

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday December 12, 2007
6:30 PM
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday December 12, 2007. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Hawkins gave the Invocation and Ms. S. Hooper led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, William Hadley, Donald Parker, John Blum, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Andrew Kuhlemeier, Lynn Koch, Michael Boomgarden, Salvatore Détente and Forrest Senn. Members absent; Samuel Newton and Brenda Boynton. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Blum requested the Agenda be amended to allow Mr. Groves to give his various reports prior to the Highway report and the Raffles be approved under the Administration Report. Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting as received. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2007 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2007 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2007 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. McKenna. 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 reported the following communications had been received;

- Public Defender Monthly Report for November 2007; 209 New Cases, 161 Cases Closed and \$1,189.90 Income to Public Defender Fund
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report

Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve all communications and place on file. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve all communications and place on file carried unanimously.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum

Mr. Graham reported the Finance Committee discussed delaying the Public Safety Sales Tax referendum until the November 2008 Election. The referendum needs county-wide support and they felt this may not be the best time to present it to the voters. The County needs time to develop a public educational plan to address this issue properly. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve removing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum from the February 5, 2008 Primary Ballot for placement on the November 4, 2008 General Election Ballot. Second by Mr. Boomgarden. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier requested this action be done in two separate motions, in fairness to Board Members who originally voted against placement of this referendum on the Ballot. Mr. A. Kuhlemeier motioned to amend the motion to state approval of removing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum from the February 5, 2008 Primary Ballot. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to amend the original motion. *Motion to amend the original motion carried with nay votes noted.* The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion as amended to approve removing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum from the February 5, 2008 Primary Ballot. *Motion to approve removing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum from the February 5, 2008 Primary Ballot carried unanimously.* Mr. Graham made a motion to

approve placing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum on the November 4, 2008 General Election Ballot. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. Mr. Détente requested a roll call vote on the motion. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve placing the Public Safety Sales Tax Referendum on the November 4, 2008 General Election Ballot. Members voting aye: Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, Donald Parker, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Lynn Koch, Michael Boomgarden, Forrest Senn and John Blum. Members voting nay: William Hadley, Alvin Wire, Andrew Kuhlemeier and Salvatore Détente. Sixteen ayes. Four nays.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: No report

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves presented the following;

Special Use/ Home Occupation request by Rodrigo Fernandes for a Barn Wood Recycling Shop

The Planning and Development Committee concurs with the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation that Special Use #SU 07-16 be granted, with condition that only one semi truck per month could use the ingress and egress. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Special Use request. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion carried unanimously. Special Use Ordinance #SU 07-16 granted.*

Zoning District Map Amendment from M-1 to M-2 request by CFMS, Inc. for a Plastic Molding Facility

The Planning and Development Committee concurs with the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation that Zoning District Map Amendment #MA07-04 be granted. Mr. Koch requested permission to abstain from voting due to a personal conflict of interest. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to allow Mr. Koch to abstain from voting on this issue. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion to allow Mr. Koch to abstain. *Motion carried unanimously.* Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Zoning Map Amendment request. Second by Mr. Parker. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion carried unanimously with Mr. Koch abstaining. Special Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance #MA 07-04 granted.*

Special Use/Residential (Single Family Dwelling) and Home Occupation request by Wayne Kaiser for Auto Body and Farm Equipment Repair

The Planning and Development Committee concurs with the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation that Special Use #SU 07-17 be granted, with conditions the landowner is required to start building the house within 12 months and a maximum number of 15 autos/trucks can be on the property at any one time. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve the Special Use request. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion carried unanimously. Special Use Ordinance #SU 07-17 granted.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: No report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: No report

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed Meeting Minutes, Monthly Status Reports and 911 projects.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions;

#07-12-1517 HD-07-33 Jurisdictional Transfer from County to Florence Township

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-33. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-33 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1518 HD-07-34 Jurisdictional Transfer from County to Harlem Township

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-34. Second by Mr. Wire. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-34 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1519 HD-07-35 Jurisdictional Transfer from Florence Township to County

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-35. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-35 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1521 HD-07-37 Jurisdictional Transfer from Florence Township to County

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-37. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-37 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1520 HD-07-36 Low Bid for 08-00000-00-GM General Maintenance

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-36. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-36 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1522 HD-07-38 Supplemental Resolution County MFT for 05-00000-00-CS

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-38. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-38 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1523 HD-07-39 Supplemental Resolution County MFT for 06-00000-00-CS

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-39. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-39 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1524 HD-07-40 Authorization to transfer funds from County Bridge to County Highway

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-40. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve HD 07-40 carried unanimously.*

#07-12-1525 HD-07-41 County Engineer Salary Resolution for 08-00000-00-CS requesting state reimbursement

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-41. Second by Mr. McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-41 carried with nay vote by Mr. Hadley noted.*

#07-12-1526 HD-07-42 County MFT Salary & Expenses Authorization for 08-00000-00-CS

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 07-42. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 07-42 carried with nay vote by Mr. Hadley noted.*

Lena Community Park District: Mr. Isbell reported on Lena Community Park District's desire to purchase real estate from the County for a boat dock. The property is located in Waddams Township, south of McConnell Road on the east side of the Pecatonica River. Discussion followed on the amount of the sale, restrictions, easement and a reversion clause. It was also discussed whether to lease or sell the property to the Park District. Concern was voiced that certain grants may require land ownership. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve moving forward with the sale of this property subject to the restrictions. Second by Mr. Hadley. Mr. Mikkelsen questioned if there was an urgency to approve this. He suggested laying over the concept. This would allow time to get all legal matters in order regarding the lease or sale of this property. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to layover to the next regular meeting on January 16, 2008. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. *Noted arrival of Mr. Newton.* The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, S. Hooper, McKenna, Graham, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Boomgarden, and Détente. Members voting nay: Devine, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Wire, Koch, Senn and Blum. Thirteen ayes. Eight nays *Motion to layover carried.*

Board Members commended the Highway Department for snow removal. Discussion was held on the Cemetery easement agreement. Mr. Isbell stated that is under Menards control.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema reported on the Smoke Free Illinois Act. The Health Department is beginning the NEED Assessment program. Flu shots are still available. Mr. Beintema and Dr. Condie are working on program procedures which need to be submitted to the State by January 1st. Food Scores for the month of November were distributed.

The Board of Health recommends the appointment of Chad Reedy, DDS to fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. Steve Spyrison. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve the appointment as presented. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointment as presented carried unanimously.*

Noted the departure of Mr. Hilton.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: Ms. Kubatzke reported the cash flow remains good. A retirement party is planned for Ms. Gravenstein on January 13th. Ms. Gravenstein addressed the Board for the last time before retiring. She recapped her twenty-one years of service to the County.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Associate Director Eilders reported the monthly statistics. The Department currently has nine adult officers, four juvenile officers, four support staff, Associate Director Eilders and Director Pauley.

STATE'S ATTORNEY REPORT No report

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

- Progress continues on the Mill Race Industrial Park. We have received the contract from IDOT to award approximately \$1.1 million in funding for the new railroad access. The contract has been reviewed by our engineers and legal counsel. Chairman Blum requested the Board's concurrence to proceed with the implementation of this important grant. Mr. Graham made a motion to concur. Second by Mr. Mikkelsen. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Concurrence to proceed with the implementation of this grant carried unanimously.*
- As part of the implementation of the \$1.7 million EDA grant for Mill Race Crossing, we solicited proposals from engineering consultants. We received two proposals, one from Fehr-Graham and Associates and one from Willett, Hofmann and Associates. These proposals will be reviewed by Staff and a recommendation will be made to the Planning and Development Committee on January 7, 2008. It is hoped a recommendation will come to the County Board on January 16, 2008.
- An annual Joint Review Board meeting for Mill Race Crossing is being planned for 4:30 p.m. on January 7, 2008 here in the County Board Room. All of the taxing bodies involved are being invited to receive an update on the activities within the Economic Development Project Area.
- On December 11, 2007, in accordance with the hotel/motel tax ordinance, we received a copy of the 2008 annual budget and marketing plan for the Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau. These documents will be reviewed and comments forwarded to the CVB prior to January 31, 2008. This review will be an agenda item for the Planning and Development Committee on January 7, 2008.
- On December 5, 2007 we received the HUD Annual Plan for the Housing Authority of Freeport. Per federal law we are asked to review this plan and provide any comments no later than January 4, 2008. Chairman Blum will review this plan and submit comments on behalf of the County. Due to the early deadline we will be unable to bring this up at the appropriate committee.
- A few months ago we began work in partnership with RAMP to apply for Mobility and Accessibility Rehabilitation Services grant (MARS). DCEO has advised us that we are being awarded a grant and that the documentation is on the way. We are receiving \$95,000 to assist seven homes in Stephenson County become more accessible. This is quite a success since this was our first attempt at seeking a MARS grant.
- In October 2007 we applied for \$1.4 million in USEPA grant funds intended to continue our Brownfield efforts in Stephenson County. We expect to hear on awards by May of 2008 in conjunction with the Brownfields 2008 Conference in Detroit.
- Over the past three years we have been working to support the proposed expansion of the Rentech facility in East Dubuque. This expansion was going to create a new energy processing plant that would use high-sulfur Illinois coal and create anhydrous ammonia and Fischer-Tropsch diesel fuel. This was to be an \$850 million construction project and a key component in developing our energy corridor in NW Illinois. Last week it was officially announced that Rentech has decided to build their new facility in Natchez, MS. The major reasons given was the availability of an underground disposal system for carbon dioxide emissions, the cost of construction labor, the leveling of natural gas costs, and the uncertainty of State and Federal requirements for future plant emissions. While this is a significant economic loss to the region, we will still have the current facility in operation and there are new options being explored to capitalize on their presence.
- The Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation Board is scheduled to meet on December 14, 2007.
- December 10, 2007 the last meeting of this year was held for the Vision 2020 Community Planning group. A copy of the end-of-year project status summary was placed at Board Members desks for their review. Along with this is an outline of a Housing Summit Proposal that is being implemented in 2008.

- We continue to pursue some land options on the Kellogg Grove Monument project. These talks are moving slowly due to the number of parties involved. We need to resolve land issues around the monument before we can realistically begin to work on redevelopment ideas.
- There was no Local Workforce Investment Board meeting this month.
- The last investor meeting for Blackhawk Biofuels is being held this evening. The deadline to close the project to outside investment is December 14, 2007. The Blackhawk Board of Directors will then have 90-days to finalize funding arrangements and break escrow per SEC requirements.

Action Items from Standing Committees

Administration

Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)

1433 Aquin High School - Extravaganza, Manager John Carlson

1434 Regional Access and Mobilization Project RAMP, Manager Connie Kraft

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Raffles. Second by Mr. Parker. *The Chair called for a voice vote. Motion to approve the Raffles carried unanimously.*

Information Items from Standing Committees

Finance: Mr. Graham thanked County Staff, Committee Chairman and Committee Members, for their work on the budget.

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper encouraged Committees to address updating the Code Book again.

Nursing Center: Ms. Kubatzke reported the Committee will hold an executive session at 6:00 pm on December 18, at the Stewart Center. At that time they will be conducting interviews for the Director position. There are three prospective candidates all of which are licensed. All Board Members are welcome to attend. Ms. Kubatzke requested the Board's concurrence of a \$6,300 emergency purchase made for mattresses at the Nursing Center. The new mattresses will eliminate a potentially dangerous gap between the mattress and the bed rail. Second by Mr. Détente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to concur with the emergency purchase carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen stated that if anyone has any questions on the CVB Budget to contact Connie Sorn or himself.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	646,451.54
Administration	\$	13,854.92
Public Works	\$	190,268.34
Nursing Center	\$	209,687.19
Public Property	\$	43,027.82
Court Services	\$	27,936.59
Public Safety	\$	58,609.74
Planning & Development	\$	448.67
9-1-1	\$	49,657.87

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Boomgarden. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boomgarden, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried unanimously.*

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

Blum 8 days, 0 miles-Boomgarden 7 days, 112 miles-Boynton 0 days, 0 miles-Brown 4 days, 10 miles-Detente 4 days, 53 miles-Devine 4 days, 12 miles-Dotson 3 days, 105 miles-Graham 8 days, 27 miles-Hadley 4 days, 18 miles- Hilton 6 days, 16 miles-S Hooper 7 days, 14 miles-V Hooper 6 days, 12 miles- Koch 4 days, 96 miles, Kubatzke 11 days, 267 miles-A Kuhlemeier 4 days, 128 miles-J Kuhlmeier 8 days, 180 miles-McKenna 5 days, 20 miles-Mikkelsen 8 days, 62 miles-Newton 4 days, 8 miles- Parker 4 days, 16 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Wire 4 days, 156 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr.

McKenna. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

COUNTY 2008 CALENDARS

Chairman Blum encouraged Board Members to pursue creative ways to market and sell the County Calendars.

OTHER BUSINESS None

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Détente made a motion to move into executive session to discuss employee evaluation. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion to move into executive session. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boomgarden, Détente and Blum. Member voting nay: Senn Nineteen ayes. One nay. *Motion to approve move into executive session carried.*

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Blum resumed the regular session. He stated that employee evaluation had been discussed in executive session with no action taken.

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16, 2008

Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday January 16, 2008. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried at 9:04 p.m.*

Mr. Hadley will lead the Pledge and Mr. McKenna will be responsible for the Invocation at the January 16th Meeting