

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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. Mikkelsen, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Mikkelsen, Mr. Newton, Ms. Quiggle, Mr. Mulligan, Mr. Smith and Mr. Fluegel. Absent was Ms. Hooper. County Board Chairman Blum was present. Mr. Wire was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, October 31, 2011 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. Quiggle, seconded by Mr. Mulligan.

The Northwest Illinois Development Alliance Monthly Board Report, dated November 17, 2011 was distributed. A draft of the Prospering Together report, "the Stephenson County Community Plan," dated December 1, 2011 was also distributed. The Plan covers three areas of concentration: Economic Health, Community Vitality and Caring About People.

Chairman Blum said that he did not have a specific update on Mill Race Crossing. He said that Chase Bank has indicated some concern with speaking with individual members of the County Board.

Mr. Groves reported that he has worked on 30 "farm plans" this past month, mostly on grain and storage bins. Some interest has been expressed for a special use permit for a brewery. Mini-breweries are popular now. He explained that the city and the County are eligible for a \$2.5 million joint grant, from FEMA, IEMA and IDOT, for flood mitigation. However, neither the City nor the County has the necessary matching funds.

Mr. Groves said that he did not have an update on the recreational trails.

Mr. Mikkelsen said that the Enterprise Zone Committee did meet in November. They received two applications for expansion of the Enterprise Zone. One application was for a \$90 million grain processor in Jo Daviess County and a power plant next to the Jail. Chairman Blum distributed copies of his letter to the Enterprise Zone Committee explaining his thoughts on how the Enterprise Zone fees should be split among the EZ Committee, NIDA and the governmental units. The Pearl City Co-Op is expanding its project near Lena.

Chairman Blum explained that the County has certain water and sewer recapture rights from new development around the Jail. Certain decisions and agreements in 1998 were not fully documented and recorded. Chairman Blum distributed copies of his letter to the City Engineer identifying the open issues.

In the absence of Ms. Hooper, there was no update on the activities of the Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Mr. Mikkelsen said that the Convention and Visitor Bureau Board did not meet in November.

Mr. Newton said that fiber is being laid. QCREDA has met with the CEDS group to explain how it can help local development. They discussed the possibility of a Regional Planning Commission and sources of funding for the RC&D.

Chairman Blum said that he would like this Committee to assume responsibility for the Civil War Monument. It would then become part of the Recreation and Conservation budget. The Public Property Committee would need to agree to release its responsibility. There are a number of grants and maintenance issues that impact both the Civil War Monument and Blackhawk Monument in the same manner. He has a meeting scheduled with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, on December 14th, regarding the Civil War Monument.

Chairman Blum said that Lena has received a clean-up grant for the old depot site. A clean-up grant application has been submitted for the former mortuary site on Adams Street.

Northern Illinois University is sending a speaker to the Highland Leadership Institute. The Friends of the Pec will be participating in the Governor's Home Town award ceremony. All County high schools are participating in the Certificate of Employability program. Minutes from the Freeport Downtown Development Foundation November meeting and the My Trip Minute newsletter were distributed.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$1,816.18 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Ms. Quiggle.

The Committee adjourned at 7:13 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Fluegel, seconded by Mr. Mulligan.

Approved: January 3, 2012

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