

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of April 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 6:35 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Graham, Mr. Senn, Ms. S. Hooper, Ms. Kubatzke, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. Absent was Ms. V. Hooper. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Of the other County Board members, Mr. Détente was present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, March 10, 2008 were corrected (page 2, paragraph 3, line 4, the word "proposals" should be "presentations") and approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. Kubatzke, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Graham explained that the Finance Committee was responsible to hold a Public Hearing regarding the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds for construction projects by the Freeport Regional Health Care Foundation. Mr. Graham announced that the Public Hearing was open and invited anyone in the audience to come forward and express their views. Mr. McLeRoy noted that the new building site was on "Fairway", not "Fairview", as listed in the public announcement. Chairman Blum explained that the issuance of these bonds would not have any impact on the County's financial statements or statutory debt limit. There were no other public comments. Mr. Graham announced that the Public Hearing was closed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McLeRoy explained that if the citizens of Illinois want a Constitutional Convention in 2010 then this is the year to so indicate, or wait another ten years. The State of Illinois budget deficit is between \$2 and \$3 billion. It is short \$700 million in its funding of State pensions. Health insurance for State employees cost \$100 million per year. The State has until May 2009 to match the allocated Federal highway funds or lose them.

Mr. McLeRoy reported on some of the legislation pending in the Illinois General Assembly. HB4164 would not allow special use permits to be granted for a term of more than five years and would expire all existing special use permits after five years. HB4353 would allow a county board to remove the county treasurer from office, if he does not provide a report of the accounts he maintains, as required by law. HB4646 would allow a county to own a wind generation turbine farm to reduce the operating

costs of the county. HB4700 requires the State's Attorney to notify any pension fund or retirement system, created under the Illinois Pension Code, when a participating employee is convicted of a felony. HB4766 allows counties to lease space on their telecommunications towers, to public or private entities. HB4992 provides for the county clerk to impose a \$2 fee, for certified copies of vital records, to develop, maintain and improve technology in the office. HB5278 prohibits county clerks from making public endorsements of candidates within their election jurisdiction. HB5586 requires county recorders, upon request, to redact or remove certain personal information, from web sites and displays of public records. SB1400 creates the Wind Energy Indemnity Fund and requires a \$10,000 payment for each wind turbine, so the Department of Agriculture can pay claims for the decommissioning of abandoned wind turbines. SB1965 allows counties to seek reimbursement from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services for medical payments, in excess of \$500, for eligible jail inmates. SB2077 allows counties to impose a sales tax, after an approved referendum, for "public facilities purposes". SB2250 would allow coroners to participate in SLEP IMRF.

Mr. Snavely said that he did not have a report.

Mr. Beintema reported that his department is looking at grants to help with providing additional services. He has several changes to the Water Well Chapter of the County Code Book. They involve technical language changes, increasing a fee and reducing another fee. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Committee recommended adoption of the proposed revisions to the Water Well Chapter of the County Code.

Mr. Beintema explained that he plans to refinance the mortgage on the Health Department Building. The outstanding balance is \$458,295.90. The five-year "balloon" comes due on August 14, 2008. He has asked for five and ten-year interest rates from several local banks. State Bank has offered the best interest rate. He plans to make a \$200,000 payment against the debt and then amortize the remaining balance over ten years. The Health Department Building would be debt free in August 2018.

The Committee reviewed the March 2008 revenue and expense amounts in the Employee Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$32,545.45 deficit in March. After the first four months of the current fiscal year, revenues have exceeded expenses by \$145,291.93. The County Administrator distributed copies of an article entitled "Oral and Vision Care Are Good for the Body" and a memo to department heads on using Health Works, as much as possible, for on the job injuries.

The Budgetary Status, Major Revenue Tracking, Cash Flow, and Interfund Loan reports for March 2008 were distributed and reviewed.

Last month, Cheryl Kneubuehl, interim Executive Director of the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation), reported on their financial needs. This month, the Planning and Development Committee recommended that the County provide an additional \$15,000 to NIDA, but did not identify a source for those funds. A motion by Mr. Mikkelsen for the County to contribute an additional \$15,000, contingent on the private sector contributing

another \$15,000, did not receive a second. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Senn, the Committee agreed to contribute an additional \$15,000 to NIDA and to amend the Economic Development budget to provide the necessary funds; the voice vote was 5 to 1. There was a discussion on the fees being generated by the Enterprise Zone and the proper use of those funds. It was agreed that NIDA needs to be generating its own revenue. The Enterprise Zone Committee could be or should be funding NIDA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Property – Mr. Senn reported that his committee was advised of the noise that would be generated by repairing the sally port floor. Chairman Blum, Mr. Isbell and Mr. Mulnix all reported on their conversations concerning a complaint on how the contractor was selected for the sally port floor project. The selection issue was referred to Frank Cook. There was a discussion of the alternatives available to the County and the need to proceed with this project. Mr. Senn said that he is studying various options available to the County for getting some all-weather County flags. The Freeport Beautification Association and Freeport Downtown Development want local businesses to beautify their buildings, with banners and bunting, for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. There was a discussion of the budget resolution for the Sheriff and the TLEP grant. On a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Kuhlmeier, the Committee recommended referring the resolution back to the Public Property Committee.

Administration – Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee worked on some of their assigned chapters. She recommended that the Finance Committee schedule a special meeting to work on its assigned chapters. The Finance Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m.

Court Services – In the absence of Ms. V. Hooper, there was no report regarding her committee.

Nursing Center - Ms. Kubatzke reported that the Nursing Center has had its annual Federal and State inspections. The County received 10 nursing “tags” and 8 building “tags”. Mr. Fortney has already submitted the required Plan of Correction. There was a discussion of repairs to the building and their scheduling. The maintenance contract with ABM is being terminated. The two ABM employees will be offered jobs with the Nursing Center. Ms. Kubatzke said that her grant request for the poor farm cemetery was denied.

Planning and Development – Mr. Mikkelsen reported that his committee recommended approval of two Special Zoning Ordinances (construction of an electrical substation and construction of up to 30 wind turbines) in support of the EcoGrove Wind Farm, LLC.

Public Works - Mr. Kuhlmeier reported that his committee approved seven resolutions for the County Board. They are purchasing a used semi-tractor to pull the “low boy” trailer.

Chairman Blum asked about the IMRF's Early Retirement Incentive program, discussed last month. The County Administrator said that he has not yet received the cost report from the IMRF.

Chairman Blum reviewed the history of NIDA's transition from Mr. Skurla to the present. There was a discussion of the alternatives available to the County and what was the best. There are no "non-compete" restrictions on Mr. Skurla. If Mr. Skurla was working on Mill Race Crossing project, he could be paid from those funds. He would not be a County employee. The Enterprise Zone Committee will be finalizing their RFP for marketing services next week. The Committee was concerned with the projects that are already in progress. On a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Committee recommended that the County contract for Mr. Skurla's services.

The Committee postponed its review of the County Code Book, until their special meeting on April 30th, at 6:30 p.m.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$1,030,206.22 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Ms. Kubatzke.

The Committee adjourned at 9:33 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Senn, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper.

Approved: May 12, 2008

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, May 12, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room