

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Barb Kyes and Jeff Fore were present. Commissioners Bob Lott and Ed Whitcomb were absent. County Clerk Gene Treseler and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

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

Commissioner Fore moved to approve the consent agenda which included the regular minutes from the February 10, 2009 Board meeting and the monthly department expense report for January 2009. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried with three "ayes", no "nays" and two "absent".

Northwestern Mutual Presentation

Neil Gurnsey, Bryce Bilyeu and John Crutcher, representing Northwestern Mutual, were in attendance and gave a presentation of services that could be provided to the County by their company, if made the health insurance, broker of record for the County. No County Board action was taken at this time.

GPS Tracking-Device Procurement Contract

State's Attorney Baumgarten informed the Board that no action was needed by them, at this time, regarding entering into a GPS tracking-device procurement contract to comply with new State of Illinois requirements.

EMS Department Report/Requests for Board Action

EMS Administrator Larry Graf was in attendance to discuss EMS operations and issues (Community Services Administrator/EMS Fiscal Officer Dara Worthington was not in attendance due to other work duties). Mr. Graf asked if there were any questions regarding the financial and operation reports that were sent to the Board. There were none.

Mr. Graf asked if the County would like to invest in equipment that would provide remote reports on the Sangamon River stage. He stated that, currently, either EMS or Sheriff's Department staff had to drive to the Sangamon River Bridge to collect this data for National Weather Service and emergency management purposes and that this equipment would allow for reports to be sent via satellite. After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the National Weather Service should provide funding or grant funding should be obtained to purchase such equipment.

Mr. Graf informed the Board that the EMS Department was still having issues with the doors opening properly at the EMS facility. He stated that he would try to work with the landlord to get the issue resolved.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

Tom Casson, County Highway Engineer, was in attendance and asked the Board to accept a bid from Lehigh Hanson for provision of rock material to the Menard County Highway Department, in the amount of \$4,225.00. Commissioner Kyes moved to accept the bid from Lehigh Hanson for provision of rock material, as presented. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried with three "ayes", no "nays" and two "absent".

Mr. Casson asked the Board to accept various bid proposals for provision of rock material to various Menard County road districts. Commissioner Fore moved to accept the bid proposals, as presented. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried with three "ayes", no "nays" and two "absent".

Mr. Casson presented a local agency agreement for Federal participation in funding construction of the "Sampson" curve project on the Athens Blacktop Road, Section 07-00056-00-PV. Commissioner Fore moved

to approve the local agency agreement for Federal participation, as presented. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried with three “ayes”, no “nays” and two “absent”.

Mr. Casson informed the Board that he would be putting together a request for bids proposal to solicit bids on a purchase price for a replacement truck vehicle for the Highway Department.

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

County Clerk Treseler informed the Board that ballots were being prepared for the April election. There was a brief Board discussion with staff about IMRF tax levy requirements, but no action was taken regarding this issue.

State’s Attorney Report/Request for Board Action

State’s Attorney Baumgarten recommended to the Board that the proposed intergovernmental agreement between the Menard County Housing Authority and the County – to provide grant-writing services to the County – should include language that the County will authorize what grants were being applied for, in the County’s name. The consensus of the Board was that the State’s Attorney should contact the Housing Authority to discuss inclusion of such a provision in the agreement.

Mr. Baumgarten gave a brief overview of State of Illinois case law and its application to an animal control ordinance regulation.

County Coordinator’s Report/Request for Board Action

County Coordinator Duncan presented executive session minutes from September 25, 2007 for consideration to be opened to the public. On the advice of legal counsel, Commissioner Kyes moved to keep these executive session minutes from September 25, 2007 closed, for another six months, due to possible litigation. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried with three “ayes”, no “nays” and two “absent”.

The Board decided to hold a meeting on March 4, 2009 to discuss with the Menard County Housing Authority their proposal to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to provide some grant-writing services to the County including possibly applying for grant funds to engage professionals to develop a new comprehensive plan for the County.

Mr. Duncan asked what direction he should have in light of the Board’s desire to explore getting grant funding to engage professionals to develop a new comprehensive plan for the County. He stated that the Housing Authority was recommending that the County develop a “comprehensive” plan that was focused on more areas than just land-use, e.g., economic development, so that this plan could be better utilized in applying for grant funds. The consensus of the Board was that the preparation of a new comprehensive land-use plan and the Board’s previous directives regarding this issue should be delayed as the County explores grant funding opportunities with the Menard County Housing Authority.

Mr. Duncan stated that he would like to investigate the possibility of creating a full-time position to act as the County's information technology coordinator and network administrator. He stated that he believed that, if the County joined forces with other entities such as the Housing Authority, that a position could be created that could service their needs along with all of the County's agencies and departments. He stated that he would also propose seeking a person who could take a lead role in acting as a GIS coordinator as well, instead of having the work done in the Chicago area as it is completed now. No action was taken on this issue at this time other than for Mr. Duncan to explore the concept with the County's department heads and other interested, non-profit County entities, e.g., the Housing Authority. The Board gave Mr. Duncan authority to engage Hanson Information Services to provide computer and network support, for up to 200 hours in pre-paid service, so as to get a discount of \$70.00 per hour.

Mr. Duncan provided a brief overview of various mailings and invitations to meetings that his office had received on behalf of the Board.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

No reports.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Kyes moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried with three "ayes", no "nays" and two "absent".