

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
6:30 PM MAY 13, 2009
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday May 13, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He announced the Mr. Newton has agreed to serve as Chaplain of the Stephenson County Board. He will be responsible for the Invocation at the Board Meetings. Chaplain Newton gave the Invocation and Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, Peter Willging, Donald Parker, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Thomas Gilmour, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Detente, and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Jeffrey Mikkelsen and Andrew Kuhlemeier. Twenty-one members present. Two members absent.

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

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Detente. Mr. Kinney motioned to amend the minutes under Planning & Development to reflect he had voted nay on Resolution #09-04-1652. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the amendment. *Motion to approve the amendment carried unanimously.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion as amended. *Motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting as amended carried unanimously.*

CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK: Ms. V. Hooper made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Senn. 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 presented the following communications;

- Public Defender April Report; 274 New Cases, 260 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$1,695.40
- Franchise fee from Comcast for the quarter ended March 31, 2009; \$5,406.73
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act April Report
- Regional Office of Educations Newsletter
- Invitation to Silver Creek Museum's 20th Anniversary Grand Reopening Ceremony; Sunday May 24, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. Museum Tours will follow the Ceremony

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

PRESENTATION: Mr. Adam Holder of Fehr Graham and Robert Nickels of RAN Technology presented a brief overview on their strategic marketing plan for Mill Race Industrial Park. Mr. Nickels stated wind power is a growing, thriving industry that presents a unique opportunity for the project. The newly created Targeted Marketing and Recruitment Committee are looking at how to attract companies to this area that manufacture wind farm components. A more detailed presentation will be provided at next month's Planning & Development Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business reported

OTHER: Chairman Blum encouraged Board Members to clean out their e-mail boxes. If they have any questions they can call Mr. Kane for assistance. Ms. Boynton requested a way to filter the spam received on our County e-mail. Chairman Blum advised the Board on his decision to alter the current order of County Board voting, by having the person who made the motion, vote first and then continue from that point, through the list of Districts. Chairman Blum introduced his wife to the Board. He congratulated her on being awarded one of the Exemplary Volunteers at this year's Women of Excellence Annual VOICES event which recognizes

women who show community service and leadership. He also thanked her for her patience and understanding in regard to his frequent absences while trying to balance work responsibilities and County Board duties.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported on the orientation held for candidates interested in deputy and correctional officer positions. He is trying to establish a two-year list. It was noted that four of the new squad cars are in service.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following resolution;

HD-09-17; Ordinance for the Establishment of an Altered Speed Zone in Lancaster Township. This ordinance declares a 30 mph speed limit on Lancaster Heights Road from IL Rte 75 through the cul-de-sac. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-17. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-17 Ordinance 009-05-1662 establishing an altered speed zone in Lancaster Township carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell updated the Board on Construction projects. He is expecting a July 1 start date on the Cedarville Bridge. Mr. Isbell stated he distributed the proposal for a new salt storage facility so Board Members have time to review it for consideration prior to the next budget hearings. Mr. Isbell informed the Board of the first IPWMAN emergency activation. They will be deployed to Southern Illinois on May 17 to assist with clean-up. The Spring Tour will be held on June 15. Board Members are asked to meet at the highway building by 9:00 am.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Parker presented the following Special Use Requests;

Special Use Request #2009-01 by Michael Dixon for dog kennel for training of service dogs for people with disabilities. Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the Special Use request. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve S.U. 09-01 for a Home Occupation for Dog Kennel and Training Facility carried unanimously.*

Special Use Request #2009-02 by Beverly Ralston for teaching computer classes in accessory building. Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the Special Use request. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve S.U. 09-02 for a Home Occupation for Computer Classes carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: No report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Parker reported the committee was provided another demonstration on new equipment for the 9-1-1 Center. Cost estimates are all about \$650,000 with an additional \$100,000-150,000 for installation.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema distributed food scores and the Animal Control Report for the month of April. He reported the Health Department is continuing to work on the FQHC planning grant. Of the 6,000 community surveys sent out they have received 1,600 back. Mosquito surveillance will begin in late May. The Department will be co-sponsoring a NIMS 300 class on May 14 & 15. Mr. Beintema explained H1N1 (Swine Flu) and distributed a questions and answers handout to Board Members. It was noted that while the Flu shot is not effective to this particular strain of virus it may lessen the symptoms.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported the new kitchen floor is finished and the kitchen is fully operational. The Prom will take place this week as scheduled. Ms. Dotson requested help from Board Members for the Staff breakfast on Friday.

PROBATION REPORT: Mr. Eilders reported over 3,100 people are under the Department's supervision. He stated he is proud of the staff and their commitment to make Stephenson County safer. He informed the Board that statistics indicate 72% of jail detainees have COE disorders which need to be diagnosed and treated.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: State's Attorney Vogt explained ten years ago, the County Board had worked with the adjoining property owners to straighten the boundaries of the Blackhawk Monument site. A recent land survey of the area showed that the County had obtained more land than it realized. Two quit claim deeds have been drawn up and reviewed, to return the excess land to the previous owners. Mr. Graham made a motion to authorize Chairman Blum to sign the documents and have recorded as required. Second by Mr. Newton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the two quit*

claim deeds, to return the excess land, at the Blackhawk Monument site, to the previous property owners carried unanimously.

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

- The move to the new office space was accomplished over the weekend of May 1, 2009. All offices were functional as of the start of business the morning of May 4, 2009. This was a monumental feat and involved the cooperation of department heads, employees, contractors, and the landlord. I would like to thank everyone for assisting in this move including Ron Kane, Vici Otte, Adrienne Becker, and Russ Mulnix. The dust is still settling and some boxes still need unpacking, but we are now in the new facility. It is hoped that we can have a formal open house in the near future to show the citizens what we now have to offer. We will now work to assist the Courts as they work to reallocate the space here in the courthouse.
- Last month Mr. Wire and I attended the first session of the UCCI Leadership Academy. The second session is scheduled for next week, May 19, in Springfield.
- As of last evening, 13 of the 14 taxing bodies underlying the Ecogrove Wind Project have agreed to 3-year enterprise zone property tax abatements for present and future wind developments in their jurisdictions. The last unit of government to consider this request is the Warren School District. They have an informational meeting planned for next Monday evening, May 18, 2009. Ron Kane along with Jeff Hammond of Acciona will be in attendance. It is unknown at this time when the Warren School District will formally consider the request.
- On Monday, May 11, 2009 I was advised that Stephenson County has been selected as one of the entities with which EPA will pursue negotiations to award cooperative agreements for two Brownfield's assessment grants. I quote from the letter, "Stephenson County submitted an outstanding grant proposal, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation." I would also like to thank Fehr-Graham for all of their assistance in this process. We hope to negotiate the grant terms over the next 30 days and secure at least \$400,000 for Brownfield assessments here in Stephenson County.
- As you heard earlier this evening, NIDA is working through the efforts of the Strategic Marketing Committee to generate economic development customers for our county. The other three working committees are being formed and we now have two county board members assigned to each committee. We look forward to reports of activities and successes from these committees and NIDA as a whole in the near future.
- Last month I unveiled the prototype of a new Lincoln statue being developed by Mr. Jay Castro. Since our last meeting we have formed a community work group to organize the effort to fund, develop, and unveil the proposed statues by the end of June 2009. We have already had interest from a number of Lincoln organizations, the State, and private individuals in supporting this project. I plan to inform you of a number of community events that will lead to the production of the planned statues of Lincoln, Black Sparrow Hawk, and Winneshiek.
- We have not received any update from the EDA on our grant increase. Fehr-Graham continues to follow-up with EDA, but things are a bit bogged down with them considering the torrent of new funding programs being generated to assist the national economy.
- We have received permission from HUD to use their grant funds for the purchase of the main rail switch that will provide primary rail access to the Mill Race Industrial Park. We are now working with CN to establish the exact cost of the switch and coordinate the installation.
- The LWIB met this morning in Lanark and we are working to invest the additional \$1.9 million of funding geared toward job retraining programs. We were given an update on the Summer Youth Work Program indicating that 67 young people applied to participate in the program here in Stephenson County. We are also close to hiring an interim staff person to fill the position vacated by Kate Ramsay.
- Last month I gave you some information concerning the number of felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile crime charges filed in our County. The Probation Department did some more research and provided data

from 2006 and 2007. Looking at the number of total charges filed from 2006 thru 2008 it appears the trend is slightly down. There were 3010 charges filed in 2006, 2682 in 2007, and 2637 in 2008. This indicates a reduction of 11% from 2006 to 2007 and another reduction of 1.7% from 2007 to 2008. So far in 2009 we have had 420 charges filed which is on a rate to end the year at 2200, however crimes are not committed on a consistent rate so it is hard to project a year in advance. We are now looking within the total numbers to find any trends as to types of crimes committed.

- Last week Vision 2020 hosted the first of a series of meetings of all the social service agencies in our county to begin finding ways to reduce their operating costs, improve funding, and allow them to become more collaborative and efficient in their operations.
- Earlier this month I attended the ribbon cutting of the new nursing wing at Highland Community College. This is a state-of-the-art educational facility made possible through generous donations from our citizens and businesses. It was noted that community colleges provide more medical training than any other institutions in the country.
- We are in the middle of National Nursing Home Week and I attended the kickoff event at our own nursing facility on Monday. It was a pleasure to spend some time with the residents and staff celebrating the legacy our seniors have provided for us.
- Last week we hosted our version of the National Day of Prayer in Stephenson County. I attended the prayer breakfast and the prayer lunch time activities that were well attended. I would like to thank Deb and Rick Leininger and all the people that helped coordinate these events on behalf of Stephenson County.
- Yesterday I attended the Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce State of the County/City Luncheon. Mayor Gaulrapp and I gave our versions of challenges and success faced by both the City of Freeport and Stephenson County.
- And lastly, I wish to personally recognize Mr. John Ammon for serving the Winslow Fire Protection District for more than 50 years. His dedication and longevity to the volunteer fire service and the people of the Winslow area is greatly appreciated. I wish him well on his retirement.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIRE DISTRICTS

- Reappointment of Jerry Obert to Cedarville Fire
- Reappointment of Doug Heilemeier to Davis Fire
- Reappointment of Robert Dick to Lena Fire
- Reappointment of Kenneth Blumer to Orangeville Fire

Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the appointments to the various Fire Districts as recommended. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointments to the Fire Districts carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

Finance: Mr. Graham reported the Illinois General Assembly is working on a Comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan. UCCI has developed a resolution supporting the current Capital Infrastructure Plan legislation. This resolution requests that the current Motor Fuel Tax distribution formula does not change. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the UCCI Resolution in support of the Comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan. Second by Mr. Détente. Discussion followed and it was noted that the Resolution is not in support of a gas tax but is in support of receiving our fair share of the tax for roads and bridges. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution # 09-05-1663 supporting the Comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan Policy Position carried with nay vote noted.*

Public Property: Mr. Senn reported the County has received a \$12,300 grant to purchase Emergency Management equipment. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve a budget amendment to reflect the grant dollars. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to*

approve Resolution # 09-05-1664 amending the 200-2009 Fiscal Year Budget to reflect the receipt of grant funds carried unanimously.

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper presented the following Raffles with all fees and bonding in order;

- 1506 Freeport Moose Lodge, Manager Kenneth A Kostenbader Sr
- 1507 Stateline Area Crime Stoppers, Manager Pam Wertz
- 1508 Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, Manager Julia Hilliger
- 1509 Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, Manager Julia Hilliger
- 1510 Cruise Night/Tutty Baker Days Festival, Inc, Manager Connie Sorn
- 1511 D & D Baseball/Softball Association, Manager Chris Sweet
- 1512 The Village of Rock City, Manager Melody Sweet
- 1513 St John's Women's Society/LWML, Manager Kathy Baumgartner

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the raffles as read. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the raffles carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: It was noted that in the absence of Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Groves the 2011-2012 Jane Addams Trail budget will be presented at next month's County Board Meeting.

Information Items from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham reported UCCI will hold regional training meetings between late August and mid-October. Counties will select the topics and locations. The annual UCCI meeting is scheduled for July 27 and 28 at Eagle Ridge.

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper reported that real estate property tax bills expect to be mailed around the first of June.

Nursing Center: Mr. Détente reported that representatives from a State Agency are coming to Stephenson County to assist with the beautification/renewal project of the poor farm cemetery.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	868,684.85
Administration	\$	120,825.23
Public Works	\$	75,374.15
Nursing Center	\$	222,443.04
Public Property	\$	32,740.54
Court Services	\$	31,085.20
Public Safety	\$	247,067.87
Planning & Development	\$	10,201.21
9-1-1	\$	44,886.14

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the claims as received. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Members voting nay: Kinney and Détente. Nineteen ayes. Two nays. *Motion to approve the claims as received carried.*

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 9 days, 0 miles-Boynton 3 days, 70- miles-Brown 4 days, 6 miles-Detente - days, - miles-Devine 4 days, 24 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 5 days, 170 miles-Graham 9 days, 91 miles-Hilton 7 days, 22 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles-A Kuhlmeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelson - days, - miles-Newton 4 days, 8 miles-Parker 4 days, 16 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles- Willging 3 days, 12 miles-Wire 3 days, 168 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Mileage & Per Diems as received. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. V. Hooper announced she had distributed a handout regarding a fundraising production in conjunction with Highland Community College and Freeport Chapter, VietNow. The play is scheduled for June 5 & 6. Tickets can be purchased through Highland Community College. Mr. Koch asked how the public was responding to the new set-up at the Stewart Centre. It was noted the set-up is very welcoming and the response has been positive. A question arose about the revenue sharing on this month's financial reports. Mr. Mulnix responded after the first five months of the 2009 fiscal year, expenses have exceeded revenues by \$89,779.06 and he is waiting for the State to catch up.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: No comments from the audience

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2009: Mr. Gilmour made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 10, 2009. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:10 p.m.*

*Mr. Mikkelsen will lead the Pledge at the June 10th Meeting
Chaplain Newton will be responsible for the Invocation*