

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Ed Whitcomb, Barb Kyes, Jeff Fore and Bob Lott were present. State's Attorney Ken Baumgarten and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

Commissioner Kirby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the consent agenda which included the regular minutes from the January 13, 2009 Board meeting and the monthly department expense report for December 2008. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

Tom Casson, County Highway Engineer, was in attendance and presented a local agency agreement for Federal participation and preliminary engineering services agreement for federal participation, Section 08-03115-00-BR, Hoppler Road over Grove Creek (re: bridge project). Commissioner Lott moved to approve the local agency agreement for Federal participation and preliminary engineering services agreement for federal participation, Section 08-03115-00-BR, Hoppler Road over Grove Creek (re: bridge project). Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casson presented a local agency agreement for Federal participation and preliminary engineering services agreement for federal participation, Section 08-10110-00-BR, Levee Street over Pike Creek (re: bridge project). Commissioner Fore moved to approve the local agency agreement for Federal participation and preliminary engineering services agreement for federal participation, Section 08-10110-00-BR, Levee Street over Pike Creek (re: bridge project). Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casson provided a brief update on the Athens Blacktop Road safety project, highlighting that he would like to seek additional funding for safety improvements, if it became available through increased Federal or State funding. He also informed the Board about some right-of-way negotiations involving the Athens Blacktop Road safety project.

Mr. Casson stated that motor fuel tax revenues had been declining, because of decreased fuel consumption. He highlighted that, unfortunately, the cost of providing services had been increasing.

EMS Department Report/Requests for Board Action

EMS Administrator Larry Graf and Community Services Administrator/EMS Fiscal Officer Dara Worthington were in attendance to discuss EMS operations and issues. Ms. Worthington presented the December financial reports for EMS operations. Mr. Graf presented the transport log for the EMS Department.

Mr. Graf presented a quote from Ambulance Billing Consultants for provision of laptops to be placed in the ambulances so that the billing process could be expedited and ensure more accurate, real-time reporting. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was for Mr. Graf and Ms. Worthington to investigate grant opportunities, that other County agencies may be working on, which may be able to provide funding for the proposed laptop computers. The Board also directed County Coordinator Duncan to see if the various County agencies and departments could work more closely together on issues of common interest, such as purchasing and pursuit of grants that may benefit more than one County department.

Mr. Graf highlighted recognition that the EMS Department had received from the U.S. Department of Defense and informed the Board that the County's Emergency Services & Disaster Agency had received accreditation

from the State of Illinois, for the first time in the County's history. He informed the Board that he had received increased funds through the emergency management assistance grant.

Ms. Worthington informed the Board that she would be investigating coordination of EMS services with the activities of other County agencies. She informed the Board that she was still working on getting signed up with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center and Driver's License Security grant program, but that there were computer software issues that needed to be addressed by the applicable Federal agency.

Mr. Graf gave an update on repairs to the garage doors at the EMS facility, stating that it seemed to be addressed and functioning. He stated that repairs to one of the ambulances were proceeding and he expected it to be back in service in a couple of days. Ms. Worthington stated that the State's Attorney was waiting to discuss with Affiliated Credit Services the legal services that would be provided by their contracted-law firm, if the County engaged them to act as the collections agency for delinquent EMS bills. Mr. Graf provided a brief overview of an opportunity to have Southern Illinois University help the County develop a mitigation plan and provide assistance with applying for a grant. Mr. Graf highlighted free training that he and other EMT's had received in dealing with severe weather/flood preparedness.

Menard County Fence Viewer Appointments

County Coordinator Duncan presented a lengthy list of appointments to be made to serve as Menard County Fence Watchers. Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the list of appointments to serve as Menard County Fence Watchers, as presented. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Current Menard County Comprehensive Land-Use Plan

The Board spent meeting time reviewing the first twenty-five pages of the County's comprehensive land-use plan which included several maps. County Coordinator Duncan stated his opinion that many of the maps found in the plan were deficient since they were not done in color and thus the information that was highlighted was lacking in detail to be useful. State's Attorney Baumgarten urged the Board to ensure that more attention was paid to the preparation of the zoning map to ensure that areas are more properly zoned per the characteristics of the area. After more discussion, the consensus of the Board was that only minor changes needed to be made to the first twenty-five pages as these sections of the comprehensive plan were mainly a description of Menard County land characteristics and did not deal with goals that were set forth in the plan. They directed the County Coordinator/Zoning Administrator to review the first twenty-five pages and suggest proposed changes, as needed. The Board said they would begin reviewing the adopted goals of the plan at their first meeting in February.

Chairman Kirby recognized Planning Commission member Ben Kiningham who was in attendance briefly spoke about his concern with any proposed boundary line changes to voting districts. Chairman Kirby stated that such boundary line changes would not be affected by any changes to this plan.

Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action

No unscheduled public comments were made at this meeting.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

No report.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

No report.

State's Attorney Report/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Baumgarten informed the Board that the courthouse plumbing repairs had been performed as part of an individual's community service requirement.

Commissioner Kyes asked Mr. Baumgarten if he had heard anything about the County's proposal that was made to the Menard County Trails & Greenways organization regarding trail development in the County. Mr. Baumgarten stated that he had not heard anything as of this date.

County Coordinator's Report/Request for Board Action

County Coordinator Duncan informed the Board about a Chamber of Commerce event to be held in recognition of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12th and scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on the courthouse square.

Mr. Duncan pointed out that the West Central Mass Transit District is requiring three active members to be representing Menard County as part of this rural regional transportation committee. The representatives should be a transportation provider, a human service agency and the County. Mr. Duncan stated that Anne Smith had been serving as the County's representative with Dara Worthington acting as the representative of a local transportation provider. Commissioner Lott moved to appoint Mr. Duncan as the County's representative and have Anne Smith serve as the representative of a local human service agency. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Duncan presented a renewal to pay for membership dues in the Menard County Farm Bureau. The consensus of the Board was to renew membership in the Menard County Farm Bureau. Mr. Duncan presented a document from the County Health Department highlighting risk management and safety training initiatives undertaken and performed by that County agency. He presented proposed, minor amendments to the County's animal control ordinance, mainly indicating that the County Health Department no longer managed animal control activities. He provided a brief overview of various mailings that his office had received on behalf of the Board including invitations to various meetings. He passed out, on behalf of the County Treasurer, a proposed, new format for presenting the monthly statement of revenues and expenditures summary for the general fund. There were no objections to this new format.

Mr. Duncan informed the Board that he had been approached about locating a small manufacturing operation in the County that would initially employ one to two workers. He stated that the County did not have a single parcel zoned for industrial use and that the County's municipalities had very few parcels that were zoned for such uses as well. He informed the Board that the County may need to look at making some zoning changes if it wanted to provide for such uses.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Kyes stated that the County Board needed to focus on finding the EMS Department a new facility.

Executive Session

Commissioner Lott moved to adjourn to executive session at 12:15 p.m. to discuss matters related to personnel and union issues. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:18 p.m.

Commissioner Lott moved to approve a letter of understanding in regards to section 7.6 of the collective bargaining between Menard County and EMS Local 4622 as it relates to education pay provisions. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Lott moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Minutes 1-27-2009