

Stephenson County Board Meeting
August 11, 2010
Stephenson County Board Room
6:30 Pm

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday August 11, 2010. 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, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Tom Bicksler, Thomas Gilmour, Andrew Kuhlemeier, George Kinney, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent: Lynn Koch and Brenda Boynton. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. Mr. Détente requested the public be allowed to address items on the agenda (excluding Zoning issues) before they are discussed. Chairman Blum stated they would. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 14, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 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 July 14, 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 July; 213 New Cases, 172 Cases Closed, Income \$2,382.28

*2009 Annual Financial Statements – Stephenson County Circuit Clerk

*Regional Office of Education – Report of Official Acts for April 1 through June 30, 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.*

LWIB PRESENTATION: Kathy Day, Director of Partners for Employment and Janet Vrtol, Board Manager presented an update on services provided for adults, youth and employers in an effort to improve the workforce to meet the needs of the Region. The Local Workforce Investment Board is composed of representatives of business who make up the majority of the Board, as well as representatives of local educational entities, labor organizations, community-based organizations, economic development and Illinois workNet partners. The Board helps to set policies that will help bring together the three key pieces to successful local communities. Those three pieces are: education, employment, and the economy.

LINCOLN STATUE UPDATE: Jay Castro updated the Board on the Captain Lincoln sculpture reproductions. This is a not-for-profit project. Sales of the Captain Lincoln sculptures, along with private donations, will help fund the final seven-foot Captain Lincoln bronze.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS: Mike King of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota addressed the Board with concerns on removing the oversight committees from the budget process. He voiced further concern with the transfer of funds for renovation cost. He feels these dollars could be used for other needs.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported on the devastation caused by the flood. There was a lightning strike at the Public Safety Building, which caused the loss of some equipment. The deputies communicated through the STARCOM system and the telecommunicators used equipment from the City and the Sheriff's Reserve Unit. The Reserve Unit's board was used for water rescue. The Sheriff commended his staff, the Reserve Units as well as Terry Groves and Chris Isbell.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented HD 10-22; to appropriate and levy County Bridge funds for Lancaster/Ridott Township Bridge Replacement for an estimated cost of \$550,000.00, with the County's share of the project being 10%. Mr. Gilmour made a motion to approve Resolution HD 10-22. Second by Mr. Kinney. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Gilmour, Kuhlemeier, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Bicksler and Blum. Twenty aye. *Motion to approve HD 10-22 Resolution #10-08-1747 to appropriate and levy County Bridge funds for Lancaster/Ridott Township Bridge Replacement for an estimated cost of \$550,000.00 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell reported on water issues and road damage due to the flooding crisis.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves presented a Special Use request for a private/restricted air strip by Nickolas Cwian @10558 N Coon Road, Dakota. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve SU 2010-6. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve SU 2010-6; Special Use request for a private/restricted air strip by Nickolas Cwian @10558 N Coon Road, Dakota carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves reported construction is currently on hold due to the flooding and awaiting IEPA test results.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Groves reported on storm damage. They have received 1,500 applications from private individuals for flood relief. It was proclaimed that a disaster emergency exists in Stephenson County. The Declaration has been continued for on going damage assessment of public assisted agencies and continuation of clean up/recovery issues through the use of State and local resources.

9-1-1 REPORT: Joe Geiter presented the 9-1-1 report updating the Board on current projects. He reported on equipment damaged in the recent storm disaster. Due to the fact that the current radio control consoles are outdated, the 911 Board has determined that it would be fiscally responsible to purchase new equipment rather than attempt to repair the obsolete equipment.

APPOINTMENT: Joe Geiter's appointment to the ETSB will be up for renewal in September. The 911 board unanimously supports his reappointment for another term. Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the reappointment. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the reappointment of Joe Geiter to the ETSB/911 carried unanimously.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema reported the Freeport Mosquito Abatement District's counts are extremely higher than usual due to increased moisture and heat. The Health Department is co-sponsoring a Symposium with the Poverty work-group and Voices for Children on September 16. On August 31, the All Our Kids network is hosting a community conversation with social service agencies and faith based organizations. Food scores for the month of June were distributed.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported on the challenges the Nursing Center faced during the storm and flooding. He complimented Emergency Management for their assistance throughout the situation.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley presented caseload totals. The Dependent Children's Fund is still below budget. This may change due to a juvenile that will be entering Focus House to go through their sex offender program. The cost of this program is \$130 per day. It is ordered by the court and could be long term. Mr. Pauley reported on the new "Thinking for Change" program. There are currently two groups; one focusing on females and one on adolescent males. The Department has been notified of an increase in State allocation for reimbursement of Probation salaries.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: State's Attorney Vogt reported that Phillip Jacques has been hired as an assistant to replace Susan Dillon.

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

- I would like to publicly thank our Emergency Management Agency, lead by Mr. Groves, as they tirelessly dealt with the rain and flood events that started about July 23, 2010. Their coordination and communication efforts have been professional, timely, and consistent and resulted in a unified response to a county-wide disaster. Many hours of preparation and training have been invested in our Emergency Management Agency, our first responders, our public safety and social agencies, as well as dozens of volunteers who remain on-call whenever a need like this arises. This preparation and training was

evident throughout this event cycle. We are not out of the woods yet. We watch every rain event as it appears since our watershed is still soaked and the creek and river levels high. We should be proud of our friends, neighbors, and residents that stepped forward to help each other during this crisis.

- We found the internet and our County website to be a vital tool in communicating with the public during the flood event. Statistics show that the number of hits to the EMA flood event page was 96 for the last week of July and then jumping to 347 thru the first five days of August.
- The IDES has reported employment numbers for June. Our unemployment rate went up from 10.5% in May to 11.2% in June. However, we saw the labor force grow from 25,023 in May to 25,819 in June, an increase of 796 people, but the number of employed grew from 22,386 in May to 22,924 in June, an increase of 538, resulting in an additional 258 new people still looking for work. The total number of unemployed in our county is now 2,895. In June of 2009 we had 2,738 people looking for work. The unemployment for the first quarter of 2010 stood at 14.4% and now at the end of the second quarter we stand at 11.4%, a decrease of 3%.
- Census data has been compiled for 2009 and shows that Stephenson County has 1,165 economic units. An economic unit is a farm, mine, factory, or store that produces goods or provides services. This is up from 1,127 in 2007. As a comparison, Boone has 901, Carroll 475, JoDaviess 817, Lee 788, Ogle 1135, and Whiteside 1323. For perspective, Winnebago County has 6,948 economic units which is more than all the counties I just listed combined. The total average annual payroll in our county was \$36,400 with the state average being \$48,400.
- The regular meeting of the NIDA Board of Directors meeting was held yesterday morning. The quarterly membership meeting was held on July 27, 2010. The Board was updated on the search for a new Executive Director. Twelve new resumes have been received and reviewed. Interviews will be conducted and a top candidate identified. In the meantime, the (4) established committees are moving forward on a number of economic development projects. So far this year NIDA has received financial support in the amount of \$27,000 from the City of Freeport, \$20,000 from Stephenson County, and \$59,000 from the private sector. The newest member to join NIDA is Devansoy, Inc. of Rock City.
- The county-wide transportation project continues. The last meeting was held on July 28, 2010 with approximately 30 people in attendance. The next step is the county-wide survey that will gather data to determine needs and wants of the citizens and agency providers. This part of the process may take up to 60 days. Another public meeting will be held to evaluate the survey data.
- The County Liquor Commission is scheduled to meet on August 18, 2010 to conduct hearings on the license status of the Slurp and Burp in Loran and the Rt20 Bar and Grill located west of Freeport. Both hearings were generated due to alleged infractions of the County Liquor Code.
- Our current performance to budget for this fiscal year is still trending toward a break even balance by the end of the year. The deficit has come down to approximately \$270,000 with one quarter remaining. We will continue to monitor and curtail spending where possible and make every effort to book revenue. This continues to be a cooperative effort among all department heads.
- We are gearing up for the development of the 2011 budget. We see no revenue improvements on the horizon so we expect continued challenges as we manage rising costs with flat to slightly negative revenues. Our philosophy this year will be modified to require a zero-based budget building process based on realistic revenue estimates. In addition, we will include proportional aspects to the individual general fund budgets based on historical data and more consistent spending priorities. We will look at maximizing the general fund revenue under tax caps including possible reapportionment of individual tax levies. We see some cost pressure building on the health insurance fund here in the later stages of this fiscal year, which will cause some concerns going forward in that very large expense fund. We are also cognizant of approaching contract discussions with our union represented employees and are working on a comprehensive proposal to deal with the tremendous budget pressures experienced by local governments here in Illinois.

- The Freeport Comcast office will be closing on September 1, 2010. I will be meeting with them soon to determine what our options are for our PEG channel. We may not be able to broadcast as we are doing now once the office closes.
- On August 3 I attended a work group meeting sponsored by the NRCS and the Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss resource concerns. We generated a list of approximately 25 concerns and then worked to prioritize the top 5-10. This information we be used to inform USDA as to what conservation programs are needed in our county.
- RAMP held its annual Wheel A Thon the morning of July 24. This was at the height of the flooding, but the event went on as planned. In spite of the challenges, the effort raised almost \$25,000 to assist people with access and mobility issues in Stephenson County. I am happy to represent Stephenson County in this annual effort.
- A number of you were able to attend the UCCI meeting in Galena a few weeks ago. This event was the most highly attended in UCCI history. We hope to keep the venue here in NW Illinois and continue to improve the value of the seminars and the networking. We need a completed comment form from each of you that attended some or all of the events to return to UCCI as part of the evaluation process. Please see Russ Mulnix before you leave tonight and complete a form.

Action Items from Standing Committees

Finance/Public Property: Mr. Senn presented the following action items;

There is new legislation affecting the Coroner's Office. The General Assembly has raised a number of the Coroner Fees and directed that the Coroner have their own General Ledger fund. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the creation of a General Ledger fund and bank account for the Coroner. Second by Mr. Willging. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *The motion to approve the creation of a General Ledger fund and bank account for the Coroner carried unanimously.*

Mr. Groves has been awarded an EMA Grant for the emergency communication center. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve a budget amendment to account for the grant funding of \$37,946. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve a budget amendment to account for the \$37,946 EMA Grant Resolution #10-08-1748 carried unanimously.*

The Finance Committee recommends suspending the codified budget process for developing the 2011 Budget. They have established \$8,000,000 as the General Fund limit on expenditures, with department heads identifying all expenditures above the zero base. The budget worksheets will come to the Finance Committee with the usual request from the department as presented to the oversight committee, but now with an alternative amount from the County Administrator. Mr. Senn made a motion to suspend the codified budget process for developing the 2011 fiscal year budget. Second by Mr. Graham. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to suspend the codified budget process for developing the 2011 fiscal year budget carried with one nay vote.*

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

The 2011 Holiday schedule, as proposed by the 15th Judicial Circuit has been received. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Resolution establishing the holiday schedule for 2011. Second by Ms. V. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-08-1746 to establish the holiday schedule for 2011 carried with one nay vote.*

Judges of Election are certified every two years. A list of the proposed Judges was reviewed by the committee. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the list of Election Judges as presented. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the list of Election Judges as presented carried unanimously.*

- Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)
 - 1579 STARS, Manager Linda Werntz
 - 1580 Lena Blackhawk Trailblazers, Manager Kirk Polhill
 - 1581 Cedarville Lions Club, Manager Arthur Leverington

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.*

Court Services: Ms. V. Hooper presented the following action items;

The Judges would like to have another proposal for the fifth courtroom. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve a budget amendment; transferring \$1,500 from 001-806-607-01 (Legal/Special Defender) to 001-805-743-00 (Office Expense-over \$500) to cover the costs of the fifth courtroom proposals. Second by Mr. Senn. Much discussion followed on whether there is a need to proceed with another proposal and the costs involved. Mr. Mikkelsen called for the question. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to call the question. *Motion to call the question carried unanimously.* The Chair called for a roll call vote on the budget amendment. Members voting aye: V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Gilmour, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Willging, Parker and Blum. Members voting nay: Dotson, Bicksler, Kuhlemeier, Kinney and Détente. Fifteen aye. Five nay. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-08-1749 transferring \$1,500 from 001-806-607-01 (Legal/Special Defender) to 001-805-743-00 (Office Expense-over \$500) to cover the costs of the fifth courtroom proposals carried.*

Information from Standing Committees: No further information from standing committees

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	602,009.82
Administration	\$	27,336.34
Public Works	\$	362,230.44
Nursing Center	\$	201,529.01
Public Property	\$	40,616.56
Court Services	\$	19,975.85
Public Safety	\$	46,447.32
Planning & Development	\$	30,726.11
9-1-1	\$	41,277.40

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

Mileage & Per Diems – Subject to review by Finance Chairman

Bicksler 3 day,60 miles-Blum 6 days, 0 miles-Boynton 0 days, 0 miles-Brown 3 days, 108 miles-Detente 3 days, 53 miles-Devine 3 days, 16 miles-Dotson 3 days, 199 miles-Gilmour 4 days, 129 miles-Graham 2 days, 0 miles-Hilton 3 days, 8 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 0 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 0 miles-Kinney 3 days, 38 miles-Koch 3 days, 72 miles-Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 4 days, 168 miles-Newton 3 days, 6 miles-Parker 3 days, 12 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Willging 2 days, 0 miles-Wire 3 days, 208 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage & per diems as received. Second by Mr. Senn. 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 addressed the board with his displeasure regarding the appointment to fill the vacant seat in District I. He further expressed concern with comments made by Mike Clark at last months meeting on how proposed development at Mill Race Crossing is handled. Mr. King stated this is publicly owned property and he feels the public should be a part of the decisions made. He clarified his earlier comments on the budget process had been made because he understood from Finance committee the process did not include the oversight committees.

Richard Tidwell of 3885 S Rock City Road, Ridott addressed the Board with his personal dissatisfaction of an unidentified Board Member. Chairman Blum limited his comments due to their political nature.

Brenda Harless of 639 N Waddell Avenue, Freeport expressed her appreciation on how our Emergency Management Agency and County staff handled the flood and water crisis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2010: Mr. Kinney 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 Wednesday September 15, 2010 carried unanimously at 8:58 p.m.*

Mr. Newton will be responsible for the Invocation & Ms. V. Hooper will lead the Pledge

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