

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of July was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Parker, the Vice-Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were, Mr. Parker, Mr. Koch, Ms. S. Hooper, Mr. Graham, Mr. Newton and Ms. DeVine. Absent was Mr. Mikkelsen. County Board Chairman Blum was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, June 2, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. DeVine.

Mr. Groves noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals is not scheduled to meet in July. He reported that Mr. Cook is reviewing the new signage ordinance.

Mr. Groves distributed the minutes from the June meeting of the Jane Addams Trail commission. He described the route of Jane Addams "B" from Tutty's Crossing to Jane Addams "A". The Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission has submitted the corrected plats to the State. The ComEd lease agreement is still in their legal department.

Chairman Blum reported that the four governing units of the Enterprise Zone have set several new priorities for the EZ Committee. The EZ Committee needs to audit the EZ maps, petition the Department of Commerce for an extension and increase its marketing efforts, on behalf of the Enterprise Zone. It appears that Jo Daviess County is bringing its marketing efforts in-house, rather than continuing with NIDA. 50% of the EZ fee goes directly to the specific local government and 50% to the EZ Committee. The local government can request those additional funds, after the EZ Committee has paid for its own services on the project. The next Enterprise Zone Committee meeting is July 15th. An Enterprise Zone has a twenty-year life and can be extended for another ten years. An extension requires all units of government to readopt their ordinances of participation, for the property tax abatement to remain in force. The HB Plastic project is moving forward. The Supportive Living Facility is looking at a site in the unincorporated part of the County.

There was no update on the activities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. Chairman Blum explained that there need to be some technical changes to the Enterprise Zone boundaries, regarding the CVB site.

Mr. Newton distributed the Blackhawk Hills RC&D newsletter, regarding the 2008 Annual Report. On a motion by Mr. Newton, seconded by Mr. Koch, the committee recommended approval of a resolution adopting the Annual Report of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the six-county region. Chairman Blum explained that each county has its own CEDS committee. In this County, the Community Revitalization Action Committee (CRAC) was used. A more independent group is needed and he has scheduled a meeting for July 21st, to get a group organized.

Ms. S. Hooper reported that she was not able to attend the June meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board. She said that she would distribute the June minutes of the SWCD meeting, at the County Board meeting. SWCD staff is working on estimates of farm losses from the recent floods.

Chairman Blum noted that the \$15,000 approved for the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance, during the May County Board meeting, has been paid. He also has two NIDA items for the Executive Session.

Mr. Skurla reported on several pending projects at Mill Race Crossing. GVA Williams is working on these projects and a spec building. Ground should be broken this year on a spec building. The infrastructure requirements for water and sewer are dependent upon what businesses locate within the Mill Race Industrial Park. The MRC annual report is due to the State in July. The County has a possible candidate for the former Blackhawk Biofuels site. The FAA has denied the original plan for an elevated water tower. A new water tower plan needs to be developed. A Journal-Standard story caused the US EDA to question the viability of the MRIP and consequently, the need for the \$1.725 million grant. Explanations from Fehr-Graham resolved the issue. The County continues to look for a truck stop developer.

There was no update on the Kellogg Grove Battlefield and Blackhawk Monument restoration project. Chairman Blum will call one of the portable toilet vendors to have a unit set at the Blackhawk Monument.

The County Administrator reported that the City of Freeport is applying for a public transportation grant from IDOT. The City will need County support for the grant. However, the City has yet to receive the contracts from the State. The City hopes to have the documents for next month's meeting.

Chairman Blum explained that the Lena Park District is helping to promote a river fest, August 16th and 17th. They are trying to raise funds for beautification of the Pecatonica River. They would like donations of goods and services.

Mr. Parker explained that an Executive Session was necessary to discuss personnel and real estate matters. On a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Newton, the Committee went into Executive Session, on a roll call vote, for Employment/Appointment Matters and Business Matters. (Aye: Mr. Koch, Ms. S. Hooper, Mr. Graham, Mr. Newton, Ms. DeVine, Mr. Parker; Nay: None.) On a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Committee came out of Executive Session. Mr. Parker announced that Employment/Appointment Matters and Business Matters were discussed, but no action was taken.

Claims of \$2,409.58 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. DeVine.

The Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m., on a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Koch.

Approved: August 4, 2008

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, August 4, 2008 6:30 p.m.
Stephenson County Board Room