

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of March was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Graham, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Graham, Mr. Senn, Ms. S. Hooper, Ms. V. Hooper, Ms. Kubatzke, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Détente and Mr. Kuhlemeier.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, February 11, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A resolution transferring the real estate property title to a purchaser, at auction, of a delinquent tax property was presented for signature by members of the Finance Committee. On a motion by Ms. Kubatzke, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the title transfer was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cheryl Kneubuehl, interim Executive Director of the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation), suggested a joint meeting of the Freeport City Council and the County Board to learn about NIDA's current activities and future plans. She distributed several advertising pieces developed for Mill Race Crossing by GVA Williams. The County appropriated \$10,000 for NIDA, in the 2008 budget. Chairman Blum distributed the current NIDA profit and loss statement and budget. Ms. Kneubuehl said that the office is running efficiently. She is looking to increase the public commitment to NIDA. She is working on regional support for expansion of US Route 20 to four lanes. NIDA needs additional funding to provide adequate programs. NIDA expects \$50,000 from Jo Daviess County. They are looking for an annual commitment from Stephenson County of \$100,000. Brian Stewart said that the Foundation has been under funded since its inception. Chairman Blum explained that the County has supported economic development through its property tax revenue going to City TIF's. Ms. S. Hooper noted that compared with the City of Freeport, the County is limited in its ability to raise new or additional tax revenues. There was a discussion on the need for more jobs in the area. NIDA is actively searching for a new Executive Director. They have received 12 resumes, at this point. Mr. Mikkelsen questioned NIDA's willingness to keep the County informed of major decisions, such as, the resignation of the previous Executive Director. Chairman Blum reported that he expects EcoGrove to generate \$250,000 in Enterprise Zone fees. The Enterprise Zone Committee is meeting on March 18th to seek RFP's for economic development services. The four units of government get to vote on the decisions of the Enterprise Zone Committee. Mr. Mikkelsen said that NIDA lost the

County's trust, in the recent the process of seeking the resignation of their previous Executive Director. Mayor Gaulrapp reported that he is asking for \$25,000 from the City Council for gap funding of NIDA and the new City budget includes \$100,000 for NIDA. There was a discussion of the County's budget amendment process and the limitations caused by the requirement to post meeting agendas 48 hours before the meeting.

Mr. McLeRoy reported on UCCI's annual legislative day, February 26th. The seminar on the February 27th was excellent. He noted that the governor's budget speech was the shortest on record. Representative Sacia and Senator Bivens attended the UCCI reception. He reviewed some of the legislative messages. The State is \$3 billion delinquent in their Medicaid payments. Illinois job growth is 45th in the nation. The budget includes 35 new or expanded programs. UCCI is looking to sponsor regional seminars and workshops on various legal subjects, as determined by the attendees. He reviewed the reimbursement program for UCCI attendance. UCCI's annual conference is scheduled for July 28th and 29th in Galena. Mr. McLeRoy encouraged attendance to the 2008 UCCI/University of Illinois Leadership Academy.

Mr. Graham reported on the activities of the GIS/IT Committee to resolve current telecommunication problems and to upgrade the County with new technology. Mr. Kane said that replacement of the 18 year-old PBX would cost \$80,000. The GIS/IT Committee received three proposals, each with a different method, for implementing an IT phone system. A hosted system would not require a new PBX. There are 31 fax machines in the County. He would like to convert them to email so that advertisements could be eliminated without printing. The GIS/IT Committee would like to negotiate an agreement with the Aero Group for a new phone system. A new phone system would start in the Courthouse and work its way to the more remote locations. There is a possibility that the new system could be used to provide personal phone service to the residents of the Nursing Center. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Finance Committee authorized the GIS/IT Committee to negotiate an IT phone system solution with the Aero Group.

Mr. Snavely distributed a proposal from Monson Nicholas, Inc. for correcting the sally port floor-boiler room ceiling problem. The \$27,125 proposal is to replace 50 square feet. Each additional square foot would be another \$90. He also plans to meet with Harn Construction again regarding this project. There was a discussion on how to cover the amount of any overages. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper, the Committee agreed to fund up to \$40,000 for this project from the Capital Fund; the voice vote was 6 to 1.

The County Administrator reviewed last month's discussion regarding the IMRF's Early Retirement Incentive program. The program allows eligible employees to purchase five years of service and five years of age and immediately retire. An employee must be 50 years of age with 20 years of service to qualify for the ERI program. The County Administrator explained the IMRF rules regulating the program and the County's obligation to pay for the newly created liability, within ten years. The IMRF requires a taxing body to obtain a cost estimate before adopting the program. Mr. Mulnix was directed to get a cost estimate from the IMRF for an eligibility year, starting December 1, 2008.

The Committee reviewed the February 2008 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$90,954.24 surplus in February. After the first three months of the current fiscal year, revenues have exceeded expenses by \$176,736.87.

The Budgetary Status, and Major Revenue Tracking reports for February 2008 were distributed and reviewed. Since, there were no new loans or loans repaid in February; the Interfund Loan Report was not distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that he had no financial action items.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee recommended adoption of a resolution on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and reiteration of the County's FOIA policy.

Court Services – Ms. V. Hooper reported that her committee recommended adoption of a budget resolution appropriating \$7,000 for a Peer Jury program. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Finance Committee concurred in recommending adoption of the budget resolution appropriating \$7,000 for a Peer Jury program.

Nursing Center - Ms. Kubatzke reported that her committee approve the employment contract for Darnell Fortney. The Nursing Center is sponsoring a Bingo party tomorrow from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The cost for the remodeling project is being shared between the NC Foundation (\$19,000) and the NC Bequest Fund (\$7,000). The annual inspection of the Nursing Center, by Public Health, started today. Mr. Fortney has decided to stop the policy of allowing resident family members to drive the County's van. Mr. Snaveley has received an estimate for replacing the rubber membrane on the flat roof. Her committee has decided to repair rather than replace the flat roof. In the spring, the valleys of the pitched roof will also be repaired. They will ask the County Engineer to provide an estimate for repairing the parking lot. Ms. Kubatzke reported that she has submitted an application for a grant for the old County cemetery. Also, a friend of hers wants to donate the funds for a wrought iron fence around the cemetery.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that he had no financial action items. He reviewed the action that his committee took in support of the wind generation development in the northwest part of the County. His committee also recommended Enterprise Zone benefits for the EcoGrove Wind Farm development. The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a hearing on March 17th for a special use permit request by EcoGrove for an expansion of the area for their project.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that he did not have any action items.

Chairman Blum said that he had nothing further to report.

The Committee postponed its review of the County Code Book.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$612,325.60 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper.

The Committee adjourned at 9:18 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Senn.

Approved: April 7, 2008

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, April 7, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room

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