

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2010
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday March 10, 2010. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Mr. Detente lead 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, Donald Parker, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Thomas Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Absent: Peter Willging. Twenty-one members present. One member absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. Detente. Mr. Kinney made a motion to amend the agenda moving Public Comment to follow Communications. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to amend the agenda. Members voting aye: Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton and Blum. Member voting nay: Mikkelsen. Twenty ayes. One nay. *Motion to amend the agenda moving Public Comment to follow Communications carried.* The Chair called for a voice to approve the agenda as amended. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously.* (Note arrival of Mr. Willging)

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 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 February; 169 New Cases, 193 Cases Closed, Income \$4,575.20

*Independent Auditor's Report for Otter Creek Lake Utility District

*Last day to file Statement of Economic Interests is May 3, 2010

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments made on agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS: It was noted the Comcast cable television franchise agreement has been delayed until the April meeting.

Mr. Beintema reviewed the creation of a Federally Qualified Health Center and the need for a Community Health Center Governing Council. Mr. Gilmour made a motion to approve Resolution #10-03-1728 to establish a Community Health Center Governing Council. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. Mr. Détente voiced concern that a FQHC could be expanded in the future to include abortion services. It was noted federal dollars are not allowed to be used for abortions. Mr. Wire voiced concern that the County Board would not have control over the Council. The Council would include members appointed by the County Board of Health and would be made up of five members representing entities like FHN, Monroe Clinic, Stephenson County, the Board of Health and (6) members who would be "clinic users". The Council would oversee the operation of a local FHQC but the County Board has the ultimate authority to approve the budget. Mr. Beintema stated 40-45% of the funding would come from Medicare/Medicaid; 40-45% would be federal grant money plus "partner" contributions. Following much discussion the Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging,

Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, J. Kuhlmeier and Blum. Members voting nay: Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Wire and Dotson. 17 ayes. 5 nays. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-03-1728 to establish a Community Health Center Governing Council carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Chief Deputy Welch reported on increasing jail population and overtime due to staff shortage. One of the pending lawsuits has been dismissed and another one was partially dismissed.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions:

#10-03-1729 HD 10-10; Resolution awarding low bidder for a single axle dump truck to Hawkeye Truck and Trailer. It was noted this is for a cab and chassis only, next month they will be taking bids on the rest of the equipment. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve Resolution #10-03-1729 HD 10-10. Second by Mr. Brown. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve #10-03-1729 HD 10-10; awarding low bidder for a single axle dump truck carried unanimously.*

#10-03-1730 HD 10-11; Resolution awarding low bidder for a wide format copier/scanner to BHFX, LLC for \$21,995. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve Resolution #10-03-1730 HD 10-11. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve #10-03-1730 HD 10-11; awarding low bidder for a wide format copier/scanner carried unanimously.*

Purchase and financing of excavator through the State Joint Purchasing; Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve purchase and financing of an excavator through the State Joint Purchasing for %105,385 @ 5.6% interest for 60 months. The Assistant State's Attorney confirmed that the financing was allowed by statute. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve purchase and financing of an excavator through the State Joint Purchasing carried unanimously.*

ZONING REPORT: No report

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves reported the Pecatonica Prairie Path committee is working on Phase 1 of the Path.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Groves reported the Tri-State Agro-Emergency exercise was scheduled for March 11, 2010.

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves reviewed minutes of the February 8th 911 Board meeting and distributed financial reports, statistics and projects.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Food scores and the Animal Control Report for the month of February were distributed. Mr. Beintema reported information regarding on-site clinics that provide vaccinations; is available on their website www.stephensonhealth.com. The County Health Rankings released show Stephenson County ranked 33 out of 102 Illinois Counties. We scored low in Health Behaviors and Social & Economic and high on Clinical Care. The Health Department is sponsoring a Human Services Conference on April 6th at Highland Community College.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported the annual inspection has been finished and stated we are in good shape. He expressed his gratitude to FHN for their donation of beds, night stands and TV's to the facility.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley distributed and reviewed Department statistics. It was reported the Dependent Children's Fund is under budget. The Probation Service Fees are paying for daily operations of the Department. The State is no longer paying for mental health evaluation of sex offenders; Counties will now be responsible for this expense.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

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

- First, I would like to welcome Mr. Mikkelsen back to the table. It looks like he's ready and able to get back to county business.
- Last month I asked the Public Safety Committee to discuss the prospect of putting the Public Safety Tax question on the November 2010 ballot. I wanted this discussion to happen sooner rather than later for two reasons. The first would be to allow the maximum amount of time to fund and implement an informational effort with our citizens. The second was to eliminate this possibility from consideration early so that we could concentrate on the budget decisions we will face without this extra revenue.
- The consensus of the committee was to **not** pursue the public safety sales tax referendum in November 2010, and unless this board wishes to overturn this decision, I concur.
- On February 23 and 24 Mr. Newton, Mr. Gilmour, Mr. Wire, and myself attended the UCCI Legislative Reception and seminar in Springfield. We were able to meet with a number of key legislators and discuss the State's financial problems and how we as counties are trying to cope. I was honored to participate as a presenter in one of the forums where we discussed opportunities for cost control and revenue generation. I found that every county that was represented was facing very serious budget problems. I also found that we are in much better shape than many of our contemporaries, but we will continue to see financial challenges for at least another year.
- Our budget continues to be closely monitored by the oversight committees and the department heads. Currently, we are running about 2% under our spending projections, but this is offset by a 5% shortfall in revenue. This revenue shortfall is caused primarily by the State of Illinois being 4 months behind in our income tax reimbursements. This shortfall is estimated at approximately \$383,000. The Treasurer has been in constant communication with the State Treasurer and Comptroller and I continue to contact our State Legislators in this regard. I received a note from Representative Sacia yesterday in which he stated he would personally contact the State Comptroller.
- On a good note, we have experienced a significant increase in the sales tax revenues this month. These dollars would have been generated from sales last November, before the Christmas shopping season kicked in. The 1%, ¼%, and public safety sales taxes showed drastic increases from last month. In total, these revenues are higher than the same month last year and the year before. We hope that the April receipts show similar strength.
- Our Local Workforce Investment Board met this morning in Lanark. This was the first formal meeting for Janet Vrtol, the new Board Manager. A number of education and training initiatives were approved for CGH Hospital, FHN, and Work Keys. We continue to invest training dollars and programs to assist the regional workforce retrain and locate new work.
- Last month I assigned the task of producing a viable plan for the reallocation of courthouse space to Nelson Snavely and Sol Détente. These gentlemen did complete their task on time and we will consider their proposal during the Public Property Committee report tonight. If this plan is approved this evening, I would like these two men to take the next step and design the implementation schedule along with suggestions for funding. The scheduling effort will be a bit more complex in that they will need to accommodate ongoing courthouse activities during the implementation, efficiently coordinate moves, and utilize all possible resources to keep expenses to a minimum. I certainly thank these two men for their efforts so far.
- Last week NIDA presented an annual summary of their activities including financial information during the Planning and Development Committee meeting. All Board members were invited to attend and some did. A copy of their presentation was emailed to each county board member and is available on their website.
- Today is Cheryl Kneubuehl's last official day as Executive Director of NIDA. She will remain involved until a new director is identified. The NIDA search committee has been receiving resumes and will continue until March 15. We have received approximately 15 resumes to date and have had initial

interviews with 8 potential candidates. The quality of the applicants seems to be very good. The process will continue into early April.

- The Brownfield meeting for all villages and townships is planned for March 31, 2010 at 6 pm in the Freeport Public Library. Invitations are being mailed this week by Fehr-Graham.
- The 2010 UCCI/Leadership Academy is planned to begin in April and run thru next October. This is a very worthwhile experience for every county leader. I am aware that our County Clerk, Vici Otte, and our County Treasurer, Adrienne Becker, plan to attend. I have also had some interest indicated by Mr. Newton and Mr. Gilmour. If any other board members or county leaders wish to participate, please let Mr. Mulnix know as soon as possible. It is a tremendous commitment, but the benefits last a lifetime.
- Next month I am planning to present my eighth-annual State of the County address. At that time I also plan to make some awards for service and leadership on behalf of Stephenson County. While it is always a challenge to prepare for this presentation, I find it a great way to summarize our past and gear up for the future.
- I wish to mention a number of upcoming community events that you should consider attending:
- The Freeport Township Human Services Fund is having their annual spaghetti fund raiser on March 24 beginning at 4:30 pm at the VFW. Tickets are \$6.
- FACC is holding a Poverty Solutions Summit at the Freeport Public Library from 9 am to noon on March 31.
- The annual Township dinner meeting will be held on April 8 at 6 pm in the Pearl City High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$16.
- The 20th annual Mayor's Hunger Luncheon will be held on April 13 beginning at 1130 am at the Masonic Temple in Freeport. Tickets are \$20.
- Many of you know Adam Bratley, the son of Mark Bratley, Harlem Township Road Commissioner and Bev and Joel Scheider. Adam had a horrific snowmobile accident in early January near Pearl City. Adam is dealing with a long road to recovery from very serious injuries and months of rehab. A fund raiser is planned on his behalf at the Route 20 Grill on April 25 from 12-6 pm. Please attend or consider donating to this cause.

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments

Action Items from Standing Committees

Finance

Mr. Graham explained with the State behind four months on distributing the County's share of Income Taxes, the Treasurer will need the authority to issue Tax Anticipation Warrants, before the County Board meets in April, if the financial shortfall continues. Mr. Graham made a motion to authorize the County Treasurer to pursue Tax Anticipation Warrants up to \$400,000 for the General Fund. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve Tax Anticipation Warrants carried unanimously.*

There was no action taken regarding the County FOIA Plan.

Public Property

Mr. Senn explained the Courthouse space reallocation plan, based on the space requirements submitted by each department. The proposed allocation plan allows for expansion in all departments, including space for storage. The proposed plan allocates to the Circuit Clerk, most of the space previously occupied by the County Clerk, County Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessment. The State's Attorney would expand into the third floor space vacated by the Circuit Clerk. An additional courtroom and space for a judge would be created from the space vacated by the Circuit Clerk on the second floor. The plan leaves vacant and unassigned space on both the second and third floors. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the Courthouse space allocation plan "R-1 & R-2" dated 02/20/10. Second by Ms. Boynton. Discussion was held that no cost or time frame was outlined in the plan. At 8:10 a short recess was taken for Board Member's to review the proposal as presented. The meeting

was called back to order at 8:15. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Courthouse space allocation plan “R1 & R-2” dated 02/20/10 carried unanimously.* It was noted the next phase of the plan should be in place by the April Department Head Meeting.

Administration

April is National County Government Month. This years theme is “Healthy Counties”. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the proclamation, declaring April as National County Government Month, “Healthy Counties”. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the proclamation, declaring April as National County Government Month, “Healthy Counties” carried unanimously.*

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)
 - 1546 Tyler’s Justice Center for Children, Manager Tina Steele-Leitz
 - 1547 National Wild Turkey Federation. Manager Corey Nelson
 - 1548 Lena Sons of the American Legion (Sprauge Inman Post 577), Manager Scott Olberding

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

Information from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham reported discussion was held on hosting Town Hall meetings and having the public comments made earlier in the County Board meeting, before all of the voting, rather than after the voting. He noted that Public comment is already a part of all committee and County Board meetings. Mr. Graham voiced his concern that he has witnessed hostile personal attacks and misinformation being provided at Town Hall meetings. He encouraged citizens to attend Committee meetings and be a part of the discussion and decision process.

Public Property: Mr. Senn reported the Committee had discussed the Public Safety Sales Tax. It was decided not to pursue a referendum for the November ballot as they felt it could not go forward without full support of County Board and outside funds to provide proper education for the voters.

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper reported that her committee is working on the draft of the County Code Book. All Committees are encouraged to review their respective chapters and submit any additions or corrections.

Court Services: Ms. V. Hooper reported the collections committee continues to meet on a regular basis to work out an amnesty program, for delinquent fines and fees.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	515,078.44
Administration	\$	59,234.06
Public Works	\$	86,717.74
Nursing Center	\$	186,076.77
Public Property	\$	29,501.83
Court Services	\$	21,616.74
Public Safety	\$	49,294.25
Planning & Development	\$	16,598.70
9-1-1	\$	11,506.64

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the claims as received. Second by Mr. McKenna. A typographical error on the Agenda was noted for the Public Safety claims. Mr. Kinney noted he would not support the claims due to the inclusion of the NIDA “donation”. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Gilmour, Koch, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Members voting nay: A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton and Kinney. Nineteen ayes. Three nays. *Motion to approve the claims as received carried.*

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 5 days, 0 miles-Boynton 2 days, 36 miles-Brown 3 days, 8 miles-Detente 4 days, 92 miles-Devine 3 days, 16 miles-Dotson 3 days, 119 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 0 miles-Graham 5 days, 0 miles-Hilton 3 days, 8 miles-S Hooper 3 days, 0 miles-V Hooper 3 days, 0 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles-A

Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 4 days, 92 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 4 days, 8 miles-Newton 2 days, 72 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 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:

Ms. S. Hooper announced the Township-County Officials meeting will be held on April 8th and the Annual Town meeting will be on April 13th. She voiced concern with some of the tone of public comments and encouraged better civil discourse.

Mr. Kinney stated his objection to the Chairman's decision to allow Mr. Graham's discourse during his Finance informational comments.

Mr. Newton asked for clarification on how many County Board Members can legally be together; it was noted a majority of a quorum.

Mr. Senn commended the 2 citizens on their involvement in the reporting of a recent burglary.

Mr. Détente clarified that if a town hall meeting is posted and recorded it is legal. It was further noted one could ask Board Members to leave if a majority of a quorum was present.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:

Brenda Harless of 639 N. Waddell Avenues Freeport addressed the Board stating she has been attending Committee and County Board meetings. She feels that the newspaper and Town Hall meetings are not always accurate. She further stated she has been treated with respect at all committee meetings and feels the County Board Members are working hard. She encouraged citizens to attend the meetings to better understand the process.

Chairman Blum noted his displeasure with the constant personal attacks. He stated he receives no special treatment at Freeport airport, but continually remains an issue. Mr. Parker concurred with the Chairman's comments.

Michael King of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota suggested that agendas along with information on various topics be posted on our website. He stated he likes the informality of Committee meetings and encouraged citizens to attend and be a part of the discussions held.

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ ACTION OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2010: Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday April 14, 2010 carried unanimously.

Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation & Mr. Brown will lead the Pledge