

## PUBLIC PROPERTY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of April was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Senn, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Senn, Mr. McKenna, Ms. V. Hooper, Mr. Graham and Mr. Cashmore. Absent were Ms. Boynton and Mr. Hilton. County Board Chairman Blum was not present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. McKenna.

Judge Ursin explained that the court system needs additional space. One of the judges has to share his office with a court reporter. In the courtrooms, prisoners are too close to staff. She would like to see the non-court functions moved out of the Courthouse. There was a discussion on balancing the use of limited space between storage and people. On Thursday and Friday, the County Board Room is used as a fifth courtroom. The court reporters generate a lot of records that need to be stored. Judge Ursin questioned the availability of space in the 5/3 Bank building. The question was raised about the possibility of moving the County Board meetings out of the Courthouse.

The County Administrator noted that the repair of the sally port floor-boiler room ceiling is scheduled to begin the third week of April. It will generate a lot of noise that may be disruptive of courtroom proceedings.

Mr. Senn explained that the current County flags are all 3'x5' and have a short life span when flown outside. The County needs some heavy-duty 4'x6' all-weather flags. There was a discussion on how to fund the cost of the flags. The cost per flag decreases as the number of flags increase. It could cost upwards of \$1,000 for 10 flags.

The Freeport Beautification Association and Freeport Downtown Development want local businesses to beautify their buildings for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. They are selling banners and bunting to adorn Freeport buildings, from August 1<sup>st</sup>, to September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Groves distributed copies of the March 2008 Illinois Emergency Services Management Association newsletter. It includes an article about Stephenson County and the functional exercise that was held at Adkins Energy's ethanol plant in Lena.

Mr. Groves distributed a list of the agencies that participated in the full scale domestic terrorism exercise, hosted by the County. He also distributed his report on the exercise. He noted that an observer from the University of Illinois Fire Institute said that he was impressed by the number of agencies that were working together as one.

Ms V. Hooper complimented Mr. Holbert on his NIMS training class.

The Sheriff reported on the cancer situation with Sharon Hensal. He has hired a retired accountant, through a temporary agency, to help in the office. Eric Kohlbauer

had an emergency appendectomy last week. He will use maintenance people from the Public Safety Building and the Jail to cover for Eric.

The Dakota, Lena, Pearl City and Orangeville School systems would like to initiate a police liaison program. They are willing to share the cost of a deputy. The deputy would alternate among the four school systems. The schools would be paying for more than one-half of the cost for the deputy. The program would start with the new school year. During the summer, the deputy would have regular department assignments. Chief Deputy Welch is looking for grants to help with this program. The Sheriff is recommending that schools have lock down drills.

The Sheriff explained that they have received some TLEP grant reimbursements. The addition salary cost for these deputies was included in the budget. However, the additional cost for the equipment was not included. There was a discussion on how to handle this in the budget. The Committee agreed to amend the budget to increase the affected budget lines. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Cashmore, the Committee recommended approval of a budget amendment to transfer \$31,125 from the Contingency Account to the Law Enforcement budget split among the Equipment (\$3,090), Machines & Equipment (\$5,240) and Automotive & Red Light (\$22,795) budget lines.

The Sheriff explained his mandate to provide Courthouse security.

The Sheriff and his staff are still reviewing Chapter 12, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, for possible updates.

Mr. Senn explained that Viet Now would like the County to pay to add another name to the Viet Nam War Memorial monument. During the discussion, it was learned that not every name on the monument died in combat or even in Viet Nam. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Graham, the Committee agreed to allow Viet Now to add another name, if they pay for it.

The County Administrator reported that he was visited by an investigator from the Foundation for Fair Contracting. He was interested in the sally port floor-boiler room ceiling project. Mr. Snively has contacted Frank Cook to determine if the County needs to do something before it proceeds with this project.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$37,261.03 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Cashmore, seconded by Mr. McKenna.

The Committee adjourned at 7:40 p.m., on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Cashmore.

Approved: May 6, 2008

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