

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of September 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, Mr. Graham, Ms. S. Hooper, Mr. Newton and Ms. DeVine. Absent was Mr. Mikkelsen. County Board Chairman Blum was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, August 4, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper.

Randy Grunder, Chairman of the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District Board, expressed his gratitude to the County Board for past financial support. Federal and State funding support has been cut. The SWCD has revenue of \$3,000,000 from Federal, State and County grants, fees and sales. The SWCD is requesting \$25,000, from the County, for 2009. Chairman Blum said that he would bring the SWCD's request for a non-voting seat on the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance Board, to the NIDA Board. The next regular SWCD Board meeting is next week.

Mr. Groves reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, September 4, 2008 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. There are two items on the agenda: 1. Jeremy Stephan is seeking a residential special use permit for construction of a single-family non-farm dwelling. 2. Jack James is seeking a residential special use permit for construction of a single-family non-farm dwelling.

Mr. Groves reported that the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission meeting is this week; they need to purchase right-of-way and are waiting for the ComEd lease. The Jane Addams Trail Commission met and discussed maintenance plans for the Trail.

Mr. Groves presented and reviewed the Zoning (914) budget. He explained that he is sharing rental costs with the Health Department. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Koch, the Committee forwarded Zoning (914) budget to the Finance Committee.

Chairman Blum reported that the Enterprise Zone Committee has submitted, to the State, the expansion applications for the EcoGrove operations building and the new HB Plastics building. There was a discussion regarding a revolving loan fund proposed by the EZ Committee. The County still has \$250,000 with the EZ Committee. There was a discussion on how the EZ funds should be disbursed. Mr. Kane will be attending and speaking at an Enterprise Zone Administrator conference in Peoria.

Chairman Blum explained that Mr. Mikkelsen is in the Freeport Memorial Hospital.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau Board meeting is next week.

Mr. Newton explained that the Blackhawk Hills RC&D is having problems getting a quorum for their meetings. They are trying to develop a new meeting schedule. Chairman Blum explained that he is working to organize a new Comprehensive

Economic Development Strategy Committee. Adam Holder, from Fehr-Graham, has agreed to work with the new CEDS Committee.

Cheryl Kneubuehl, Executive Director for the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance, reported that DCEO has sent a number of RFI's regarding Mill Race Crossing. She has been meeting with the Tri-State Alliance regarding upgrading US Route 20 to four-lanes and Amtrak. She has made contacts with CN rail because several MRC candidates want rail service. Ms. Kneubuehl has been appointed to the WIB Board. A developer interested in constructing a spec building, at MRC, may have a tenant.

Chairman Blum reported that GVA Williams will report to the County Board, during the September meeting, on its marketing of Mill Race Crossing. A potential developer is looking at the old Blackhawk Biofuels site. The FAA has yet to respond to the latest application for a water tower at MRC.

There was no update on the Kellogg Grove Battlefield and Blackhawk Monument restoration project.

The County Administrator reported that the City of Freeport is applying for a public transportation grant from IDOT. The City has yet to receive the contracts from the State. This delay has been caused by the State's budget problems.

Chairman Blum reported that he participated in a Pecatonica River clean-up, with a youth group. The State of Illinois still does not have a capital plan and may lose \$9 billion in Federal matching funds. The Lena Park District would like a letter of support for its BAAD (Boat Access Area Development) grant. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Graham, the Committee authorized the Chairman Blum to write a letter of support for the Lena Park District's BAAD grant application. The Friends of the Pecatonica are looking to form a 501(c)3 organization. The Village of Lena wants to designate a path from the Village to Lake Le-Aqua-Na. EcoGrove is working on easements for its transmission lines. EcoGrove and Lena are concerned with truck traffic during construction, of the wind towers, and the assigned truck routes. Wind tower construction is ahead of schedule. CSI has announced that it is closing.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$30,710.96 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Newton, seconded by Ms. DeVine.

The Committee adjourned at 7:50 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper.

Approved: October 6, 2008

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