moore.** The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommends approval. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Residential Special Use request. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Residential Special Use SU 2008-13 by Tim Moore carried with one nay vote noted.*

**Residential Special Use SU 2008-14 request by Jeremiah Tarbert.** The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommends approval. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Residential Special Use request. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Residential Special Use SU 2008-14 request by Jeremiah carried unanimously.*

**Variance-Height and Yard of an Accessory Building request by Alexcey Victorov.** Mr. Groves reported the Variance was unanimously approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals; with no County Board action needed.

**Amendment to Zoning Code 13.10 Special Uses & 4.00 General Provisions, Amendment to Zoning Code 3.0 Rules and Definitions & Amendment to Zoning Code 7.0 Agricultural Districts.** The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously recommends approval of all three amendments. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Amendments to the Zoning Code. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. Mr. Wire made a motion to amend the proposed article 7.01 by inserting the word agriculture before the word commodities both times as used. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to amend the proposed article 7.01. *Motion to amend the proposed article 7.01 carried unanimously.* Mr. Wire then made a motion to amend the proposed article 7.01 by deleting the words “and renewable” before the word “resources” so that it read “and other natural resources”. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to amend the proposed article 7.01. *Motion to amend the proposed article 7.01 failed.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the Amendments as amended. *Motion to approve Ordinance #008-10-1599, Amendment to Zoning Code 13.10 Special Uses & 4.00, Ordinance #008-10-1597, General Provisions, Amendment to Zoning Code 3.0 Rules and Definitions & Ordinance #008-10-1598, Amendment to Zoning Code 7.0 Agricultural Districts as amended carried unanimously.*

**PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL:** No Report

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Mr. Groves reported on the all hazard mitigation plan adoption.

**9-1-1 REPORT:** Mr. Groves reported the budget was approved and forwarded to Finance. Alex McIlvanie has been offered the co-coordinator position.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr. Beintema reported the next meeting of the County Need Assessment, “21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Communities” will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will cover identifying critical issues from the four assessments. To date (18) counties have reported a West Nile virus positive bird, mosquito, horse or human case. Stephenson County has tested (170) mosquito batches and (17) birds and have been negative for birds and mosquitoes. We do have one reported human case of West Nile Virus. Last year (46) of the State’s 102 counties were found to have positive cases; a total of (16) human cases of West Nile disease have been reported in Illinois as compared to (101) last year. The Health Department is simulating at least two public Safety Flu Clinics for the purposes of estimating their capacity to vaccinate individuals. The Health Department will begin flu shot season in October. Walk-ins are Monday – Friday 9:00 am – noon and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm. County Employees are scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am –

11:00 am and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. The Department has been awarded a MRC status for medical and non-medical volunteer status and has conducted two volunteer trainings. The Department is one of twenty-five in the nation awarded a Federal Quality Health Care Planning Grant. Mr. Beintema is still working with Animal Control on a "Spayed and Neuter" Program. Food Scores for the month of September were distributed.

**NURSING CENTER REPORT:** Mr. Fortney thanked the Committee for forming a "Building and Grounds" sub-committee. He reported he has applied for Medicare Certification for the entire facility. Renovations are being planned for the kitchen. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, laundry and maintenance will no longer be provided by an outside source.

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:** No Report

**STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT:** No Report

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

- Chairman Blum reminded Board Member of some additions and changes to the committee and board meeting schedule for the balance of this fiscal year. Four special Finance Committee meetings have been scheduled for October 21, 23, 28, and 29 starting at 6:30 p.m. to work through the budgets submitted by the oversight committees. Mr. Mulnix is working on a schedule to determine which budgets will be on the agenda for each of those meetings. Every County Board member is encouraged to attend these special meetings. In November the normal sequence of meetings has been adjusted to accommodate the required 15-day layover period for the budget. The Finance Committee will hold their November meeting on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The County Board will meet for the budget presentation on Monday, November 10, 2008. The budget will be laid over and the County Board will reconvene on November 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. to adopt the final budget. Then the new County Board will hold the reformation meeting on December 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Please make note of these adjustments in your schedule.
- On September 29, 2008 approximately 14 representatives from Stephenson County attended a UCCI seminar at Sauk Valley College. We attended along with members of other counties in the region. The topics covered were liability and loss control and issues involving the open meetings act. Chairman Blum expressed his appreciation of the time taken by the members of our board to attend this meeting.
- October 17 and 18, we will be attending the UCCI Fall Conference in Springfield. On Friday evening there will be a graduation ceremony for individuals that have completed the UCCI Leadership program. We will be proud to attend and witness our own Russell Mulnix receive this honor.
- On October 9, 2008 a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the campus of Highland Community College for the new 5500 sq. ft. wind technology building. It should be ready for students beginning in the fall of 2009. This facility will house Illinois' first Associate of Applied Science Degree in Wind Turbine Technology. This is a great example of the positive benefits that come from partnerships. Partners in this venture with HCC are Ecoenergy, Greenlee Textron, and a group of local banks. The first group of technicians has already started their training this Fall.
- Stephenson County hosted a Rise N'Shine breakfast for the Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce on October 1, 2008 at the County Highway Building. On display were a number of public safety and emergency response assets. This was an opportunity for chamber members and the general public to see the variety of tools and personnel that we have organized to meet emergency, public safety, and homeland security needs. Chairman Blum thanked all of the members of the responder groups that assisted in putting on this display. He specifically thanked Terry Groves and Steve Holbert for the assistance in organizing the event and Chris Isbell for allowing us to use the building.
- Since last month we have received the official approval from the FAA for the water tower planned for the Mill Race Industrial Park. The tower will be 147 ft. above ground level. Fehr-Graham can now finalize the design and bid process leading toward construction. Please be reminded that these infrastructure items are being funded by a grant from the EDA and that we are under a stringent schedule by EDA to begin and complete construction. The EDA grant will help fund the basic water system and internal roads for the industrial park.

- We have also received written authority to use the \$147,000 of HUD grant funds for the Mill Race Park. These funds will be used to provide the match for the EDA funds to pay for the basic infrastructure requirements.
- We have completed the draft development agreement for Project Cat, a renewable energy project to be located in the Mill Race Park. The document is now being reviewed by legal counsel for the client and the City of Freeport. We hope to resolve any language issues in a few days and have the agreement ready for the Planning and Development Committee in November. Our review process is contingent on receiving a benefit letter from the State of Illinois, DCEO.
- The Ecogrove wind project continues to take shape. The large crane is onsite and will be assembled and begin attaching turbines and blades very soon. Future phases of wind development on behalf of Accionna and other developers are moving rapidly through the design phase and should begin the permitting process in early 2009.
- We have been working with NIDA over the past month on an update of their governance rules as well as a update to the strategic plan. Mr. Mikkelsen is attending these meetings with me. It is planned to have a strategic plan ready for review by the NIDA Board by November 11, 2008 and then available to this Board. It is intended that the updates to the governance and strategic planning components of NIDA will enhance the effectiveness of our economic development efforts in the region.
- The County Liquor Commission spent a great deal of time working on a comprehensive update of the County Liquor Code. The Commission submitted the draft update to the Administration Committee for comment. A number of comments were received and we intend to schedule a Liquor Commission meeting in the near future to work through these comments. It is Chairman Blum's intension to get feedback from our license holders on the new draft before we finalize it and submit it to this Board for adoption.
- Chairman Blum submitted letters of support to the NICAA for two grant programs covering a First-Time Homebuyer program and a Single Family Owner Occupied program. In addition, I have asked for a meeting with NICAA, the City of Freeport, and NHS to determine how grant applications are coordinated to insure maximum county coverage and the highest certainty of success. It appears that a number of grant applications in the housing, neighborhood, and Brownfield's areas have been submitted by the various units of government without coordination.
- Our Local Workforce Investment Board met last week and we continue to meet or exceed the state standards. We received an additional \$500,000 dollars from the State to add to our worker training programs. A great deal of time is being spent on determining how to certify our workforce to improve the employee pool that current and prospective businesses can draw from. It was noted that the workforce on a national, state, and local level is strained to meet the basic educational needs of business. It was noted that even the US Army is establishing a pre-induction school to determine if a new recruit is smart enough to become part of their organization.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Chairman Blum recommended the following reappointment;

- Reappointment of Tom Erickson to the Merit Commission

Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the reappointments. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointment to the Merit Commission carried unanimously.*

**Action Items from Standing Committee**

**Finance:** Mr. Graham reported the Budget Hearing Dates have been set as follows; October 21, 23, 28 and 30. All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm.

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

- 1479 St Marys Church Manager Robert E Bouray
- 1480 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Manager Cynthia Mielke
- 1481 Aquin Catholic Schools Manager Linda K Thayer
- 1482 Freeport Radio Control Modelers, Manager Jeffrey Burd
- 1483 Freeport Art Museum, Manager Carolyn Mitchell

1484 New Horizons Counseling Center, Manager Barry Klaung

1485 Fraternal Order of Eagles #679, Manager Carol Lamm

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.*

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper presented Budget Resolution 08-10-1595 transferring \$15,000 from Contingencies to the Dependent Children Fund Budget. Second by Mr. Détente. 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, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve Budget Resolution 08-10-1595 transferring \$15,000 from Contingencies to the Dependent Children Fund Budget carried unanimously.*

**Nursing Center:** Ms. Kubatzke presented Budget Resolution 08-10-1596 transferring \$225 within the Nursing Center Budget to establish line item for Nursing Center Recording Secretary. Second by Détente. 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, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve Budget Resolution 08-10-1596 transferring \$225 within the Nursing Center Budget carried unanimously.*

**Planning & Development:** Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the continued use of James Snyder of Ice Miller as the County's bond counsel for Mill Race Crossing. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to continue the use of Mr. Snyder of Ice Miller as the County's bond counsel for Mill Race Crossing carried unanimously.*

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to support NICAAs Rehab Grant application. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to support the NICAAs Rehab Grant application carried unanimously.*

#### **Information Items from Standing Committees**

**Public Safety:** Mr. Senn reported the State's Attorney has been asked to draft an ordinance regarding cell phone use in the Courthouse. This will be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The Committee has recommended the County Board adopt a resolution in support of the General Assembly passing a "conceal carry" statute. This will be brought to the full Board upon completion.

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper reported her Committee has also had discussed the issue of the use of cell phones in the Courthouse with the State's Attorney.

**Nursing Center:** Ms. Kubatzke reported the site the Foundation is looking at for the Assisted Living Facility is looking very promising. The Freeport Focus published an article on the Poor Farm. The Committee hopes to have the Cemetery fully renovated by early spring. They are encouraging families to notify them if they have any concerns.

**Planning and Development:** Mr. Mikkelsen reported there is a proposal to encourage developers to use help from local County residents.

#### **CLAIMS**

Finance & Procurement	\$	608,178.05
Administration	\$	114,993.16
Public Works	\$	281,728.40
Nursing Center	\$	199,941.76
Public Property	\$	40,639.02
Court Services	\$	36,302.02
Public Safety	\$	147,171.28
Planning & Development	\$	679.65
9-1-1	\$	39,011.80

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. 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, 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 6 days, 0 miles-Boynton 6 days, 61 miles-Brown 5 days, 22 miles-Cashmore - days, - miles-Detente 6 days, 166 miles-Devine 5 days, 22 miles-Dotson 2 days, 70 miles-Graham 7 days, 29 miles-Hadley 3 days, 14 miles- Hilton 8 days, 25 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-V Hooper 6 days, 10 miles- Koch 4 days, 96 miles, Kubatzke 8 days, 239 miles-A Kuhlemeier 4 days, 124 miles-J Kuhlmeier 7 days, 162 miles-McKenna 2 days, 8 miles-Mikkelsen 8 days, 162 miles-Newton 5 days, 56 miles- Parker 4 days, 96 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Wire 4 days, 156 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. A. Kuhlemeier expressed interest to have Mr. McLeRoy present legislative matters to the County Board.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:** Mr. Détente requested that out of respect to the Board and the Courthouse Building; members of the audience remove their hats before addressing the Board. Mike King of 5003 N Dakota Road, Dakota addressed the Board. He stated that he had mailed all Board Members a packet of information regarding the Wind Turbines in Waddams and his research on Wind Farms. He expressed his displeasure with being mocked in chamber. He further stated his concern with the hazards these Turbines cause and the need for signage, permanent lighting and evergreen barriers. Mr. Groves noted for the record; the tower is legal and is set-back 150 yards.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. MONDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2008:** Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Monday November 10, 2008. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:36 p.m.*

*Mr. McKenna will lead the Pledge and Mr. Hadley will be responsible for the Invocation at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting*