

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2010
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday January 13, 2010. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Mr. A. Kuhlemeier lead 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, Jim Kuhlmeier, Thomas Gilmour, Andrew Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent; Jeffrey Mikkelsen and Linda Dotson. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

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

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 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 December 9, 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 Report for December; 216 New Cases, 303 Cases Closed, Income \$1,532.59
- 2008 Fiscal Responsibility Report Card for Taxing Districts within the State of Illinois
- 2008-2009 Annual Financial Report from the Regional Office of Education
- Notification of Joint Review Board Meeting for Lena TIF; 4:00 pm on January 28, 2010 at the Village Hall

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.*

AWARD: Larry Beard and Lee Harbison were presented with appreciation awards for their participation in the Extreme Home Makeover Project in Lena.

OLD BUSINESS: Ordinance amendment, establishing County Board members receive \$.25 per mile for per diem meetings and the IRS mileage rate for non-per diem meetings was distributed. The Finance Committee has defined the non-per diem meetings (receiving the IRS rate) to be those extra meetings attended by assignment from the County Board. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. Mr. Détente questioned the amount of compensation for Committee Chairman as noted in the ordinance. Mr. Mulnix stated he would look into the matter. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the ordinance amending the County Board mileage to \$.25 per mile for travel to and from per diem meetings and the IRS mileage rate for travel to and from non-per diem meetings, assigned by the County Board carried with one nay vote noted.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported the Jail population has increased to over 100. He is working with the Judges and the States Attorney to see if they can get the numbers down. Operation of the rear elevator in the Courthouse has been a problem. The issues have been addressed and repaired. The Public Property Committee discussed the value of a feasibility study to determine whether the Sheriff's Department is operating efficiently. The Sheriff noted that he would welcome the idea. It was noted the cost of the study would be between \$1,300 and \$1,500 per day and would take 6-8 days. His Department would have to gather and provide the necessary information for the study.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions;

HD 10-01; Spring Postings. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-01. Second by Mr. Wire. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier voiced his concern that these postings are not consistent from one County to the next. Mr. Isbell explained this has been discussed for years but due to the fact that different road construction causes different effects, the postings must continue to be decided County by County. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution 10-01; Spring Postings carried unanimously.*

HD 10-02; Portion of Surface Transportation Program Funds used for Salary, Section 10-00000-00-CS. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-02. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 10-02; Portion of Surface Transportation Program Funds used for Salary, Section 10-00000-00-CS carried unanimously.*

HD 10-03; County MFT Salary & Expense Authorization, Section 10-00000-00-CS. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-03. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 10-03; County MFT Salary & Expense Authorization, Section 10-00000-00-CS carried unanimously.*

HD 10-04; Appropriating Matching Funds to replace the Bridge on Goldmine Road over East Plum River, known as Section 04-00164-00-BR. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-04. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. It was noted that construction will begin in June or July 2010 and it expected to end in approximately 90 construction days. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 10-04; Appropriating Matching Funds to replace the Bridge on Goldmine Road over East Plum River, known as Section 04-00164-00-BR carried unanimously.*

HD 10-05; Awarding Bids section 10-0000-00-SG Signs and Posts. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 10-05. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 10-05; Awarding Bids section 10-0000-00-SG Signs and Posts carried unanimously.*

HD 10-06; Awarding Bids section 10-00000-00-PC Pipe Culverts. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve HD 10-06. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 10-06; Awarding Bids section 10-00000-00-PC Pipe Culverts carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported that Rod Bratley retired in December, this is the second retirement that will not be replaced with a full time employee. He noted he will use snow birds as needed. He informed the Board that he will be hiring an Engineer Technician before the construction season starts.

ZONING REPORT: No report

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves reported the first phase of the grant for the Pecatonica Prairie Path has been awarded.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Geiter reported the ETSB has approved the CIS contract. This will totally replace the current system at a cost of \$720,555 inclusive. He noted this is a major project and that a lot of time and hard work has been put into it.

APPOINTMENTS: The following 9-1-1 appointments were recommended to the full Board; Mr. Parker made a motion to appoint Denise Book. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment of Denise Book to the 9-1-1 Board carried unanimously.*

Mr. Parker made a motion to reappoint Ray Busker, Kerry Dinges and Jerry Whitmore. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointments of Ray Busker, Kerry Dinges and Jerry Whitmore carried unanimously.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema reported the Health Department has completed 18 school based and 7 public based clinics in the County along with 28 days at the LHD. So far about 5,850 people have been vaccinated. As of December 15 all individuals can receive vaccinations. They will begin focusing in the 3rd Ward with 3 locations. The Health Department received notice of a MRC grant to develop a volunteer base of medical and nonmedical individuals. They have also been notified of approval for a Cancer Coalition Grant and a Ticket for the Cure Grant. The Department has entered into an agreement with the City of Freeport to conduct a Health monitoring study of the 3rd Ward area. Mr. Beintema noted they have working on the FQHC and will be passing a Resolution to create a Health Center. He will bring more information to the full Board next month. Food scores for the month of December and the Animal Control report were distributed.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported the facility had its annual Life Safety Code Inspection. They received one potential tag and one actual tag. The Nursing Center is planning its Annual Red & White Ball.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley reported that Adult Probation Officer Marge Mapes will be retiring after 23 years with the Department. They will not be hiring a replacement but will spread out the case load among the other Officers. Departmental statistics were distributed.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

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

- The Stephenson County Liquor Commission met to review and renew annual license applications. In all (11) licenses were renewed. It was noted that the Cedar Inn did not apply for a license renewal.
- We held our monthly department head meeting last Monday to review financial performance against budget and discuss other items of mutual concern. We find this meeting to be valuable and well attended by all department heads.
- The current round of manpower reductions has been completed. The latest information I have to provide you indicates we are down (1) administrative assistant in the Public Defender's office, (1) administrative position was vacated in the States Attorney's office due to a retirement and won't be currently filled, (1) probation officer will be retiring and the position will go unfilled, there have been (2) retirements in the Highway Department with another potential in the near term all of which will go unfilled. The Sheriff reduced staff by (2) road deputies, (7) C.O.'s, (2) part-time telecommunicators, and (7) part-time

courthouse security personnel. The part-time security personnel were replaced with (2) full-time deputies. The total reduction from all departments to date is (17) full-time-equivalents (FTE's) with (4) FTE's reduced thru retirements. (12) of the (17) FTE's were from the Sheriff's Department. A reduction in force is a painful process, especially for those that lose their jobs through no fault of their own. I thank everyone for their service and look forward to reestablishing personnel levels when the conditions permit.

- We are beginning a review of the Comcast cable franchise leading to a renewal. This item will be handled thru the Administrative committee and discussion will begin next month. Some of the considerations in this process will be address verifications, service area boundaries, other cable operators, right-of-way, easements, technology enhancements, PEG fee, and more.
- Early voting has begun and is being conducted in the lower level of the Stewart Centre. The County Clerk reported that activity has been surprisingly brisk since the process began last Monday.
- The County Assessor advised that approximately (100) property tax appeals have been filed, a number that is much lower than in years past.
- The location for the Court Services committee meeting will be changed to the 7th floor of the Stewart Centre beginning with the February 2010 meeting. The meeting will be conducted in the conference room adjacent to the board room. This will save the Sheriff from providing a security person for the meeting.
- I received the quarterly newsletter from the Office of the State Comptroller providing a summary of State finances. This report was not a very enjoyable read. Unpaid bills amount to \$5.1 billion with a delay in payment of 92 days. Last year at this time the unpaid bills amounted to \$1.8 billion with a 48 day payment delay. The effective bill backlog for the State is now a record \$8.75 billion. I quote from the report, "social service organizations in Illinois, and those elements of the health care provider community not covered by federal stimulus mandated payment deadlines, are suffering greatly from prolonged payment delays." Luckily our nursing home reimbursements are covered under the stimulus mandates, however school districts, hospitals, community colleges, universities, and transit districts are not. I again quote from the report, "the financial damage already inflicted on the social service and healthcare infrastructure threatens to become permanent as organizations serving children, seniors, and the disabled, close their doors or drastically curtail programs." I anticipate we will see a sharp upward trend in Medicaid residents in our nursing facility as other homes reduce the public aid component of their census.
- I received the latest TIF Increment data for the Tax Increment Financing Districts operating within the county. There are a total of (8) TIF Districts in the county. The oldest one is the Orangeville TIF established in 1991 and the newest is the Mill Race TIF established in 2006. The total increment to date captured by the host jurisdiction is \$16.4 million. The largest amount of increment has been captured by the Davis TIF, \$4.2 million. The Mill Race TIF has captured \$75,000 of increment in the first (3) years. The City of Freeport has (2) TIF districts currently that have captured \$2.63 million of increment. They have (2) more districts planned. If the same property investment had occurred in these districts without TIF, we would have seen an additional \$1.6 million of property tax revenue, or an average of \$90,000 per year.

- The NIDA Board met yesterday morning. The 2009 financials were reviewed along with the proposed 2010 budget. I will have the executive summary of both items for your review in about a month. As one of your representatives on the NIDA Board I have made this information available to you on a quarterly basis through the Planning and Development Committee. NIDA continues to be very active. The new cheese plant in Kent is operational and has increased staff to about (40). They look to grow rapidly and hope to become a major consumer of the local milk production. Three other significant projects are progressing along with BioCat. The committees are working and have motivated members from all across the county. The theme for 2010 will basically be marketing, marketing, and more marketing. NIDA is working to represent our economic interests involving the Thomson Prison project. This could be a \$1 billion economic boost to the regional economy.
- Our Local Workforce Investment Board has been designated by the State as the lead agency to coordinate hiring, training, education, and employer/employee programs for the Thomson Prison project. This is a tremendous responsibility as well as an opportunity to show how well our rural LWIB can perform with such a huge project. Our 5-county organization has earned a solid reputation with the State and we look to deliver the support needed to make this potential project a success.
- JoDavie, Carroll, and Whiteside Counties have formed a Tri-County Economic Development Alliance along with JoCarroll Energy. They have now hired a new Executive Director, Mr. Randy Prasse who was formerly the Executive Director of the Wisconsin State Fair Park. Mr. Prasse is a Stephenson County native having grown up on a local family dairy farm. Randy stated that, "this is a great opportunity to think strategically, lead with vision, and make a difference in the regional economy."
- Monday is Martin Luther King Day. On Monday evening, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a special presentation of "A Raisin in the Sun" in the Jeanette Lloyd Theatre. This presentation will be under the direction of Ms. LaFrancine Baker, who I believe is a member of the Freeport School Board.

Action Items from Standing Committee

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper presented the following action items;

Several months ago, the County Board authorized a one dollar increase in the price of a death certificate, to compensate for the cost of the special paper mandated by the State. The state is now mandating this same special paper to be used on birth certificates. The Health Department has already increased the price of a birth certificate issued from its office. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion that the County Board increase the price of a birth certificate, issued by the County Clerk's Office, by one dollar, to match the price of the Health Department. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to increase the price of a birth certificate, issued by the County Clerk's Office, by one dollar, to match the price of the Health Department carried unanimously.*

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)
 - 1539 Aquin Catholic Schools-Extravaganza, Manager Ellen Doty
 - 1540 American Youth Soccer Organization, Manager Steve Gahm
 - 1541 Freeport Lincoln Douglas Kiwanis Club, Manager Jeff Lamm
 - 1542 Lena Area Special Events Runners, Manager David Bergemann

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

CLAIMS

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| Finance & Procurement | \$ | 861,927.52 |
| Administration | \$ | 16,510.58 |
| Public Works | \$ | 321,361.20 |
| Nursing Center | \$ | 184,561.81 |
| Public Property | \$ | 26,243.03 |
| Court Services | \$ | 30,740.01 |
| Public Safety | \$ | 94,858.89 |
| Planning & Development | \$ | 10,126.56 |
| 9-1-1 | \$ | 23,505.32 |

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

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 5 days, 0 miles-Boynton 4 days, 88 miles-Brown 3 days, 3 miles-Detente 4 days, 78 miles-Devine 3 days, 18 miles-Dotson 0 days, 0 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 138 miles-Graham 5 days, 0 miles-Hilton 3 days, 8 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 0 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 0 miles-Kinney 4 days, 48 miles-Koch 4 days, 96 miles-A Kuhlemeier 6 days, 190 miles-J Kuhlmeier 5 days, 114 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 0 days, 0 miles-Newton 3 days, 6 miles-Parker 3 days, 12 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles- Willging 3 days, 0 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles.

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Finance; Mr. Graham reported that the Committee had reviewed the December 2009 revenue and expense amounts in the Employees' Health Insurance Fund. There was a \$173,071.61 deficit in December, caused by a record high amount for medical claims. Revenues are down and State Income Tax payments are still behind. County Departments are tracking within budget. UCCI's annual legislative reception is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd, at 5:00 p.m. An educational seminar is scheduled for the following morning, at 8:00 a.m.

Administration; Ms. S. Hooper reported her Committee is reviewing the County Executive and the County Board Chairman Elected-at-Large forms of County Government. She encouraged fellow Board Members to study these forms of Government.

Court Services; Ms. V. Hooper reported her Committee has decided to move their meetings to the Stewart Centre's small conference room, on the seventh floor.

Nursing Center; Mr. Détente reported the Committee's focus continues to be to pay down debt and repair of the roof.

Planning & Development; Mr. Détente questioned the EPA violation at Mill Race Crossing and who pays the \$500 fine. It was noted that because the County does not “own” the land, NIDA will pay the fine and the County will reimburse NIDA.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Mike King of 5003 N. Dakota Road addressed the Board regarding gaining knowledge on the funding controversy with NIDA. Chairman Blum noted that information is available to the Public on the NIDA website. Mr. King stated that he had hoped the County Board mileage reimbursement would be disbanded but did agree that mileage should be compensated for special meetings assigned to Board Members. He expressed his concerns with Wind Farm Zoning being revisited and the necessity of an efficiency report for the Sheriff’s Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Blum requested a motion to go into executive session to discuss the following matters;

- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Union Negotiations; Impact Bargaining
- Health Insurance; Benefit Modification

Mr. Newton made a motion to go into executive session. Second by Mr. Détente. 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, Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to go into executive session to discuss Union Negotiations, Impact Bargaining, and Health Insurance Benefit Modification carried unanimously.*

REGULAR SESSION: Chairman Blum called the regular session back to order and announced that Union Negotiations; Impact Bargaining and Health Insurance; Benefit Modification had been discussed with no action taken in execution session.

ACTION OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Union Negotiations in regard to Impact Bargaining; Ms V. Hooper made a motion to allow extending the County Healthcare Insurance up to 6 months before effected employees need to move to COBRA Insurance, effective their last day of employment. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to allow extending the County Healthcare Insurance up to 6 months before effected employees would need to move to COBRA Insurance, effective their last day of employment carried unanimously.*

Health Insurance-Benefit Modification; Mr. Mulnix explained the mandated insurance benefit modifications. A number of items have been added to the employee benefits in order to be in State and Federal compliance with numerous mandated regulations. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve benefit modifications to the County Healthcare Insurance as mandated by the State. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the State and Federal mandated benefit modifications to the County Healthcare Insurance carried unanimously.*

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY FEBUARY 10, 2010: Mr. Koch made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. J. Kuhlmeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday February 10, 2010 carried unanimously.

*Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation
Ms. Boynton will lead the Pledge*