

**STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD ROOM
DECEMBER 15, 2010
6:30 PM**

The Stephenson County Board met in the County Boardroom on Wednesday December 15, 2010. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Newton gave the Invocation and Ms. Boynton led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Rebecca Quiggle, Sheila Hooper, Edward Mulligan, Peter Willging, Donald Parker, John Blum, Christopher Clukey, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jerry Clay, Thomas Gilmour, Alan Harn, Brenda Boynton, George Kinney, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Member absent: Lynn Koch. Twenty one members present. One member absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Dotson made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. Mr. Clay questioned the layout of the Agenda and the presence of the Chairman's Report. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.* Ms. Hooper stated the Administration Committee will review the structure of the agenda at their next meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Ms. Dotson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2010 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Gilmour. *Motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2010 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2010 MEETING MINUTES: Ms. Dotson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Clay. Mr. Détente made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect a correction in the committee assignments made at the meeting; Mr. Koch was assigned to Planning and Development and Mr. Gilmour was assigned to Nursing Center. Second by Mr. Clay. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to approve the minutes as amended. *Motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting as amended carried unanimously.*

CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK: Ms. Hooper made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Newton. 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 November; 236 New Cases, 261 Cases Closed, Income \$3,918.68

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

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS: No comments

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported the annual jail inspection has been successfully completed. He invited new County Board Members to take a tour of the facility.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented HD10-26 Resolution #10-12-1773 for approval of awarding all bidders at the lowest on the road cost for County maintenance. Mr. Gilmour made a motion to approve HD10-26. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye; Gilmour, Harn, Boynton, Kinney, Détente, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Quiggle, Hooper, Mulligan, Willging, Parker, Clukey, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Clay and Blum. Twenty one ayes. *Motion to approve HD10-26 Resolution #10-12-1773 for approval of awarding all bidders at the lowest on the road cost for County maintenance carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell is negotiating with contractors on the Bolton Road replacement bridge. Mr. Isbell will begin reporting important Animal Control issues discussed in Committee to the full board. He is reviewing the current Solid Waste ordinance. He has met with haulers and is working on funding issues.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves presented the following Zoning business; Map Amendment 2010-2 (B-3 to A-2) for Thomas Scully, Single Family Dwelling and Private Stables. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Map Amendment. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the Map Amendment 2010-2 (B-3 to A-2) for Thomas Scully, Single Family Dwelling and Private Stables carried unanimously.*

Special Use 2010-7 for Deborah Amidon, Private Campground (Emerald Acres). Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Special Use. Second by Ms. Boynton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Special Use 2010-7 for Deborah Amidon, Private Campground (Emerald Acres) carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: Mr. Groves distributed minutes from the November 18, 2010 Jane Addams Trail Commission Meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No Report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting, financial reports and statistics. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee for 9-1-1 consolidation with Freeport Dispatch is scheduled for January 17, 2011. Members include; Pete Willging, Don Parker, Terry Groves, Joe Geiter, Matt Rose, Sheriff Snyders, Todd Welch & Chief Whitmore.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema distributed food scores for the month of November. He reported the application for the FQHC has been submitted. He addressed the increase in whooping cough in Illinois and encouraged the public to stay current on their vaccinations.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Mr. Fortney reported he will be working on the following tasks in 2011;

- reapply for license for the Adult Day Care Unit
- upgrading light system with grant funds
- continue educating residents, families and staff on flu virus
- annual recertification of license

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley distributed caseload totals. He explained that Probation employees are employees of the Chief Judge. A longevity bonus of 1.5% for 2010 and 1.5% for 2011 was authorized by the Chief Judge with funds from the Probation Service Fee Fund. This would not be an increase in the employees' base salary. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve Resolution #10-12-1774; budget amendment for Probation bonus request. Second by Mr. Newton. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Quiggle, Hooper, Mulligan, Willging, Parker, Clukey, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Gilmour, Harn, Boynton, Kinney, Détente and Blum. Member voting nay: Clay. Twenty ayes. One nay. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-12-1774; budget amendment for Probation bonus request carried.*

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT: No report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Blum presented the following report;

- I would like to welcome the new county board members to your first official meeting. I was able to observe all of the committee meetings over the last (10) days and it seems everyone is getting acquainted with their new responsibilities.

Mr. Clay called point of order claiming the Chairman can not deliver his report from his chair. The Chairman denied the claim stating he can inform from his chair but not debate. Mr. Clay made a motion to over turn the Chairman's ruling. Second by Mr. Détente. Following discussion, Mr. Graham motioned to call the question. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote. *Motion to call the question carried unanimously.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to over turn the Chairs ruling. Mr. Détente requested a roll call vote. Members voting aye; Clay, Boynton, Kinney, Détente and Wire. Members voting nay; Gilmour, Harn, Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Quiggle, Hooper, Mulligan, Willging, Parker, Clukey, Graham, Dotson and Blum. Five ayes. Sixteen nays. *Motion to overturn the Chairman's ruling failed.*

- Our first Department Head meeting of the new fiscal year was held last Monday and the primary discussion concerned the cost of health care insurance. The County has enacted a 10% increase in both the employer and employee contributions beginning this year. This is the first increase in the last seven

years. We also are going to make available a Flexible Spending Account allowing for the use of pretax dollars by the covered employee to pay for health care expenses. We are looking at a number of new requirements being implemented by the new federal health care program that may have a significant impact on our cost. One of these new requirements is an increase in our annual maximum coverage from a \$250,000 limit to a \$750,000 limit. Early estimates indicate this one change could increase our premium costs by more than 70%. Our health insurance policy is to be renewed by December 31, 2010.

- We also discussed a number of items concerning the 2010 performance to budget as well as challenges for 2011. It was noted that the State is (5) months behind in income tax reimbursements which is estimated at approximately \$500,000. If we had received these funds in the mandated time periods we would have ended the 2010 fiscal year with a positive balance. Since we haven't completed the first month of the 2011 fiscal year we have no data to evaluate our performance. We will spend the next few weeks closing the books on 2010.
- Our department heads continue to discuss the numerous initiatives we are undertaking to continue our efforts toward consolidation and improved efficiencies. The consolidation of 911 and dispatch; the consolidation of animal control with other staff requirements in public works, environmental health, zoning, and emergency management; a review of solid waste efforts; and more to keep pressure on the reduction of costs while maintaining services. We will need the continued cooperation of all department heads in these efforts.
- The unemployment data for October 2010 indicated a slight rise from September, 10.3% to 10.4%. A year ago we stood at 11.8%. Our neighboring counties moved (+-.1%) as well.
- The county-wide transportation study continues. The survey deadline has been extended to January 3, 2011 in order to get a good sample of citizen inputs. This survey is still available on our county web site.
- The County Liquor Commission will meet on December 28, 2010 to consider renewal of all county liquor licenses. We will also consider a revision to our liquor code allowing wineries to sell beer. The meeting is at 5 pm in the 7th floor meeting room of the Stewart Center.
- NIDA has been very busy over the last month:
Yesterday I sent all of you a copy of a press release from Pearl City Elevator and Adkins Energy announcing a \$13 million expansion to their grain processing facility in Lena. They plan to use local contractors and add 5-10 new jobs. This expansion will improve the access to national and world grain markets for our local farmers. This is great news for the local economy and NIDA will continue to facilitate this project.
- Over the past (10) days NIDA has submitted proposals to DCEO for consideration in a competitive process to attract two new manufacturing facilities to Illinois. Combined these projects would require about (100) acres, employ about (400) skilled workers, and cost about \$500 million to build. Both sites submitted are within the Mill Race Industrial Park. These proposals are part of a very early round of site selection activities by DCEO, however these are the first requests we have received in almost a year. This could indicate an improvement in the economy resulting in new development activity. The Mill Race Industrial Park met the stringent criteria set for these projects in terms of road, rail, heavy utility access, fiber optic availability, zoning, and more. My thanks to the NIDA team that was able to assemble these very detailed proposals and allow Stephenson County to compete for these new investments.
- The implementation of the broadband grant continues. Sam Newton is very involved representing Stephenson County in this effort. Mr. Newton gave a brief update of this project.
- I signed the new labor agreement with the UAW-represented employees of the Public Works Department on December 7, 2010. This contract is now fully executed and on file with the County Clerk.
- I received an update from the County Treasurer and the County Assessor on the increment performance of all the TIF Districts within the county. There are (10) TIF Districts within the county. The oldest is the Orangeville TIF that began generating increment in 1991 and to date has generated about \$4.3

million for economic redevelopment. In total the TIF Districts have generated approximately \$19.3 million in total increment.

- Mr. Kane, Administrator for the Enterprise Zone, has advised that we received an extension of the life of the zone from DCEO. This extension will take the zone thru 2021. This extension will also require the reauthorization of abatements by each underlying taxing body of the current zone. This will be a time consuming effort. HB6900 is pending before the state legislature giving all enterprise zones in the state a (20) year extension without the requirement to recertify all taxing districts.
- The Lincoln Sculpture project is continuing. Mr. Castro has advised that the first bronze replica will be completed by the foundry yet this month. We will be able to see it at our January 12, 2011 meeting. A public unveiling of the project is being organized to take place on Lincoln's birthday in February.
- Mr. Snavelly continues to coordinate the two lighting upgrade projects in the courthouse and at the nursing center. He advised the Finance Committee that all materials are being ordered to insure we can meet the grant schedule.
- The reallocation of space continues to proceed at the courthouse. Mr. Snavelly is completing the renovation of the basement level to fully accommodate the Probation Department. The Animal Control office located on the main floor will be relocated to the Highway Department by December 31, 2010. There is some maintenance due on the Circuit Clerk's mechanized file system that will require the system to be disassembled. It is most efficient to move this system to the main floor during this maintenance. The system will be relocated to the area formerly occupied by the County Administrator with the Circuit Clerk's office moving to the former Treasurers office. The small meeting room adjacent to the County Board room will be modified to allow office space for the judge presiding over the County Board room when it is being used as a court room. The engineering study providing some analysis on the potential for a permanent fifth court room has been completed and distributed to the Public Property Committee for review with discussion planned at the January meeting.
- For your planning the next UCCI legislative conference will be held in Springfield on March 29 and 30, 2011. We will need to know your intentions for attending in February.

TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANTS:

Treasurer Becker reported there will again be cash flow problems in the General and Liability funds until tax payments are received. She distributed proposals from three banks for Tax Anticipation Warrants. It was noted the Highway Department is not in need of Warrants at this time. Mr. Senn made a motion to approve \$1,500,000 in Tax Anticipation Warrants for the General & Liability Funds at the Treasurer's discretion. Second by Mr. Willging. Following discussion, the Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Quiggle, Hooper, Mulligan, Willging, Parker, Clukey, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Gilmour, Harn, Boynton, and Blum. Members voting nay: Clay, Kinney and Détente. Eighteen ayes. Three nays. Motion to approve Resolution #10-12-1775 authorizing \$1,500,000 in Tax Anticipation Warrants against the General and Liability Funds carried.

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Blum noted the following changes in Committee assignments; Mr. Koch has been assigned to Nursing Center (from Planning & Development) and Mr. Gilmour has been assigned to Planning and Development (from Nursing Center).

Action Items from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Senn made a motion to approve a resolution transferring the property title for a delinquent surplus property parcel sold at auction. Second by Mr. Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution #10-12-1776 transferring title for Surplus Property sold at auction carried unanimously.*

Information from Standing Committees

Administration: Ms. Hooper reported her Committee will be discussing the enforcement of raffle requirements. Mr. Kane will email new County Board members a link for the County Code book.

Court Services: Mr. Newton reported the Fines and Fees sub-committee is starting the process to collect fees again.

Nursing Center: Mr. Hilton reported that the Nursing Center repaid another \$40,000 to the General Fund in December.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$ 743,905.38
Administration	\$ 59,359.99
Public Works/Animal Control	\$ 662,988.96
Nursing Center	\$ 202,060.96
Public Property	\$ 69,700.31
Court Services	\$ 32,166.75
Public Safety	\$ 70,159.69
Planning & Development	\$ 214.34
9-1-1	\$ 23,233.29
Total Claims	\$ 1,863,789.67

Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the claims as read. Second by Detente. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Senn, Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Quiggle, Hooper, Mulligan, Willging, Parker, Clukey, Graham, Wire, Dotson, Clay, Gilmour, Harn, Boynton, Kinney, Détente and Blum. Twenty-one ayes. *Motion to approve the claims carried unanimously.*

Mileage & Per Diems – *Subject to review by Finance Chairman*

Blum 8 day, 0 miles- Boynton 3 day, 88 miles-Brown 4 day, 10 miles- Clay - day, - miles- Clukey 4 day, 0 miles-Detente 4 day, 56 miles- Dotson 4 day, 144 miles-Gilmour 3 day, 102 miles-Graham 3 day, 0 miles-Harn 3 day, 0 miles-Hilton 5 day, 12 miles-Hooper 3 day, 0 miles-Kinney 3 day, 30 miles-Koch - day, - miles-Mikkelsen 4 day, 10 miles- Mulligan 3 day, 0 miles-Newton 4 days, 8 miles-Parker 5 day, 20 miles- Quiggle 3 day, 0 miles- Senn 5 day, 70 miles-Willging 5 day, 0 miles-Wire 4 day, 156 miles.

Mr. Senn made a motion to approve the mileage & per diems with the understanding that all required paperwork and social security information are obtained. Second by Gilmour. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage & per diems with the understanding that all required paperwork and social security information are obtained carried unanimously.* Mr. Clukey asked if there were outstanding issues with the collection of proper information for new Board Members. The Chair responded that on the initial outset of the new Board the caveat was added to insure that necessary paperwork to process payroll has been received.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Mike King 5003 N Dakota Road, Dakota voiced his concern that Mr. Détente is no longer serving on the Nursing Center Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No Executive Session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12, 2011: Mr. Mikkelsen 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 January 12, 2011 carried unanimously at 8:23 p.m.*

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