

**STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**6:30 PM September 16, 2009**  
**Stephenson County Board Room**

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday September 16, 2009. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Mr. Parker 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, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Thomas Gilmour, Andrew Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Detente, Forrest Senn and John Blum. Twenty-two members present.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2009 MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Brown. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 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. Brown. 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 August; 281 new cases, 229 cases closed and income to Public Defender Fund \$1,511.08

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

**PRESENTATION BY SENATOR BIVINS AND REPRESENTATIVE SACIA:** State Senator Tim Bivins and State Representative Jim Sacia addressed the Board regarding new and pending legislation. Senator Bivins reported on new law that will help with the delinquent fine problem. The legislation allows sheriffs to use money in a local jail inmate's commissary account to pay off any outstanding fines the inmate owes. Representative Sacia complimented Governor Quinn's political style. He discussed the state budget shortfall and new state legislation regulating video poker machines. State officials are hoping revenue from the gaming law will help fund the new capital bill.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business reported

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** Sheriff Snyders reported there are three remaining candidates to be interviewed by the Merit Commission. The rear elevator has been repaired at a final cost of \$12,840. Carroll County deputies are investigating the suicide in the Jail last month. Since SB 2095 has become law; allowing for use of an inmate's commissary funds to pay for any outstanding fines and fees, we have already collected over \$2,000. It was noted that Mr. Isbell expects to get an update later this week regarding the boat grant.

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

**HD 09-27, Resolution #09-09-1677** obtaining engineering firm Fehr-Graham for the consultation regarding the economic development project in Eleroy. Mr. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve the resolution. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, D tente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham and Wire. Absent: Dotson. Twenty-one aye. *Motion to approve HD09-27 Resolution #09-09-1677 obtaining engineering firm Fehr-Graham for the consultation regarding the economic development project in Eleroy carried.*

Mr. Isbell reported that Stiles Inc. has been hired to remove the underground tanks at the old Highway Building. The Cedarville Bridge project is ahead of schedule. A special budget meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The County is repairing Dublin Road which was damaged when they rerouted the Extreme Makeover traffic. Mr. Détente asked about road access to the old cemetery. The Chairman asked for the discussion to be continued separately.

**ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Groves reported that Larry Beard represented the Zoning Office for the Extreme Makeover.

**PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL:** Mr. Groves reported the project for the proposed recreational trail from Lena to the State Park and on to the Jane Addams Trail continues to move forward. The Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission is meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>; they are looking for a \$230,000 commitment from the County.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT:** No report

**9-1-1 REPORT:** Mr. Groves distributed and reviewed minutes. Mr. Wire inquired on the 1.2 million dollar balance. It was noted these dollars will be used for the purchase of new hardware and software.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr. Beintema distributed and reviewed the 5-year update to the Solid Waste Plan. He reported the FQHC application will be submitted in late October. The Health Department will be providing seasonal and H1N1 shots, as the vaccine becomes available. Food scores for the month of August and the Animal Control report were distributed.

**NURSING CENTER REPORT:** No report

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Mr. Eilders reported on the monitoring of people on probation. They are following them with a GPS device which detects if there is any consumption of alcohol.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT:** State's Attorney Vogt reported that Drug Court has started and candidates are being screened for eligibility.

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

- This Friday, September 18, 2009, there will be a commissioning ceremony for the EcoGrove Wind Farm. This event is by invitation only and I have been invited to represent Stephenson County along with Mr. Peter Duprey, CEO, Acciona Energy North America, Mr. Steve Konya, Chief of Staff, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Ms. Kim Smith, VP of Construction for Acciona Energy, and Mr. Jeff Hammond, Project Manager. During the ceremony Acciona will award the first annual scholarships to the Lena-Winslow and Warren School Districts for deserving high school seniors pursuing a course of study involving sustainability. In addition, Acciona will announce the annual contributions to be made to each of the school districts to be dedicated to equipment purchases. A public open house is planned for Saturday, September 19, 2009, beginning at 11:30 am. Parking will be at Coaches East in Lena and a shuttle bus will take interested citizens on a tour of the operations center and the wind farm. This commissioning marks the end of a long process to establish the first wind farm here in Stephenson County. This project involved the investment of approximately \$280 million, with (67) 1.5MW turbines, spread across approximately 7000 rural acres, and more than (60) landowners. The project employed as many as 125 people during construction and has created (10) new permanent local jobs. This farm alone will generate enough electricity to power 25,000 homes and offset more than 176,000 tons of carbon-dioxide emissions annually. All of you along with our department heads are invited to the ceremony on Friday and the open house on Saturday.
- On Monday, September 28, 2009, I will be attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Project CAT pilot plant in Minnesota. Cheryl Kneubuehl of NIDA will attend also. This opening had experienced a number of technical delays, but now is operating and generating biodiesel fuel at the rate and quality anticipated. This revolutionary process will supplement the current biodiesel technology with a more efficient, cost-effective, and quality process. This new technology is continuous, not a batch plant like the current operations. There is no wasted catalyst or reagents, they are all recovered and recycled. There is no glycerin by-product to dispose of. It can use multiple feed stocks at the same time so there is little process adjustment. The raw materials they use are waste products so they eliminate the food-for-fuel competition. I am looking forward to hosting the first production plant here in Stephenson County.

- This weekend, Mr. Wire and I will attend our fifth and final leadership seminar hosted by the UCCI and the University of Illinois Center for Government Studies. We hope to graduate during the Fall meeting of the UCCI to be held at the Lincoln Museum in Springfield on October 23 and 24. All of you are invited to attend this meeting. Please advise Mr. Mulnix as soon as possible of your intentions.
- On September 25, 2009 the UCCI is also hosting an interactive conference entitled Governing Counties in Tough Economic Times. Some of the topics include: labor negotiations, furloughs, layoffs; county budgets and services; and video gaming. Our regional location is at Sauk Valley College and will be held from 930 am to 200 pm. I plan to drive down and will have room for other interested board members. We need your commitment no later than September 21.
- There is a copy of the NIDA monthly report at your desk for your review. The organization has been very active and we should have at least two new projects in the County formally announced in the next few weeks.
- Staff is obviously busy with the budget process for 2009-10. The economic environment is obviously having a very negative effect on our general revenues, especially those that support the General Fund. It is our responsibility to deliver a balanced budget and set the County's spending limits by the end of November 2009. The budget process will require the continued support and communication with all department heads. There will be reductions in spending required to stay below our revenue projections. It is important to note that here in the 2008-09 budget we are projecting to under spend the overall expense lines in the general fund by more than \$500,000. This is a credit to good management by the department heads. It is also important to note that a number of departments have already submitted budget requests that are below last year's levels, again, a credit to good management. Currently, the projected gap between revenue and expenses for 2009-10 is significant. The Finance Committee is dedicated to work with the Over Sight Committees and Department Heads to evaluate any option to generate a balanced budget and maintain priority services.
- The All Veterans Memorial Park will hold a dedication ceremony at the site on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 10 am. They request RSVPs by September 28.

**APPOINTMENT:** Chairman Blum presented the appointment of Carl Larson to NICA. Mr. Détente made a motion to approve the appointment. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of Carl Larson to the NICA Board carried.*

**Action Items from Standing Committee**

**Finance:** Mr. Graham made a motion to receive and layover the 2008 audit to next months County Board Meeting. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to receive and layover the 2008 audit to next months County Board Meeting carried.*

No action was taken on the assignment of Work Release Fees; discussion remains in Committee.

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the proposed salary schedule for the Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to approve the salary schedule for the Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff carried with one nay vote noted.

**Public Property:** Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the Public Defender's use of space vacated by Chief County Assessment Officer. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Public Defender's use of space vacated by the Chief County Assessment Officer carried.*

**Administration:** Ms. S. Hooper presented the following raffles noting all fees have been paid and bonding is in order;

1529 United Way of Northern Illinois, Manager Marsha Mulligan

1530 St Mary Catholic Church, Manager Evelyn A. Bouray

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

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper reported that the State's Attorney and Public Defender received salary increases from the State. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Resolution #09-09-1678 reflecting a \$8,018 increase for the Public Defender and Budget Resolution #09-09-1679 reflecting a \$6,096

increase for the State's Attorney. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a roll call on the motion. Members voting aye: V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker and Blum. Members voting nay: Boynton and Kinney. Twenty ayes. Two nays. *Motion to approve Resolution # 09-09-1678 reflecting a \$8,018 increase for the Public Defender and Resolution # 09-09-1679 reflecting a \$6,096 increase for the State's Attorney carried.*

It was noted three proposals were received for collections services: SC Services & Associates, Inc., Tri-State Adjustments Freeport, Inc., and Collections Systems of Freeport Inc. Collections Systems of Freeport, Inc is in the community and easily accessible. The Committee has approved hiring Collections Systems of Freeport, Inc. for collection services. No action was required by the County Board.

**Planning & Development:** Mr. Mikkelsen reported the District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update has been completed and needs to be adopted by the County.

Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Resolution #09-09-1680 adopting the annual update to the District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Second by Mr. Koch. *Motion to approve Resolution # 09-09-1680 adopting the annual update to the District Comprehensive Economic Strategy carried unanimously.*

The statue project at the Blackhawk Monument is looking for a 501 (C) 3 organization to serve as a contribution pass through. They are looking for resolutions of support from the Community. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Resolution #09-09-1681. Second by Mr. Koch. *Motion to approve Resolution #09-09-1681 supporting the Blackhawk War Monument carried unanimously.*

The County received a letter from Representative Sacia, identifying a \$100,000 grant for the rail switch at Mill Race Crossing. The grant is included in the State Capital Plan. Representative Sacia needs the County to certify the grant request. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the letter. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. *Motion to approve the Certification Letter carried unanimously.*

**Public Works:** No action was taken on the County Engineer's Contract; the discussion remains in Committee

#### ***Information Items from Standing Committees***

**Finance:** Mr. Graham reported the UCCI-University of Illinois seminar, "Governing Counties in Tough Economic Times" is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, at Sauk Valley Community College. The registration deadline is September 21<sup>st</sup>. The 2009 Leadership Academy graduation is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, in Springfield, with a seminar the following morning. UCCI will reimburse counties \$75, per hotel room, for this event. The registration deadline is October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Graham noted the Finance Committee recessed their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to Thursday September 17 at 5:00 pm.

**Public Property:** Mr. Senn reported the new ad hoc committee is working on reallocating the vacant space on the first floor of the Courthouse.

**Court Services:** Ms. V. Hooper reported the Committee approved a request from the Millionaire's Club in the amount of \$1,500 from the Youth Diversion Fund for their after school program.

**Nursing Center:** Mr. Détente reported they are currently working on the budget. Discussion was held on Mr. Fortney's attendance at County Board Meetings. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier stated the contract requires a monthly report.

#### **CLAIMS**

Finance & Procurement	\$	607,990.32
Administration	\$	71,167.72
Public Works	\$	652,997.21
Nursing Center	\$	165,125.13
Public Property	\$	35,169.64
Court Services	\$	26,377.49
Public Safety	\$	74,567.56
Planning & Development	\$	11,032.96
9-1-1	\$	22,674.86

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the claims as received. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Koch, Senn,

Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Members voting nay: A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton, Kinney and Détente. Eighteen ayes. Four nays. *Motion to approve the claims as received 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 6 days, 78 miles-Devine 3 days, 16 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 212 miles-Graham 7 days, 42 miles-Hilton 4 days, 12 miles-S Hooper 5 days, 16 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 5 days, 120 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 6 days, 70 miles-Newton 5 days, 10 miles-Parker 5 days, 20 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles- Willging 3 days, 12 miles-Wire 4days, 200 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Mileage & Per Diems as received. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Détente questioned moving dirt at MRC; Chairman Blum stated it was being done for erosion and weed control. Mr. Wire noted the Rantoul hog plant has failed.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No executive session needed

**ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2009:** Mr. McKenna made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 14, 2009. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 8:25 p.m.*

*Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Mr. Graham will lead the Pledge*