

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2010
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday June 9, 2010. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Ms. Devine 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, Thomas Gilmour, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent: J. Kuhlmeier and A. Kuhlemeier. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 12, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 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;

*Resignation of James Kuhlmeier, County Board District "I"

*Public Defender Report for May; 235 New Cases, 215 Cases Closed, Income \$2,846.50

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.* Noted arrival of A. Kuhlemeier

ACCEPT RESIGNATION AND DECLARE DISTRICT "I" SEAT VACANT: Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to accept the resignation of James Kuhlemeier. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to accept the resignation of James Kuhlemeier carried unanimously.* Mr. Willging made a motion to declare the County Board District "I" Seat vacant. Second by Mr. Newton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to declare the County Board District "I" Seat vacant carried unanimously.* Chairman Blum will send a letter to the Republican Party advising them the Seat has been declared vacant. He would like to have the vacancy filled for the July County Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

SHERIFF'S REPORT: This year's recipient of the Illinois Sheriffs Scholarship is Ross Barker. Mr. Barker plans to attend Illinois College of Jacksonville. Sheriff Snyders reported the auction brought \$3,890 into the General Fund. The roof on the Public Safety Building is leaking again; proper repairs will need to be made. The jail population is down to 116. The Sheriff has received a donation from the Lena Lions Club for the Reserve Unit's boat. A proposal has been reviewed from Renaissance Restoration for work on the Civil War Monument. Sheriff Snyders has received offers to help with the project and funding efforts. They are looking into possible grants. Discussion was held on possibility of hiring back deputies for part-time at the jail. The Sheriff is exploring this option although he said many of the Deputies have found other jobs.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions:

HD 10-18 Approval of the Prevailing Wage for work accomplished using contractors and their employees

HD 10-19 Approval of the Prevailing Wage for work accomplished using County employees

Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolutions HD 10-18 and HD 10-19. Second by Mr. Gilmour.

Requirements set by State Statute to pass these resolutions were noted. Discussion was held on the process of

creating our own prevailing wage. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-06-1740 HD 10-18; approving the Prevailing Wage for work accomplished using contractors and their employees and Resolution #10-06-1741 HD 10-19; approving the Prevailing Wage for work accomplished using County employees carried with nay votes noted.*

HD 10-20 Obtaining Engineering Firm for Section 10-06118-00-BR North Bolton Road over Preston Creek
Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-20. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-06-1742 HD 10-20; obtaining Engineering Firm for Section 10-06118-00-BR North Bolton Road over Preston Creek carried unanimously.*

HD 10-21 Obtaining Engineering Firm for Section 10-00177-00-BR over a branch of Yellow Creek
Mr. Koch made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-21. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-06-1743 HD 10-21; obtaining Engineering Firm for Section 10-00177-00-BR over a branch of Yellow Creek carried unanimously.*
Mr. Isbell reported he has obtained two intern workers through the Regional Office of Education which he will be sharing with other offices.

ZONING REPORT:

Special Use 2010-2; (2) single family dwellings 12005 N Davis Road for Anthony McMillan
Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve SU #2010-2; Special Use (2) single family dwellings 12005 N Davis Road for Anthony McMillan. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve SU #2010-2; Special Use (2) single family dwellings 12005 N Davis Road for Anthony McMillan carried with nay vote noted.*

Special Use 2010-3; home occupation/small engine repair 7834 U.S. Rte 20 West for Michael Mayer
Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Special Use 2010-3; home occupation/small engine repair 7834 U.S. Rte 20 West for Michael Mayer with condition that new IDOT approved entrance shall be constructed within six months of approval of the Special Use. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Special Use 2010-3; home occupation/small engine repair 7834 U.S. Rte 20 West for Michael Mayer carried unanimously.*

Special Use 2010-4; single family dwelling west of 2759 W Winneshiek Road for Kory Wheat
Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve Special Use 2010-4; single family dwelling west of 2759 W Winneshiek Road for Kory Wheat. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Special Use 2010-4; single family dwelling west of 2759 W Winneshiek Road for Kory Wheat carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves reported the Jane Addams Trail commission had met and reviewed Section B. He presented the Jane Addams Trail 2012-13 Budget. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Jane Addams Trail 2012-13 Budget. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Jane Addams Trail 2012-13 Budget carried unanimously.*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Distributed minutes from the June meeting, status of 911 projects, stats for 2010, claims and financial reports

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema reported the Health Department is part of a statewide surveillance of a Salmonella outbreak involving consumption of food at Subways. The closest confirmed cases are in Bureau, Ogle, Winnebago and Dekalb Counties. The County received notice that a bird tested positive for West Nile Virus on May 20. The Teen Parent Services program graduated 38 out of 38 teen parents. Mr. Beintema distributed a pie chart showing the Departments source of funds and accounts receivable. Also distributed were the Food scores and Animal Control Report.

APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Beintema presented the following reappointments to the Board of Health:

- Reappointment of Bobbie Yount
- Reappointment of Andrea Moring
- Reappointment of Steve Rothschadl

Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the reappointments. Second by Mr. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointments to the Board of Health carried unanimously.*

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported the new website will be up and running next week he will introduce it at next months County Board meeting. Infinity will make a presentation on the state of their programs including revenue generated. The Nursing Center will have a tent again this year at the County Fair; they are looking for volunteers. Mr. Fortney has begun obtaining proposals for resurfacing the front parking lot.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley reported detention costs continue to stay below the budget. Mary Davis Juvenile Facility will be losing its transportation funding. The County may see an increase in transportation costs, due to this loss of funding. The Probation Department has checked with other Counties, which have juvenile facilities, on the possible placement of our juveniles.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Blum presented the following report

- In conjunction with the vacancy declared this evening for the County Board seat in District I, I wish to inform you that Mr. Koch will now serve as Chair of the Public Works Committee with Mr. Gilmour as Vice Chair. In addition, Mr. Senn will now serve as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, and Mr. Wire will serve as Vice Chair of the Administration Committee. An updated Board and Committee list is at your desk for reference. Also, I have sent a letter to the Stephenson County Republican Party advising them that the seat in District I is now declared vacant and requesting a recommendation for an individual to finish the current term that ends November 30, 2010.
- I received the latest unemployment data for April 2010. The unemployment rate in Stephenson County improved to 12.4% from 14.0% last month. We have almost 3100 people still counted as unemployed in our county. Each of the five surrounding counties also experienced reduced unemployment; Whiteside – 11.3%, Ogle – 14.7%, Lee – 12.1%, Carroll – 12.7%, and the lowest rate in JoDaviess – 9.4%.
- The monthly Board of Directors meeting for NIDA was held yesterday with most of the discussion centered on the search for a new executive director. The process of due diligence is proceeding as the references, qualifications, and work history of the top candidates is meticulously verified.
- The Board was briefed on the progress of more than a dozen ongoing projects as well as the monthly activities by staff and committees. A couple of highlights include: NIDA was invited as 1 of 14 development entities to meet with national site selectors in Chicago later this month. Relationships with site selectors are important to the marketing of our county; NIDA continues to be involved with the Thompson Prison project to insure our county receives maximum benefit from this proposed federal development; and Cheryl Kneubuehl attended the American Wind Energy Association Conference and Trade Show in Dallas in Late May. NIDA participated in the conference as a partner with the Illinois Development Council and shared a booth with DCEO, IFA, and the Illinois Wind Lobby. NIDA made more than 300 contacts during the conference and has three strong leads for possible wind-related manufacturing facilities. It was noted that many of the attendees contacted were very impressed with the Highland College Wind Technology program and thought this adds great value to our economic development efforts. I placed a copy of the two marketing cards used at the conference for your information.
- The NIDA Infrastructure Committee is proceeding with the county-wide transportation study. A public forum on this project is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 22 at the Freeport Public Library.
- The Local Workforce Investment Board met yesterday to conduct a strategic planning session required to update the 10-year plan. Our 5-county region will be faced with some reduced federal revenues that will make our job of retraining and repositioning our workforce all the more challenging.

- We had our monthly department head meeting last Monday with the usual main topic of discussion being our budget and cash flow performance. It was noted that we have not received any income tax payments from the State since December of 2009. This equates to about \$650,000 in anticipated revenue. We did see some increase in the quarter penny and half penny sales tax revenues and the State did pay some of the salary reimbursements that had been long overdue. Expenses continue to track below budget and with revenue received we have closed the budget gap to a deficit of \$467,000 which is pretty much what we adopted last November. We still have work to do as we continue to control expenses and, if the State and the economy cooperate even a little, we can close the gap even further over the next few months.
- The Treasurer informed us that the property tax collection process has gone very well. She expects to make another distribution to the taxing bodies within a few days.
- The Lincoln statue planned for the Kent Monument is taking shape. Mr. Castro has gotten the laser copy and the prototype back from the foundry and is working on cleaning up the massive amount of detail that will be included on this statue. I was hoping to have the model here for display this evening, but it is a little bit too raw to show yet.
- The UCCI summer conference will be held at Eagle Ridge in Galena on July 26 and 27. The seminar topic for the second day of the conference was announced. The University of Illinois seminar is called: Weathering the fiscal storm, Finding new revenues and streamlining county government. Please advise Mr. Mulnix at your earliest convenience if you plan to attend.
- We are planning our second annual employee appreciation picnic for July 24, 2010 at the County Highway Department. Mr. Gilmour has again agreed to donate one of his hogs to the event. We will be working out times and other details to be distributed to all employees in the next couple of weeks.

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Blum presented the appointment of Tom Gilmour to the Farmland Assessment Committee. Mr. Koch made a motion to approve the appointments. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment to the Farmland Assessment Committee carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committees

Finance

Mr. Graham reported the Regional Office of Education's lease with the Stockton School District expired at the end of May. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the proposed Lease Agreement. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the one-year lease between the Regional Office of Education, with the three counties and the Stockton School District carried unanimously.*

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve 2010 NIDA funding for \$20,000 (\$10,000 from the General Fund and \$10,000 from the Mill Race Crossing Fund). Second by Mr. Willging. There was discussion on the County's current financial condition and the value of NIDA and its benefit to the County. It was asked if Chairman Blum and Vice Chairman Graham as Directors on the NIDA Board had a conflict of interest in voting on funding NIDA. State's Attorney Vogt stated there was no personal benefit from this action so it would not be a conflict of interest. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Graham, Gilmour, Koch, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Members voting nay: Wire, Dotson, A. Kuhlemeier, Boynton, Kinney and Détente, Fifteen ayes. Six nays. *Motion to approve the NIDA funding carried.*

Administration

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)
 - 1564 Freeport Moose Family Center 162, Manager Lynn Folgate
 - 1565 Freeport Moose Family Center 548, Manager Shirley Whitehead
 - 1566 Stephenson Nursing Center Foundation, Manager Penny Smith
 - 1567 All Veterans Memorial Park Stephenson County, Manager Donna L. Otte
 - 1568 St John's Women's Society/LWML, Manager Kathy Baumgartner
 - 1569 RAMP, Manager Tiffany Vondra

- 1570 Conservation & Ag Partners Foundation, Manager Martha Ebbesmeyer
- 1571 Freeport Art Museum, Manager Jennifer Kirker Priest
- 1572 Provena St Joseph Center, Manager Michelle Lindeman

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.*

Planning & Development

The Enterprise Zone Committee has started the process to extend the life of the Enterprise Zone for ten years, until the end of 2020. The EZ Committee has hired an attorney to draft updates to the ordinances of the four governing unit of government. The ten-year extension requires the approval of all four governing units. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the 10-year extension to the Enterprise Zone. Second by Mr. Willging. *The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to approve the 10-year extension to the Enterprise Zone carried unanimously.*

Information from Standing Committees

Finance: The Committee continues to work on alterations to our current Employee Wellness program. Department Heads meet monthly and discuss the budget, the 2011 Budget process will begin within the next couple months.

Public Safety: The committee continues to review Courthouse space allocation plans for the second floor.

Court Services: The committee approved \$5,000 from Youth Diversion fund for Boy’s and Girls Club Teen Reach program. The Public Defender and States Attorney have grant funded interns working in their offices for the summer.

Planning and Development: NIDA subcommittee will be meeting regarding public transportation on June 22 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Freeport Public Library.

Chairman Blum reported the Workforce Board had met and the topic of discussion was the economy, the benefits of revenues and what Government should be doing about it.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$ 652,466.60	<i>amended to \$652,376.60 @ Committee</i>
Administration	\$ 59,813.02	
Public Works	\$ 192,418.56	
Nursing Center	\$ 183,371.58	
Public Property	\$ 44,288.99	
Court Services	\$ 35,194.26	
Public Safety	\$ 272,925.25	
Planning & Development	\$ 96.49	
9-1-1	\$ 10,590.60	

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, Dotson, Gilmour, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve claims as received carried unanimously.*

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Blum 5 days, 0 miles-Boynton 3 days, 70 miles-Brown 3 days, 8 miles-Detente 4 days, 64 miles-Devine 3 days, 16 miles-Dotson 2 days, 70 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 138 miles-Graham 3 days, 0 miles-Hilton 3 days, 8 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 0 miles-V Hooper 3 days, 0 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 4 days, 96 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-McKenna 2 days, 8 miles-Mikkelsen 4 days, 8 miles-Newton 2 days, 4 miles-Parker 3 days, 12 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Willging 2 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: No other business

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:

Mike King of 5003 N Dakota Road, Dakota expressed his disappointment that there was no opportunity for Public Comment on this evenings action items. He feels this should be a permanent part of the agenda and it is not the public's responsibility to bring it to the Board's attention each month. He addressed comments printed in the newspaper made by Mr. Graham at Finance Committee and Mr. Gilmour at last Months County Board meeting. He stated the Board is responsible for the general well-fair of the residents of the County and must give consideration of the consequences of these types of remarks.

Brenda Harless of 639 N Waddell Avenue #194, Freeport stated she appreciates the education she gets when attending County Board and Committee meetings. She feels that public participation needs to increase because opinion not based on fact is more hurtful than helpful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Blum announced the need for executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Miscellaneous. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier made a motion to move into executive session. Second by Mr. Détente. Members voting aye: A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Gilmour and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to move into executive session carried unanimously*

ACTION OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Blum called the regular session of the Stephenson County Board meeting back to order and announced that no action had been taken in Executive Session. Mr. Détente made a motion to release executive session minutes from February 10, 2007, November 12, 2009 and February 10, 2010. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Executive Session Minutes carried unanimously.*

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 2010: Mr. Willging made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Brown. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. Motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday June 9, 2010 carried unanimously at 8:42 p.m.

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