

**STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**6:30 PM JUNE 10, 2009**  
**Stephenson County Board Room**

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday June 10, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the invocation and Ms. S. Hooper 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, Andrew Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Detente, and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Jeffrey Mikkelsen. Twenty-one members present. One member absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Chairman Blum requested the agenda be amended moving "Public Comment" to follow "Approval of the Agenda". Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the agenda as amended. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously.*

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:** Mike King of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota addressed the Board regarding the Wind Tower Facility to be built in Dekalb County. He stated that their Home Owner's Protection Plan cover's the life of the project. They have also established a 24/7 complaint line of which the County Board serves as a sponsor.

Rebecca Peters-Jahnke of 1421 S. Carroll Street, Freeport addressed the Board. Ms. Jahnke is the daughter of Bob Peters, Sr. who was brutally killed at his gun shop in Freeport in 1992. The Peters family is organizing a petition drive to protest the upcoming clemency hearing on July 8 in Springfield for Michael Hoover, one of the men convicted in this case. They are also encouraging the public to send letters of opposition in advance of the hearing. She asked if there was anything the county could do as a governmental body to help in her effort to protest Hoover's possible clemency and release from prison. Mr. Parker made a motion that a letter be sent on behalf of the County Board expressing their opposition. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to authorize a letter is sent on behalf of the County Board expressing their opposition to Michael D. Hoover's potential clemency and release from prison carried unanimously.* It was noted that protest letters can be sent to the Illinois Prisoner Review Board at 319 E. Madison, Suite A, Springfield, IL 62701. The letters should make reference to defendant Michael D. Hoover, prisoner number (B60206), and case number (93CF135).

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2009 MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. Detente made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2009 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Brown. *Motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2009 meeting as received 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 Monthly Report for May; 308 New Cases, 256 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$2,061.45
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act April Report
- Thank you from the Family of Valeria Wiegand

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.*

**OLD BUSINESS:** It was noted the 2011-2012 Jane Addams Trail budget would be handled under Mr. Groves report.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff Snyders presented the Sheriffs Scholarship to McKenzie Johnson. Ms. Johnson graduated from Pearl City High School; she plans to attend Northern Illinois University to pursue the Health Field. The Sheriff reported all but one of the new squad cars are in service. Twenty candidates have been tested for the positions of deputy sheriff and correctional officer. The monthly stats for March were distributed. The Sheriff will have the reports up to date for next months meeting.

**HIGHWAY REPORT:** Mr. Isbell presented the following resolutions;

**HD09-19, Resolution #09-06-1665** approving the prevailing wage for all contractors or sub-contractors doing construction and maintenance of public works for Stephenson County. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-19. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-19 Resolution #09-06-1665 approving the Prevailing Wage all contractors or sub-contractors doing construction and maintenance of public works for Stephenson County carried with nay votes noted.*

**HD 09-20, Resolution #09-06-1666** approving the prevailing wage for all laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed by Stephenson County. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-20. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-20 Resolution #09-06-1666 approving the Prevailing Wage for all laborers, workmen, and mechanics employed by Stephenson County carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported the Goddard Road bridge project is complete, the Knoup Road bridge project is in process, the schedule for the Cedarville bridge project is in process and Rock Grove Road should be completed this week. Mr. Isbell reported on the IPWMAN Deployment in Southern Illinois.

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

**Special Use Request #2009-03** request by Tina Hendrickson for a Home Occupation for Bike Rental. 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. 09-03 for a Home Occupation for Bike Rental carried unanimously.*

**Special Use Request #2009-04** request by John Focheleau for a Single Family Dwelling. 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. 09-04 for a Single Family Dwelling carried unanimously.*

**Billboard** request by Peter and Milena Costa. Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the request for the billboard. Second by Mr. McKenna. Discussion followed on the size and appearance of the "homemade sign". Mr. Groves noted the billboard will be used for advertising purposes and that the State has granted their approval. It was also stated our Zoning Ordinance referencing signage is being updated. This will allow the County more control in situations like this. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the billboard request carried with nay votes noted.*

**PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL:** Mr. Groves reported the Jane Addams Trail's 3-year budget has been completed. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the budget. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the 3-year budget for the Jane Addams Trail carried unanimously.*

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** I.C.E. (In Case of Emergency) will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tutty's Crossings Park. Area emergency responders and their equipment will be on site. There will be demonstrations, family activities, finger printing, DNA kits, Smoke House, tours and food. The Public is invited to attend.

**9-1-1 REPORT:** Minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, monthly stats & project report were distributed.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr. Beintema reported on the FQHC planning grant. The Health Department has begun mosquito surveillance. The first positive human H1N1 case in Stephenson County has been reported. Currently there are 22 Counties in Illinois showing positive cases. The Health Department co-sponsored NIMS 300 & 400 classes. They are working with the Probation Department on a youth mentoring grant. Food scores, information on West Nile virus & H1N1 Flu, and the Animal Control Report for the Month of May were distributed.

**NURSING CENTER REPORT:** No report

**PROBATION REPORT:** Mr. Elders reported case load totals and commended their staff.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT:** No report

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

- I was very happy to hear that the Warren School District agreed to three-year property tax abatement for the wind power development being placed in their district. They join the other 13 taxing districts in granting property tax abatements and have kept the door open for increased investment in the region. I wish to thank Ron Kane, as E-zone Administrator, and Cheryl Kneubuehl, Executive Director of NIDA, for their tremendous assistance in securing this economic benefit. We expect to hear very soon about new wind power developments planned for Stephenson County.
- Last week I was pleased to attend the ribbon-cutting of the new wind technology center at Highland Community College. This 5500 sq. ft. facility houses a hydraulics lab and a large training shop dedicated to training new wind power technicians. This is the first associate degree program of this type in the State of Illinois. This is a very positive example of the benefits wind power will bring to our communities and is a credit to the vision of the Highland Board of Trustees and EcoEnergy.
- The property tax bills were sent out a couple of weeks ago and citizens have been coming into the office to take care of this annual obligation. I would like to thank all the tax payers of our county as they make this significant contribution toward the cost of the essential services provided by government. These tough economic times put an increased emphasis on the importance of investing the dollars and trust of the tax payer as efficiently as possible. The total EAV of the county after all exemptions have been applied is \$643 million. Total amount of new property added to the tax rolls was \$8.6 million. Total exemptions applied were approximately \$33 million resulting in total county property tax revenue of \$7.3 million. This revenue is generated from 13 different levies.
- We have begun to organize a community-based committee to assist with the proposed Lincoln statue project for the Kent Monument. We are working to get a small prototype of the initial Lincoln statue made to help promote the project and identify funding possibilities. We are also looking for positive support from various Lincoln organizations nationwide that will add credibility and visibility to the project.
- I had a very productive meeting with the Sherm Virtue family last week. The family owns the land to the west and north of the current monument. Sherm Virtue has almost single handedly maintained the historical records of the Blackhawk War battles in and around the Kent area. He was responsible for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration held at the site back in 1982. It is important that we work to preserve the legacy of the Virtue family and honor the work of Mr. Virtue, who is now 92 years old.
- Mr. Snavelly has been working to install the Looking for Lincoln sign at the monument site. This sign will provide needed location and identification information as part of the State's efforts to highlight Lincoln's life during his 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.
- During a recent grant process in conjunction with RAMP it was determined that our county did not have a Section 504 report on file in accordance with the Adults with Disabilities Act (ADA). With the assistance of RAMP a self evaluation was conducted of all county facilities and some deficiencies were noted. We are working through the various recommendations and making the needed changes as the budget and time will permit.
- NIDA held its' monthly directors meeting yesterday morning. Mr. Graham and I were in attendance. An update was given on the work of the four committees and projects being pursued.
- A monthly meeting of the taxing districts was held yesterday with Freeport Township, the Freeport School District, Park District, Library, City of Freeport, and Stephenson County. Highland College was not able to attend. We spent most of the meeting in discussion with Rep. Sacia concerning the budget process and the financial impacts on local governments.
- The Local Workforce Investment Board met this morning in Lanark. The new LWIB Manager, JC Wilson, was introduced, and then he conducted his first meeting as staff to the board. It was announced

that funding to the LWIB has increased to \$4.0 million and that the previously announced summer youth work program will be extended beyond August 2009 until March of 2010.

- Vision 2020 sponsored the second social services resource forum last Monday at Highland Community College. The overall strategy is to find ways that local not-for-profit agencies can become more efficient in these times of reduced funding and higher demand. We have begun to concentrate in a number of strategic areas including business function sharing, volunteer coordination, calendar coordination, marketing, building maintenance, joint health insurance, and job training.
- Mr. Wire and I plan to attend the third session of the UCCI Leadership Academy on June 23 in Bloomington.
- The UCCI Annual Education seminar will be held in Galena on July 27-28. Please advise Mr. Mulnix your intention to go at your earliest convenience. The deadline for the room reservations is July 3 and for the golf is July 17. The topics of the seminars have not yet been announced.
- The Stephenson County Fair will be held from July 14-17, 2009. This will be the first year with the new earlier dates. In fact the fair will be underway when we have our July board meeting. On Tuesday night I will be joining Rep. Sacia as we show some prize winning sheep.
- On June 26 and 27 the annual Pretzel City Festival will be held in Krape Park. For the 7<sup>th</sup> year I will be spending some time in the flush tank. If anybody would like to take some shots at me for a good cause, this will be a great opportunity.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIRE DISTRICTS:** Reappointment of Wes Loewe to Dakota Fire. Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the reappointment to Dakota Fire District as recommended. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointment to Dakota Fire District carried unanimously.*

**Action Items from Standing Committees**

**Public Property:** Mr. Senn reported his committee's recommendation to allow Judge Joyce and Lisa Pyatt temporary use of the space vacated by the County Board Chairman and the County Administrator, until the final space allocation plan is developed and approved. Mr. Senn made a motion for the Board's approval. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to allow Judge Joyce and Lisa Pyatt temporary use of the space vacated by the County Board Chairman and the County Administrator, until the final space allocation plan is developed and approved carried unanimously.*

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

- 1514 Freeport Moose Family Center 162, Manager Lynn Folgate
- 1515 Stephenson County 4-H Federation, Manager Kimberly Christman
- 1516 Freeport Community Foundation, Manager Cindy Rotblat
- 1517 Stephenson Nursing Center, Manager Penny Smith
- 1518 The Human Services Fund of Freeport Township, Manager Nickee Bender

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.*

**Information Items from Standing Committees**

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper reported her committee approved the request of \$534.53 for material to start a Narcotics Anonymous Teen Recovery Group from the Youth Diversion Fees.

**Nursing Center:** Mr. Détente reported the kitchen and dish-room project is completed. He informed the Board that Paula Kraft, C.N.A. at the Nursing Center, received a "Heroes in Long Term Care" award from the Illinois Council on Long Term Care. Ms. Kraft was the only winner in the Freeport area of this honorable award; she has worked at the Nursing Center for 20 years.

**Public Works:** Mr. J. Kuhlmeier reminded Board Members of the Annual Spring Tour on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CLAIMS**

Finance & Procurement	\$	647,317.68
Administration	\$	87,692.41
Public Works	\$	232,972.70

Nursing Center	\$	216,241.36
Public Property	\$	41,879.50
Court Services	\$	24,577.36
Public Safety	\$	85,224.13
Planning & Development	\$	15,825.89
9-1-1	\$	1,901.81

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the claims as received. Second by Mr. Brown. It was noted the Court Services claims amount was amended to reflect two checks which had been pulled by the Committee. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Members voting nay: Kinney and D tente. Nineteen ayes. Two nays. *Motion to approve the claims as received carried.*

**Mileage & Per Diems** – *Subject to review by Finance Chairman*

Blum 8 days, 0 miles-Boynton 2 days, 52- miles-Brown 3 days, 8 miles-Detente 12 days, 231 miles-Devine 4 days, 26 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 5 days, 174 miles-Graham 7 days, 32 miles-Hilton 6 days, 18 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 16 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelson 5 days, 62 miles-Newton 5 days, 76 miles-Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 5 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. Hilton. It was noted that Board Members should round up to whole miles when reporting mileage on their per diem sheets. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Koch asked what topics could be covered during the public comment time on the agenda. It was noted that the public comment is open to most any topic excluding pending zoning issues.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chairman Blum requested a motion to move into executive session to discuss employment/appointment matters 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). Mr. Detente made a motion to move into executive session. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, D tente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. No nays. *Motion to move into executive session to discuss employment/appointment matters 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) carried unanimously.*

**REGULAR SESSION:** Chairman Blum called the regular session back to order. He announced that employment/appointment matters had been discussed in executive session with no action taken.

**ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 2009:** Mr. Gilmour made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday July 15, 2009. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 9:17 p.m.*

*Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Mr. Mikkelsen will lead the Pledge*