

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE STATED MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012

The stated meeting for the month of January 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. Clay was also present.

Minutes of the stated meeting of Monday, December 5, 2011 were approved, without reading, on a motion by Ms. Quiggle, seconded by Mr. Mulligan.

Mr. Mikkelsen explained that he has been working with Mr. Beintema on a draft of an ordinance, regarding the open burning of landscape waste. On a motion by Mr. Fluegel, seconded by Ms. Quiggle, the Committee agreed to move Public Comment to the beginning of the agenda. Mr. Mikkelsen said that the current ordinance is ineffective. He reported on a recent incident, in which he was personally involved, which lead him to the conclusion that the current ordinance needed to be modified. Several members of the audience commented that the draft ordinance has no provision for the commercial landscaper, to dispose of his accumulated waste. There was a discussion of various alternatives and enforcement issues. Mr. Fluegel said that the Public Works Committee is working with an individual trying to get an IEPA permit for disposal of landscape waste. Some members of the audience were concerned with a possible expansion of governmental enforcement procedures and restricting the burning currently allowed, under Illinois Statutes. It was suggested that commercial burn permits could be issued until a permanent solution could be developed. One person was concerned that a commercial pellet furnace would be included under this draft ordinance. Mr. Mikkelsen said that the draft ordinance would be posted on the County web site.

The Northwest Illinois Development Alliance Monthly Board Report, dated December 29, 2011 was distributed. Mr. Young introduced Lynn Feaver to speak about the "Prospering Together" program. Mr. Feaver explained that the "Prospering Together" group is looking for formal endorsements from the participating organizations. The County Board would have a representative on the new Community Planning Board. This Board is not exclusive, but is open to all of those who are willing to work. Mr. Mulligan said that he was concerned that a new layer of government was being created. Mr. Young noted that the "Prospering Together" program is what the community asked for. Mr. Newton said that the communities and local organizations need to be working together and this will do it. Cheryl Hartman expressed her concern that development of a rural transportation plan would be part of "Prospering Together". On a motion by Mr. Fluegel, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee recommended that the County endorse the "Prospering Together" program.

Chairman Blum said that the refunding application has been submitted to the EDA for engineering work previously done at Mill Race Crossing.

Mr. Mikkelsen said that the Enterprise Zone Committee did not meet in December. He explained that the 2012 funding resolution for the Enterprise Zone needed to be adopted by each of the four governing bodies. The Committee recommended adopting the funding resolution for the Enterprise Zone, on a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Smith.

The Davis and Pearl City TIF's are both having their joint review board meetings on Tuesday, January 10th. Mr. Mikkelsen will attend both meetings.

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 December.

Chairman Blum explained that the regional planning commission being organized by the Blackhawk Hills RC&D is not a Regional Planning Commission; it is a regional economic development group. It has no zoning or restrictive authority, but seeks cooperative agreements. He noted that the broadband fiber installation requires an easement from each local property owner.

Mr. Groves said that the Illinois Chamber of Commerce supports the current assessment method for wind towers. Phase II of Eco Grove wind farm may hold public hearings this summer.

Mr. Groves said that the Jane Addams Trail received a donation of \$3,600 and an old railroad bridge.

Chairman Blum said that June 23rd and 24th would be the 180th anniversary of the Kellogg Grove battle. An anniversary program is being planned.

Chairman Blum reported that the Governor has announced a high speed rail corridor from Chicago to Moline going past Sterling. Cherry Valley is planning a TIF at I-39 near the Rockford Airport. He has sent a letter to NICAA in support of a grant for low-income housing support. Congressman Manzullo has requested a letter of support for the Rockford postal operation center remaining open. On a motion by Mr. Fluegel, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Committee authorized the Chairman to send a letter requesting the Rockford postal operation center to remain open.

The County Administrator said that the County has received a resolution and ordinance from the Enterprise Zone, to expand the Zone, for of a grain storage facility in Jo Daviess County. On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Fluegel, the Committee recommended adoption of the resolution and ordinance to expand the Enterprise Zone, for of a grain storage facility in Jo Daviess County.

Mr. Groves reported that the Jane Addams Trail web site has been "hacked" three times in the past two months. It is now operating under a different protocol.

The scheduled Executive Session was not needed.

Claims of \$329.77 were approved, on a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Smith.

The Committee adjourned at 8:43 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Fluegel.

Approved: February 6, 2012

Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:
Monday, February 6, 2012 6:30 p.m.
Stewart Centre Board Room