

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
6:30 PM February 11, 2009
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday February 11, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Blum informed the Board that Robert Ray passed away on January 28, 2009. Mr. Ray served on the County Board from 1977 to 1998, serving as Board Chairman for 6 years. A remembrance service will be held at a later date. The Board took a moment of silence in his honor. Mr. Koch gave the Invocation and Chairman Blum led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, Peter Willging, Donald Parker, John Blum, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Thomas Gilmour, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Detente, and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Vicki Hooper and Andrew Kuhlemeier. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Detente made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.* (Noted arrival of Mr. A. Kuhlemeier)

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK: Mr. Senn made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading carried unanimously.*

COMMUNICATIONS: The Clerk reported the following communications had been received;

- Public Defender Monthly Report for January; 256 New Cases, 237 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$2,902
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report for January
- Report of Official Acts of the Regional Office of Education from October 1 through December 31, 2008
- Franchise Fee of \$5,654.42 from Comcast for quarter ended December 31, 2008

Mr. Senn made a motion to approve all communications and place on file. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve all communications and place on file carried unanimously.*

RAMP: Education and Advocacy coordinator, Ms. Connie Kraft reported on the recently completed MARS Grant sponsored by Stephenson County and administered through RAMP. Ms. Kraft thanked the County Board for their support. Mr. Mikkelsen complemented RAMP on their service to our Community.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business reported

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported background checks and merit interviews have been completed on the candidates Road Deputies and Correctional Officers. The new squads are in and the equipment is being transferred. The Sheriff is negotiating sale of the old squads with a broker in the Chicago area. A second arrest has been made for violation of the electronic device ordinance.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following;

HD 09-05 Resolution # 09-02-1638; awarding bids for section 09-XX000-00-GM, Township General Maintenance. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-05. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-05 Resolution #09-12-1638 awarding bids for section 09-XX000-00-GM, Township General Maintenance carried unanimously.*

HD 09-06 Resolution #09-02-1639; Buckeye Township Bridge aid to replace structure on Brush Creek Road with the estimated cost of \$125,000.00 and the County's share of \$12,500. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-06. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-06 Resolution #09-02-1639: Buckeye Township Bridge aid to replace structure on Brush Creek Road carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported his Committee had approved a request from Lancaster Township asking to name an existing unnamed road the official name of Union Dairy Lane. This road provides access to property formerly owned by Union Dairy. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the road name. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve officially naming the road in Lancaster Township "Union Dairy Lane" carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported that with the colder weather he does not yet anticipate enacting the spring road postings. Paper work has been received on the Rock City intersection. This will go through Committee and to the full Board next month. A verbal agreement has been received on the right of way for the Cedarville Bridge project. Mr. Isbell hopes to have the project complete by early fall. The County has secured an easement with Menards for access to the County Cemetery. Mr. Isbell noted that he is also working on another access point which would make for easier access for the cleanup and beautification project at the Cemetery. Discussion was also held on the possibility of spring clean up and trash removal along the roadways. Mr. Isbell stated it is hard to prosecute illegal dumping.

ZONING REPORT: No report

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: No report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Parker reported the Board had reviewed and approved monthly financials. They are sending two County Dispatchers to the MABAS Conference in Peoria. A sub-committee is being formed to look at the new CAD System for the Police and Sheriffs Departments.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema distributed food scores for the month of January and the Animal Control report. He reported his Department is working on the FQHC planning grant. The advisory committee has met to discuss direction. Key informants have been interviewed, 6,000 community surveys will be going out in Carroll and Stephenson Counties. Next they will establish twelve focus groups and business plans. The Health Department has submitted a DHS Teen Reach grant with Freeport School District and the Boys and Girls Club. This is an after school program for the district. The Stephenson County Health Department's emergency contact list has been updated and redistributed. The Smoke Free Illinois amendment language has been signed by the Governor. Mr. Beintema is working with Fehr Graham to submit the 5-year Solid Waste Plan to the State. Mr. Beintema stated the Board of Health requests the appointment of Dan Scheider to replace Dr. Edward Maglietta. Chairman Blum presented the appointment to the Board. Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the appointment. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. It was noted that Dr. Maglietta has given much to this community and recognition for his service will be forthcoming. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of Dan Scheider to the Board of Health carried unanimously.*

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley distributed the monthly caseload statistics. He reported that Judge Ursin has ordered a minor into placement. The Probation Department continues to track the 17 hear-olds placed on Probation or in custody.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Blum presented the following report;

- The Board of NIDA met again yesterday morning. Chairman Blum and Mr. Graham were present. Discussion included a number of agenda items including e-zone extension and expansions, Titan Tire, Project Cat, and many other items related to our economic development efforts. The new committee structure is being formed and Chairman Blum is most enthused about the new Targeted Marketing Committee to be chaired by Adam Holder. We are implementing a very intensive strategic marketing program that will identify market areas where we can develop solid prospects for new investment in our County. The process has already identified a number of development areas centered on food and

beverage processing, renewable energy, medical device manufacturing, and precision aerospace products. This process will result in identifying qualified prospects for Mill Race Crossing and the area. Our objective is to break out of the average economic development strategy of just selling incentives. Our strategy must take us to a more competitive level that involves the creation of a comprehensive set of market drivers that will compel investors to consider us on a much broader scale.

Many of you will be asked to be involved in this process over the next few weeks with our goal of presenting a progress summary to you in early March. The process will be defined and results will be objectively measured. Chairman Blum believes you will be impressed by this process and be even more confident about future successes even in the face of a national economic slow down. There continues to be some level of debate over the value of our relationship with NIDA. It is true that many of us had concerns about the functionality, capability, and drive of the NIDA organization. I want to tell you as concisely and as directly as possible that we need to maintain, invest in, and drive our economic development efforts. Our future as a community, our ability to maintain and create jobs, our potential to grow our property tax base, and more hinge on a defined and concerted effort toward economic development. NIDA is the horse we must ride to accomplish these goals. For those of you that wish to reduce our support for NIDA you are challenged to provide options. For those of you that feel our economy is important you are challenged to get involved with NIDA, get involved with your county efforts, look at the issues from a point of view of investing and demanding results, not only from NIDA, but from yourselves as members of this community.

- As a quick summary the following quick list of issues that NIDA has pursued in the best interest of the people of Stephenson County: Land agent for Mill Race Industrial Park, contract holder for GVA-Worldwide, coordinator for our county development team, our designated liaison with DCEO, partner with EDA for our grant administration, coordinator of our local CEDS committee, coordinated the shovel-ready list of projects for submittal to the federal and state governments, represents our interests in job retention activities such as those currently underway with Titan Tire, Honeywell, Newell, and others. A partner in generating abatement agreements with taxing bodies involved in e-zone expansions. They serve as a board member on the LWIB and the regional CEDS Committee. They attend numerous shows and conferences attempting to develop leads and contacts. They assist in lobbying efforts as needed in both Springfield and Washington. They are our liaison with the Tri-State Alliance working on US 20 and Amtrak. They are the caretaker of the public-private partnership that is so vital to a healthy economic development effort. Please consider their efforts each month as we progress as a team. Hold every member of the team accountable and provide good guidance to move forward and do not detract from the economic needs of our citizens and businesses.
- All of the County's shovel-ready projects are ready to begin construction no later than July 2009. The list of county-specific projects totals \$8.3 million. We are sending this list to all of our federal and state officials to insure our requests receive as much attention as any others.
- Project Cat continues moving toward an official announcement. They did receive their much awaited incentive letter from DCEO in late January. They accepted the terms of the incentive letter on January 27, 2009. To quote a sentence from the State letter, "the entity shall not make any press releases or other public statements relating information pertaining to this project without prior notification to DCEO and participation of the State of Illinois in any events, announcements, etc." We are coordinating these announcements at the present time. The new Governor is very interested in renewable energy projects and will most likely want to personally participate in this announcement. The principals of Project Cat are in Freeport today and met with our development team earlier today. We are finalizing the development agreement and hope to move to the due diligence phase very soon. This is a \$42 million project that will showcase revolutionary new technology in the bio-fuels industry. Again, NIDA has been with us all along the way and when this project builds, they should share in the credit.
- A copy of a recent analysis performed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City explaining the rural housing market was placed at your desk. Their conclusion is that rural home prices are unlikely to fall

like those in the metro areas. They back this up with significant data compiled over the past decade. It is something you should read and understand as we make economic decisions in our county.

- Chairman Blum asked the Board's concurrence in appointing Mr. Koch and Mr. Wire to serve on the soon to be formed interim Lena Trail Commission. In addition, Mr. Groves and Mr. Isbell have been asked to serve, as needed, in a technical advisory capacity. Ms. S. Hooper motioned to support the appointments. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- The annual UCCI Legislative Reception will be held in Springfield on February 24 followed by an educational seminar on February 25. As of now, Chairman Blum has been scheduled to fly on both of those days, but has requested a schedule adjustment to hopefully allow him to attend. If you would like to attend, please contact Mr. Mulnix so he can help coordinate transportation and a hotel room.
- Congressman Manzullo will be in Freeport on February 17, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. at HCC to discuss issues of the day. You are all welcome to attend.

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Blum presented the appointment of Tom Gilmour to the U of I Extension. Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the appointment as presented. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Gilmour to the U of I Extension carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

Finance: Mr. Graham reported the proposed three-year renewal contract from DevNet has been reviewed. The recently expired contract had an automatic 5% annual increase. The new contract, with an annual payment of \$38,640, does not have these annual increases. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the three-year contract with DevNet. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the DevNet Contract carried unanimously.*

The following Tax Anticipation Warrants were approved by Finance Committee; \$450,000 for the Highway Fund, \$100,000 for the Bridge Fund and \$150,000 for Matching Funds. The best offer was received from State Bank at 2.86% on the loan and 1.60% on the money market account. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Warrants for the Highway Department. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. Mr. Kinney stated for the record he would not support the Tax Anticipation Warrants. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier stated the warrants were necessary due to severe winter weather and extreme salt prices. Mr. Détente further stated revenues were also hit hard by rising gas prices. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Détente, Senn and Blum. Member voting nay: Kinney. Twenty ayes. One nay. *Motion to approve Tax Anticipation Warrant Resolution #09-02-1640 issuing \$450,000 against the Highway Fund, Resolution #09-02-1641 issuing \$100,000 against the Bridge Fund and Resolution #09-02-1642 issuing \$150,000 against the Matching Fund carried.*

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the following Raffles noting all fees and bonding in were in order;

- 1491 Freeport Lincoln Douglas Kiwanis Club, Manager Bettye Corbin
- 1492 Lena Lions Club, Manager Dean Holmes
- 1493 VOICES, Manager Angela Snyders
- 1494 Aquin Catholic Elementary, Manager Margaret C Ehlbeck

Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Raffles as presented carried unanimously.*

Nursing Center: Mr. Détente reported his Committee completed the proposal process for refinishing the kitchen and dish-room floors. Mr. Détente made a motion to approve the proposal for \$14,517.47 from ConCare. Second by Mr. Brown. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the proposal for refinishing the kitchen and dish-room floors from ConCare for \$14,517.47 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Détente made a motion to refer the Nursing Center Administrator's salary adjustment back to Committee for further review. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to refer the Nursing Center Administrator's salary adjustment back to Committee carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen stated his Committee heard a presentation by the Lena Park District regarding a recreational trail, from the Village of Lena to Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park. They felt the Park District's request for the County's participation in the Commission was premature and recommended Chairman Blum to appoint a sub-committee to help formulate plans for a trail.

Information Items from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham encouraged Board Members, who have questions on pending invoices, to attend the appropriate Committee meeting and address their concerns at the Committee level.

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper reported her Committee is working with the State's Attorney to draw up a County ordinance adopting, by reference, the State's "Fair Housing" statute. The Board of Review has completed their work on County assessment complaints. Hearings for the Freeport complaints will start mid-March. The County has received the LIDAR file from IDOT.

Nursing Center: Mr. Détente reported the census was 70%. A Red and White Ball will be held on February 28th. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Nursing Center.

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen encouraged Board Members to pay attention to the various Committees' claims. If there are questions or concerns Board Members not able to attend the appropriate Committee meeting should call the Committee Chair.

Public Works: Mr. J. Kuhlmeier reported his Committee has had further discussion on the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive Program and would like all Departments to generate a report on the impact the Incentive Program would have on their budgets. Chairman Blum stated that several issues are being addressed with our labor attorney before we proceed with figures to establish the impact on the individuals Department budgets.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$ 567,161.82
Administration	\$ 80,935.41
Public Works	\$ 226,626.66
Nursing Center	\$ 132,571.99
Public Property	\$ 47,596.74
Court Services	\$ 32,254.92
Public Safety	\$ 56,211.13
Planning & Development	\$ 12,033.75
9-1-1	\$ 33,282.63

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. Mr. Kinney moved to amend the motion to remove the \$10,000 NIDA claim from Planning & Development. Second by Mr. Détente. Much discussion followed on the Committee structure and process of approving claims. Concern was voiced on micro-managing and disregarding a Committee's decision. It was further noted this would not set a good precedence. Mr. Kinney stated at Finance he was told this could be removed at the Board Meeting. Mr. Wire moved to amend the amendment to replace the word "remove" the claim with "separate" the claim. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Devine, Wire, Dotson, A. Kuhlemeier, Kinney and Détente. Members voting nay: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, Graham, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Koch, Boynton, Senn and Blum. Six ayes. Fifteen nays. *Motion to amend the wording to change "remove" to "separate" the claim failed.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to remove the \$10,000 NIDA claim. *Motion to remove the NIDA claim failed with one aye vote noted.* The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the claims as presented. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Koch, Boynton, Senn and Blum. Members voting nay: A. Kuhlemeier, Kinney and Détente. Eighteen ayes. Three nays. *Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried.*

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 8 days, 0 miles-Boynton 3 days, 70 miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Detente 5 days, 103 miles-Devine 4 days, 20 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 5 days, 174 miles-Graham 10 days, 92 miles-Hilton 5 days, 14 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 14 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 4 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 2 days, 48 miles-

A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 97 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 4 days, 16 miles-Mikkelsen 8 days, 61 miles-Newton 5 days, 74 miles- Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Willging 4 days, 12 miles-Wire 3 days, 156 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Mikkelsen reported the Wind Seminar Workshop was very informative. Mr. Wire stated the information provided at the workshop was all positive. He would have liked to hear both sides of the issues.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Mike King of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota addressed the Board regarding Phase 2 of the Navitas project and public hearings. The project will create dramatic changes to the landscaping and he asks that citizens receive ample information and notification of the process. He requested the State release some information on the CAT Project. He asked about the signage and lighting concerns he had addressed to the Board a few months ago. Chairman Blum stated that he had passed the information on to Eco-Energy and Acciona. They are to deal with it in conjunction with the County Highway Engineer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Blum requested a motion to move into executive session to discuss Business Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5). Mr. Détente made a motion to move into executive session. Second by Mr. Newton. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to move into executive session to discuss Business Matters 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5) carried unanimously.*

REGULAR SESSION: Chairman Blum called the regular session back to order. He announced that Business Matters had been discussed in executive session with no action taken. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the Stewart Centre as received with the inclusion of tax exemption language as accepted by Mr. Kane. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the lease agreement as stated. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Koch, Boynton, Détente, Senn and Blum. Members voting nay: A. Kuhlemeier and Kinney. Nineteen ayes. Two nays. *Motion to approve the lease agreement with the Stewart Centre as received with the inclusion of tax exemption language carried.*

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2009: Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday March 11, 2009. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 9:05 p.m.*

Mr. Kinney will lead the Pledge and Ms. Boynton will be responsible for the Invocation at the March 11th Meeting