

PUBLIC PROPERTY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011

The stated meeting for the month of December was held in the Board Room, of the Stewart Centre, on the above date with Mr. Willging, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Willging, Mr. Parker, Mr. Détente, Mr. Harn, Mr. Senn, Mr. Clukey and Ms. Boynton. County Board Chairman Blum was present. Mr. Gilmour was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Tuesday, November 1, 2011 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Mr. Detente, seconded by Mr. Clukey.

Chairman Blum said that he has a meeting scheduled with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, at 9:00 a.m. on December 14th, regarding the Civil War Monument. Mr. Stadermann plans to attend. Mr. Willging said that he would try to attend. Civil Constructors plans to install concrete bumpers around the Civil War Monument, to minimize any snow and salt contact. The damaged building, on the northwest corner of Galena and Stephenson, should be down by the end of next week. Engineers are studying movement of the Monument and the impact road vibrations have on it. The County Administrator noted that the Planning and Development Committee discussed the advantage of having both monuments, Civil War and Blackhawk, in the same budget and under the same oversight committee, since there are a number of grants and maintenance issues that impact both monuments. Austin Bower noted that \$1,793 has been raised for the Civil War Monument Statute project with more funding raising events to come.

Mr. Groves reported that his office was damaged by the plumbing problem in the Highway Building. The carpet is being replaced along with some of the furniture. The communication equipment will need to be reinstalled in the new furniture. The County's transmitter has been installed on Aero's tower on Tower Road. He is waiting on FCC approval before using the new transmitter. The fiber installation at the Highway Building is expected to be completed next week.

The Sheriff reported that the Illinois Department of Corrections inspected the Jail on October 27, 2011. He described the improvements made at the Jail since the prior inspection. These changes have increased efficiencies: inmates can purchase extra blankets, use smart card for commissary and conversations with visitors are recorded. The inspectors said that the Jail was understaffed. Some of the 30-minute checks were not done within 30 minutes. On inspection day, the Jail was staffed with 24 people. Mr. Parker asked that everyone on the Committee receive a copy of the full inspection report. Mr. Détente asked what eight more correctional officers would cost. The Sheriff said that at least five would need to go through state training. He will be testing in January to create an eligibility list. IDOC will not force the County to add staff. The State no longer reimburses counties for the full cost of training. The Sheriff said that a new correctional officer costs about \$30,000 plus benefits. He said that the winter temperature in the cells was about 65 degrees. The County receives funds from the Federal government when it houses undocumented individuals. He is still waiting on information regarding the COPS grant.

Mr. Willging said that the group monitoring the consolidation of the City-County 9-1-1 service did not meet in November. He is planning to call the group back together in January.

There was no report on the reallocation of Courthouse space.

Chairman Blum reported that the annual licensing meeting of the Liquor Commission is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on December 22, 2011. The Sheriff said that he is interested in a County ordinance for repeated calls to the same liquor establishment. He described multiple disturbance calls to a business, without receiving any cooperation from management.

Mr. Clukey said that he had received complaints that those watching County Board meetings on television cannot hear the public comments. The County Board room needs a better sound system. A better sound system and camera would allow meetings to be streamed live to the Internet. Mr. Détente suggested that the public be invited to speak from the front podium. Mr. Gilmour suggested a longer cord for the microphone in the corner by the rear podium.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$68,869.58 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Harn. Claim #168966 for \$1,365.00 was not approved because the documentation was \$1,095.30 less than the request. The County Administrator will investigate the discrepancy and forward the claim to the Finance Committee.

The Committee adjourned at 7:33 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Detente.

Approved: January 3, 2012

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Tuesday, January 3, 2012 6:30 p.m.
Stewart Centre Board Room