

**Stephenson County Board Meeting
July 14, 2010
Stephenson County Board Room**

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday July 14, 2010. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Mr. McKenna 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, A. Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Twenty-one members present. (*Vacant seat in District I*)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. Willging. Mr. Détente motioned an amendment to allow the public to address items on the agenda (excluding Zoning issues) before they are discussed. Chairman Blum asked the audience if anyone had any comments they would like to address prior to the regular comment time; no requests were made. The Chair noted that there would be a NIDA presentation under “old business”. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010 meeting as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 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 June; 306 New Cases, 233 Cases Closed, Income \$1,951.80

*2009 audit of the Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau

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

APPOINTMENT TO DISTRICT “I” SEAT: Chairman Blum explained the selection process for the candidate he was presenting to the full board for approval. The Republican Central Committee recommended Jerry Clay but because of a domestic battery conviction Chairman Blum did not bring the Party’s recommendation to the board. Mr. Gilmour made a motion to approve the appointment of Tom Bicksler to District “I”. Second by Mr. Willging. Much discussion followed on going against the recommendation of the Republican Central Committee. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye; Gilmour, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Dotson and Blum. Members voting nay; Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Kinney, Détente and Wire. Fifteen ayes. Six nays. *Motion to appoint Tom Bicksler to the District “I” vacant seat carried.* Mr. Bicksler was given his oath of office by Judge Bald and seated.

OLD BUSINESS; NIDA presentation by Mike Clark:

Mr. Clark reported the search for an Executive Director is on going. Associate Director Tess Dahm continues moving projects forward and Cheryl Kneubuehl is still helping fill in where needed. Committees are in place and working on special areas of interest. Discussion was held on more open discussion regarding possible projects. Mr. Clark noted that private businesses trust us to allow them the opportunity to privately explore all areas of their projects as not to cause competition, price wars etc. He emphasized the importance of honoring the confidentiality requested by potential businesses.

SHERIFF’S REPORT: Mr. Senn reported the Sheriff’s Department is now using the STARCOM Communication System. Deputy Pam Wilson was complimented on her professional response to the bank

robbery in Orangeville. The Sheriff and the Freeport Police Department are applying for a joint grant of \$12,467 from the Federal government for security equipment. No local match monies are required. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the application and an intergovernmental agreement for the grant. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the application and an intergovernmental agreement for the grant carried unanimously.* The Sheriff's Office plans to use their portion of the grant to purchase a new walk-through scanner for the entrance of the courthouse and additional security cameras.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Koch reported that about two miles of road from South Street to Lamm Road would be ideal for Cold Inplace Recycling. The cost would be approximately \$180,000 and will be included in next year's budget. The Highway Needs Committee has met twice and discussed the needs and wants for our County highways. The new dump truck should be arriving soon, with no hitch or snowplow. Mr. Koch made a motion to purchase a hitch and snowplow from Bonnell for approximately \$14,686 including installation. Second by Mr. Gilmour. It was noted this equipment was interchangeable on all the dump trucks. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve purchase of the equipment carried unanimously.*

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves presented Home Occupation Special Use for Tony Alber located at 2066 N Henderson Road. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Special Use request. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Home Occupation Special Use #2010-5 for Tony Alber carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves updated the Board on the current status of the trails. An agreement has been reached with the Village of Cedarville for a parking area.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema presented the following report;

- Food scores for the month of June
- Stephenson County received notice that a bird tested positive for WNV on May 20th. In 2009 the first in the State occurred on June 10th. The Mosquito Abatement Districts reports mosquito counts are higher due to increased moisture and heat
- The Health Department is co-sponsoring a Symposium with the Poverty workgroup and Voice for Children on September 16 at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau
- August 31 the AOK network is hosting a community conversation with social service agencies and faith based organizations. "What is possible when faith based and social services come together to cultivate strong families?"
- The Department continues to work on the FQHC
- The Stephenson County Health Department IPLAN for 2009-2014 and the Animal Control report were distributed

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported the Nursing Center would have a Fair booth again this year; all proceeds will go into the Residents Activity Fund. The new website funded by the Foundation, is up and running. Infinity Rehab presented an operational, clinical and financial analysis of their services at the Nursing Center.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Deputy Director Eilders reported on a new program being offered through the Probation Department named "Thinking for Change". The staff has been trained and the pilot program is running. The Department is confident this program will have a positive impact on the community.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

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

- Our Local Workforce Investment Board met this morning in Lanark. We continue to meet or exceed all (9) of the State mandated performance goals. We are one of the few WIA's in the State that is. Our current PY09 budget is \$5.1 million which has been 64% expended thru May of 2010. There are 3,500 people enrolled in WIA programs across our 5-county service area.

- The WIB was updated on the new strategic plan and a number of pending plant closures facing the region. Two of these plants are in the Sterling area.
- The Y.E.S. Program (Youth Employment for the summer) is underway. This program is offered to area employers. Employer responsibilities are minimal and following a few easy steps will allow the hiring individuals from 16-24 years old until September 30, 2010 at no cost.
- The unemployment rates for our region were received for May 2010. Stephenson County's unemployment rate went down from 12.5% in April to 10.5% in May 2010. 2634 people are listed as unemployed.
- It was noted that about 1,400 people are receiving food stamps in Stephenson County.
- The State continues to lag in reimbursement of income tax. Our last receipt was for the end of last year. Our hope that the State would true-up at the end of their fiscal year on June 30 did not materialize. However, we have performed very well against budget and actually have reduced the anticipated deficit to approximately \$300,000 in the current fiscal year. Again, we continue to work at identifying and collecting revenue along with expense containment in all departments.
- The Stephenson County Transit Partnership held their first meeting on June 22 at the Freeport Library to begin the evaluation leading toward the determination of need and design of a county-wide transportation system. The next meeting is planned for 6 pm on July 22 at the Freeport Library.
- I have been advised that our grant applications for lighting upgrades at the Courthouse and the Nursing Center are moving into the final rounds of analysis and an award announcement could be made in a few days. These grants when combined will pay for almost all of the required federal upgrades to the lighting systems in these two facilities. It was also stated that three other projects within our county have reached the final stages of review.
- I was also informed that an announcement is imminent on an \$80 million broad band upgrade grant for northern Illinois including Stephenson County. This project will bring high-speed fiber to all public buildings including courthouses, schools, hospitals, and more. The project, if granted, will take up to 3 years to complete. This will be a great addition to our economic development infrastructure.
- I was planning to have Jay Castro here to display the latest rendition of the new Lincoln statue planned for the Kellogg's Grove monument area. He had some last minute modifications he was making to the model and asked that we postpone his presentation until next month.
- The RAMP Wheel-A-Thon is planned for Saturday, July 24 beginning at 10 a.m. This is an annual fund raising project to help with programs that aid folks with accessibility issues. Rep. Sacia, Mayor Gaulrapp, and I always attend and participate. It is held on Spring St. just behind the old YMCA.
- I participated in a taping of a segment called Newsmakers that will be showing on CNN Headline News in the near future. There were 28 segments filmed, each about 5 minutes long, with 28 different leaders from around the region. I will be advised of the airing schedule in the near future. My sound bites were on the State budget, the local economy, and county nursing homes. This was a lot for a 5 minute segment.
- The County Employee Appreciation Picnic is planned for Saturday, July 24, 2010 from 4-8 p.m. at the County Highway facility on Lamm Road. Food, beverages, and entertainment is to be provided. This picnic is hosted by the Department Heads and the County Board so you all are invited to come out and work to show our employees and their families a great time.
- The UCCI Summer seminar is planned for July 26 and 27, 2010 at Eagle Ridge in Galena. The seminars will cover issues around the topic of running county government in the Great Recession.
- The Stephenson County Fair started yesterday and will run thru July 18. This is a great celebration of our agricultural business and culture. Please make an effort to attend and enjoy the displays and demonstrations.

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments

Action Items from Standing Committees

Administration

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)

1573 Freeport Downtown Development Foundation	Manager Aubra Palermo
1574 St Mary’s Catholic Church	Manager Evelyn Bouray
1575 Lena Firemen	Manager Brian Eilders
1576 Freeport Elks Lodge 617	Manager Teresa Wellman
1577 Orangeville HS FFA	Manager Dawn Gimple
1578 Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce	Manager Kim Grimes

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.*

Information from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham reported the proposed budget calendar and instructions for developing the 2011 budget will formally be adopted next month. He credited department heads for the reduction in the budget deficit.

Nursing Center: Mr. Détente reported the Nursing Center continues to set aside dollars in the building fund and plan on replacing the roof next summer. He expects they will repay another \$200,000 to the General Fund this fiscal year.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	675,102.62
Administration	\$	29,797.49
Public Works	\$	1,006,974.00
Nursing Center	\$	194,111.59
Public Property	\$	29,715.27
Court Services	\$	28,402.79
Public Safety	\$	68,907.99
Planning & Development	\$	10,911.22
9-1-1	\$	41,179.85

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

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Bicksler 1 day, 0 miles-Blum 5 days, 0 miles-Boynton 2 days, 36 miles-Brown 3 days, 8 miles-Detente 4 days, 67 miles-Devine 3 days, 16 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 0 miles-Graham 2 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 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. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Bicksler commented that he had moved to Stephenson County in 1972 with his wife and family, he said he has prospered here and would like to give back to the county.

Mr. Kuhlemeier reported work on Goldmine Road is scheduled to begin the first part of August. The project should last about three months.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE:

Brenda Harless, 639 N Waddell Avenue addressed the Board. She encouraged citizens to educate themselves and suggested attending committee meetings in order to address action items before they come to the board floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11, 2010: Mr. Mikkelsen 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 August 11, 2010 carried unanimously at 8:32 p.m.

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