

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
6:30 PM July 15, 2009
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday July 15, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Dotson gave the invocation and Mr. Mikkelsen 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, 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: Andrew Kuhlemeier.

Twenty-one members present. One member absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Blum requested the agenda be amended to recognize two young women from Stephenson County who have achieved the highest award possible for a Girl Scout. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. 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. (Noted arrival of Andrew Kuhlemeier)*

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 10, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. *Motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

RECOGNITION: Chairman Blum introduced Ms. Diane Wettstaedt with the Green Hills Council of Girl Scouts; Haley Finkenbinder of Pearl City and Samantha O'Haver of Rock City. Haley and Samantha have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. They spoke to the Board about their accomplishments and the wonderful tasks they have done for the community. The Gold Award is the highest award possible for a Girl Scout and equivalent of the Eagle Scout award for boys.

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 June; 320 New Cases, 280 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$2,306.82
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report for Jun
- Audit report for the Carroll/JoDavies/Stephenson Counties Regional Office Education for year ended June 30, 2008
- Report of Official Acts performed by the Regional Superintendents Office covering April 1 – June 30

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

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. V. Hooper reported on the two Court Services claims, pulled last month for further review. The Committee recommends approval for payment of these claims. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve both claims for payment. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve payment of the two Court Services claims carried with nay vote noted.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: No Report

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following report;

HD 09-21, Resolution #09-07-1667; approves the Supplemental County Maintenance Expenses from MFT Funds for 08-00000-00-GM. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-21. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-21 Resolution #09-07-1667 approving Supplemental County Maintenance Expenses from MFT Funds for 08-00000-00-GM carried unanimously.*

HD 09-22, Resolution #09-07-1668; awards Section 08-09116-00-BR – Lancaster Township - Hillcrest Road to the low bidder. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 09-22. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 09-21 Resolution #09-07-1667 awarding Section 08-09116-00-BR – Lancaster Township - Hillcrest Road to Civil Constructors, Inc: \$180,356.05 as low bidder carried unanimously.*

Agreement #A09-07-1669; enters into an Engineering Agreement with Fehr-Graham and Associates for Environmental related work associated with the removal of buried fuel tanks at 1650 S. Walnut. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve #A09-07-1669. Second by Mr. Koch. Mr. Koch made a motion to amend the agreement to state “not to exceed \$7,500.00”.

Second by Mr. Kinney. Discussion followed on what could happen if unforeseeable circumstances caused the amount to go over. Mr. Isbell stated that he was comfortable with the stipulation. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to amend the agreement. *Motion to amend the agreement to state “not to exceed \$7,500.00” carried with nay votes noted.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the agreement as amended. *Motion to approve Agreement #A09-07-1669 entering into an Engineering Agreement “not to exceed \$7,500.00” with Fehr-Graham and Associates for Environmental related work associated with the removal of buried fuel tanks at 1650 S. Walnut carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell updated the Board on various road and bridge projects.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves reported that no action was taken on the motocross track; the opposing parties have agreed to try and solve the issue on their own.

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Minutes of the June 18th meeting were distributed with no further report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Minutes of the July 13th meeting, statistics and 9-1-1 projects were distributed.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Food Scores for the month of June, update on the FQHC planning grant and the Animal Control Report for July were distributed. Ms. V. Hooper reported on budget concerns; the Health Department is looking into more ways to cut costs.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported he has spoken to other area Administrator’s and everyone’s census is down. He noted that our numbers are higher than some other facilities in Freeport. The Nursing Center has reduced staff hours to accommodate budget restraints with the declining census. The Foundation has agreed to update the County Website. The Nursing Center has a tent at the Fair this year; they are selling hot dogs and raffle tickets for baskets. Board Members were given fiscal documents by Committee Chairman Détente; when questioned about a specific section Mr. Fortney explained he had just received the document and had not had a chance to look through it completely. Mr. Koch asked him to refer to page 15, section 2 and respond next month. Mr. Fortney asked Mr. Koch to call him on Thursday.

PROBATION REPORT: Statistics for July were distributed. Mr. Pauley reported the Department is tracking the 17 year olds in preparation of the new law effective January 1, 2010. Discussion followed on the departments’ obligation when a juvenile has been apprehended or detained. It was noted the Dependent Children’s Fund is at 63% for the year.

STATE’S ATTORNEY REPORT: Mr. Vogt further explained the process of determining whether or not to detain a juvenile when they have been apprehended.

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

- This week is the Stephenson County Fair and by all initial indications the new dates are contributing to an increased attendance by both exhibitors and visitors. I was able to take part in a sheep showing event last evening with other local leaders in an effort to win some money for a local charity. My chosen charity is the Stephenson Nursing Center Foundation.
- Next Tuesday, July 21, Mr. Wire and I will attend our 4th UCCI Leadership Academy session at the University of Illinois. We have a session in August and September with graduation in October.
- The summer meeting of the UCCI will again be held in Galena on July 27 and 28. The topics for the seminars on the second day will be the Illinois State budget and catastrophic health care insurance for

county employees. The deadline for registration to attend is tomorrow, July 16, so you need to advise Mr. Mulnix this evening of your intentions.

- On July 25 I will be participating in the RAMP Wheelathon along with Representative Jim Sacia. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and funding for RAMP's programs here in Stephenson County.
- On Wednesday, July 22, I will be bringing staff of the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency to Freeport to continue work on the old poor farm cemetery. We plan to probe and archeologically analyze the soil to determine where any and all graves are, both marked and unmarked. We will also be training our personnel on the appropriate techniques for straightening and stabilizing the grave markers. When these steps are complete we may be able to appropriately place the memorial marker and landscape the area. We plan to finish this project yet this season.
- On Tuesday July 7, I attended a meeting with the Rural Transit Assistance Center at Western Illinois University to restart our efforts at developing a county-wide public transportation system. I was accompanied by representatives from Freeport Township, City of Freeport, and the Stephenson County Senior Center. Our efforts have been on hold while the City reorganized their 5311 program which now includes Pretzel City Transport. We have determined that we have banked a little more than \$180,000 in IDOT transportation funds over the past couple of years that can be used in the development of our system. It is mandatory that we design and build a system based on the needs of the stakeholders and not reach a preconceived vision of what such a system will entail. I also believe that our county CEDS committee will play a large part in determining the key components of a new system.
- Last week there was a press conference in Rockford attended by all the regional stake holders in the effort to return high-speed rail to NW Illinois. Progress is being made on funding, design, and route network. It is important that our federal officials continue to receive input from the citizens of our region as to the importance of this transportation effort. At your desk is a petition sheet that I ask you to sign and circulate to indicate grass roots support for the train effort. The project is called the Blackhawk Express. Please return completed sheets to me by August 12, 2009 so they can be included with our regional communications to Washington. The train is another reason to develop more modes of public transportation in our region so that people can get themselves to and from the rail station to points of interest in our region.
- I continue to work with Jay Castro and a small group of individuals on the development of the Captain Lincoln statue intended for the Kellogg Grove Battle Monument. The clay model is completed and ready to be lasered and cast. It is planned that a number of smaller resin replicas will be cast to promote the project and support fund raising. We are asking for the assistance of the Stephenson County Historical Society in sponsoring our efforts. Their board met today to consider our request. It is estimated that the entire project could cost as much as \$180,000 generated from grants and donations.
- We are moving forward with project plans to implement the recently awarded Brownfield assessment grants. We have requested an early release of funding from USEPA in an effort to assist a new food processing plant looking to locate in rural Stephenson County. This new business is looking at creating 30-80 jobs if this project comes to fruition. NIDA has been working with the owner and is establishing a number of local relationships to solve various issues with the proposed site.
- Project continues to work with State and Federal agencies to identify new funding thru stimulus, renewable fuels development, and recovery zone funds. A major cause of delay in this project has been the completion of their pilot plant in Minnesota. The operation of this plant is a major factor in the licensing of the process and releasing investment for the commercial size plant planned for Mill Race Crossing. The plant was to be operational last fall, but engineering and technical issues have delayed the opening until August 2009.
- Next month we begin the 2010 budget process. This year again will bring challenges. The oversight committees must work closely with the Department Heads to determine realistic priorities and expenses

that will fit within our revenue capabilities. The IMRF contribution will be a critical component in our budget process.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIRE DISTRICTS: Appointment of David Parrish to Dakota Fire to replace James White. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the appointment to Dakota Fire District as recommended. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of David Parrish to Dakota Fire District carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

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

- 1521 Freeport Moose Family Center 548, Manager Shirley Whitehead
- 1522 S.T.A.R.S., Manager Michelle Beske
- 1523 Conservation & Ag Partners Foundation, Manager Martha Ebbesmeyer
- 1524 Freeport Sunrise Rotary, Manager Ted Odendahl

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

Ms. S. Hooper noted that it has been brought to the committee's attention that raffles are being held without the necessary license. Enforcement procedures will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Court Services: Ms. V. Hooper reported her committee's recommendation to approve a \$5,600.00 purchase of copy machine for State's Attorney's Office. Ms. V. Hooper made motion to approve the purchase. Second by Mr. Newton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the purchase of a copy machine for the State's Attorney's Office in the amount of \$5,600.00 carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen presented the following action items from his committee; Resolution #09-07-1670; declaring Stephenson County a Recovery Zone. The Federal government has a new Recovery Zone Bond Volume Cap Allocation as part of the stimulus package. The County has been authorized \$3 and a fraction million for infrastructure and \$5 and a fraction million for private economic development projects. The bonds, financing private projects, have no effect on the County's balance sheet. However, the County must designate itself a Recovery Zone, an area having significant poverty, unemployment, rate of home foreclosures, or general distress.

Resolution #09-07-1671; authorizing construction of a Sanitary Sewer Force Main. A Sanitary Sewer Force Main Resolution is required by the Illinois Department of Transportation; the sewer line, if required, would travel along US Route 20, from Mill Race Crossing (Springfield Road) to Freeport (Adams Street).

Participation in Foreign Trade Zone; Rockford Airport; the Chicago Rockford International Airport has invited the County to participate in a Trade Zone. The Greater Rockford Airport Authority operates Foreign-Trade Zone #176 on behalf of the regional community and would be a benefit to local companies.

Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the three action items. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution #09-07-1670; declaring the County a Recovery Zone, Resolution #09-07-1671; authorizing construction of a Sanitary Sewer Force Main, and participation in the Foreign Trade Zone with Rockford Airport carried unanimously.*

Public Works: Mr. J. Kuhlmeier reported on his committee's recommendation to enter into negotiations with Chris Isbell for reappointment as County Engineer. Mr. Isbell's current contract expires in October and the county is required to approve a new one within 100 days of that expiration date. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion approve the start of negotiations with County Engineer Chris Isbell for a new six-year contract. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve entering into negotiations with Chris Isbell for reappointment as County Engineer carried unanimously.*

(Note: Ms. V. Hooper excused from meeting)

Information Items from Standing Committees

Public Safety: Mr. Senn reported the ILESA "call out" for the hazardous material in Rockford went well. The Sheriff's Reserve Unit still needs \$15,000.00 for an engine and other equipment for their new rescue boat. The testing process for the road deputy and correctional officer positions is down to three for law enforcement and one for corrections.

Administration: Mr. S. Hooper reported the new Plat Books are done.

Nursing Center: Mr. Détente reported Nursing Center issues are being addressed and ironed out. He has met with the Veteran's group regarding the Memorial Park; they are getting all the paperwork cleaned up.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	676,171.18
Administration	\$	98,243.44
Public Works	\$	723,963.54
Nursing Center	\$	184,475.49
Public Property	\$	47,364.82
Court Services	\$	42,167.92
Public Safety	\$	78,132.73
Planning & Development	\$	36,872.22
9-1-1	\$	49,422.46

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the claims as received. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, 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 7 days, 0 miles-Boynton 2 days, 36- miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Detente 5 days, 92 miles-Devine 3 days, 14 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 139 miles-Graham 5days, 15 miles-Hilton 5 days, 12 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 10 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 4 days, 92 miles-McKenna 2 days, 8 miles-Mikkelsen 6 days, 12 miles-Newton 4 days, 6 miles-Parker 4 days, 16 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. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Blum requested a motion to move into executive session to discuss employment/appointment matters 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). Mr. McKenna motion to move into executive session. Second by Mr. Koch. 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. 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 AUGUST 12, 2009: Mr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday August 12, 2009. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:28 p.m.*

*Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation at the August 12th Meeting
Ms. S. Hooper will lead the Pledge*

DRAFT