

## PUBLIC PROPERTY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

The stated meeting for the month of September 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, Mr. Cashmore, Mr. Graham, Mr. Hilton and Ms. V. Hooper. Absent was Ms. Boynton. County Board Chairman Blum was also present. Other County Board members present were Mr. Détente, Ms. Dotson, Mr. Kuhlemeier, Mr. Kuhlmeier and Mr. Parker.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Tuesday, August 5, 2008 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Hilton.

On a motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Cashmore, the Committee amended the agenda by moving the Conceal Carry Legislation discussion to immediately following the Emergency Management Agency Report and Budget presentation.

Mr. Groves presented and reviewed the Emergency Management Agency (Fund 21) budget. He plans to eliminate the position of Assistant Coordinator and increase the time of the Intern. He identified a number of cost items that are shared with the Highway and/or Health Departments or 9-1-1. He explained that he is providing NIMS training to the rural fire districts. On a motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. V. Hooper, the Committee forwarded the Emergency Management Agency (Fund 21) budget to the Finance Committee.

Chairman Blum explained that the "conceal carry" issue was referred to this Committee by the County Board. The County Board does not have the authority to adopt such an ordinance, without legislation by the State of Illinois. Several other counties are requesting the General Assembly to take action on this issue. Chairman Blum distributed material from other counties. The County has the option to place an advisory referendum on the ballot. Mr. Senn invited comments from the audience. A number of individual spoke in favor of "conceal carry" and/or "open carry", with or without permitting. One person spoke in favor of allowing the people to vote on the subject. One person explained that the citizenry already had the right to have a weapon in their home and that he would feel uncomfortable if others were carrying weapons on the street. The issue will be discussed further next month.

Chairman Blum said that there was legislation in the General Assembly that would ban cell phone usage in courthouses. He distributed information from other counties that have restricted the use of cell phones in their courthouses. The use of cell phones is prohibited in most offices and in the court rooms. Many cell phones can take pictures and videos. There was a discussion on how cell phone restrictions could be enforced. The Sheriff said that the guards at the front door would encourage people to leave their cell phones in their cars. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Hilton, the issue was referred to the State's Attorney, to draft an ordinance restricting the use of cell phones in the courthouse.

The Sheriff distributed materials from other counties on restricting smoking around the courthouse. There was a discussion of the problems, around the courthouse, caused by smokers. The Illinois statute allows counties to adopt a more restrictive ordinance, than the State no-smoking law. The Sheriff reported that his posting of a "no smoking on jail property" sign has been successful. There was a discussion on the impact; these additional restrictions would have on smokers, particularly on County employees who smoke. A motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Graham, to refer the issue to the State's Attorney, to draft an ordinance making the courthouse grounds smoke free, failed on a 3 to 3 voice vote.

The Sheriff presented and reviewed the Law Enforcement (402), Merit Commission (403), Courthouse Building (701), Public Safety Building (702), and Courthouse Security (Fund 2, 410) budgets. The department is using 3,000 gallons of fuel each month. He explained that the new phone system is dropping some calls that come into the dispatch center from the seven-digit phone number, rather than 9-1-1. It is unclear on how to budget for the costs of the new phone service. The Sheriff distributed information on rotating the marked squad cars in 2009. There was a discussion of the two funding proposals. On a motion by Mr. Cashmore, seconded by Mr. Hilton, the Committee laid the Sheriff's budgets over until next month.

Mr. Schroeder presented and reviewed the Corrections (401), and Jail Building (Fund 2, 705) budgets. The Sheriff noted that both Law Enforcement and Corrections is operating one person short. On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Hilton, the Committee laid the correctional budgets over until next month.

The County Administrator reported that the County Code Book has been given to the vendor for the first phase of the conversion process. Chapter 12, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, was given to the vendor without any changes.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$56,470.05 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Hilton, seconded by Mr. Graham.

The Committee adjourned at 9:41 p.m., on a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Hilton.

Approved: October 6, 2008

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