

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg, Illinois for a special meeting. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Barb Kyes, Bob Lott, Ed Whitcomb and Jeff Fore were present. County Coordinator Steve Duncan was also in attendance.

Commissioner Kirby called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Menard County Housing Authority to Provide Grant-writing Services

Anne Smith and Jason Race of the Menard County Housing Authority and Ed Goodwin of Goodwin Associates were in attendance to present an intergovernmental agreement proposal with the County to provide grant writing services to the County. This special meeting was called so as to expedite opportunities that may be arising due to new Federal "stimulus" funds.

Mr. Goodwin stated that no grants would be written, on behalf of the County, without the County's authorization. He stated that the Housing Authority would prepare and administer the grant on behalf of the County and would be paid an administrative fee from grant funds received when obtaining such funding. There was general discussion regarding this proposal. It was discussed that the County would be seeking help in obtaining grant funding to prepare a more detailed, comprehensive plan for the County including such areas as land-use, housing, economic development, etc. It was discussed that the County would be seeking help in obtaining grant funds to construct a new EMS/911 facility. Ms. Smith indicated that individuals associated with the University of Illinois may be able to be hired to prepare the comprehensive plan for the County.

Commissioner Kyes moved to approve entering into the intergovernmental agreement, as presented, and authorize Chairman Kirby to sign the agreement on behalf of the County. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action

No unscheduled public comments were made at this meeting.

County Coordinator's Report/Request for Board Action

County Coordinator Duncan asked Ms. Smith if the Housing Authority would be interested in contracting with the County to provide IT support and network administration, if the County had a full-time employee for such services. Ms. Smith indicated that she would be interested in discussing such an arrangement. There was discussion about getting other local governmental units to participate in such a proposal. The consensus of the Board was for Mr. Duncan to keep looking at ways to fund such a position.

Mr. Duncan asked the Board for authorization to purchase twenty-five hours of pre-paid time, with Hanson Information Systems, to continue provision of IT support and network administration for the County, instead of purchasing two hundred hours of such service. Mr. Duncan stated that he was recommending this step if the County was going to investigate creating a full-time position, so as to not lock the County into a longer term relationship with Hanson. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with purchasing twenty-five hours of pre-paid time, as proposed.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Kyes stated that Jonathan Fields, of Snedeker Risk Management, would like to come and present a self-insurance proposal for provision of employee health insurance at an upcoming Board meeting. The consensus of the Board was to invite Mr. Fields to the next Board meeting on March 10th.

Commissioner Lott asked about getting substandard housing removed. This was followed by a discussion of ways to get dilapidated housing removed, e.g., using Community Development Block Grants funds.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Kyes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.