

COUNTY OF MENARD        )  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS        )

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Barb Kyes, Ed Whitcomb, Jeff Fore and Bob Lott were present. County Treasurer Jackie Horn, State's Attorney Ken Baumgarten and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve the consent agenda which included the regular minutes from the February 23, 2010 Board meeting, the Menard County Community Services Monthly Report for February and approval of payment of the 2010 United Counties Council of Illinois membership dues. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action**

Cody Szerletich, representing the EMT's local union, was in attendance and presented a letter stating that the union was interested in beginning collective bargaining negotiations.

Robert Bacon was in attendance and informed that he was interested in the County taking action to delete a recent zoning ordinance text amendment that provided for recycling centers to be located in the B-1 zoning district, by special use permit. He expressed that such a use would be detrimental to adjacent property owners. County Coordinator/Zoning Administrator Duncan reminded that the Village of Tallula Trustees had sent the County a letter of support for provision of such a use. Mr. Duncan also informed that no application has been made as of this date.

**Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Engineer Tom Casson was in attendance and presented Highway Department bills for February. He presented a brief overview of the Geriets Road vacation, which he believed had been resolved.

Mr. Casson presented local agency amendment No. one for Federal Participation on the Athens Blacktop Road "Sampson Curves" project as the cost of relocation of a gas main had to be made part of the original agreement. Commissioner Lott moved to approve, as presented. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casson informed that there had been several requests to erect a street light at the intersection of Five Points Street and Newmansville Avenue. Mr. Casson informed that since this intersection is heavily traveled at night for PORTA school activities and as there is existing infrastructure at the intersection thus making the costs manageable, it would warrant lighting and still be affordable to the County. Commissioner Kyes moved to direct the Highway Department to erect a street light, as presented. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Casson informed the Board about an opportunity to join the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network. This network would act much like emergency services that have mutual aid agreements to provide service in times of need. He informed that a meeting would be held on March 25, 2010 to discuss this opportunity. He invited the Board to attend, if possible.

Mr. Casson presented a bid from Martin Equipment to sell a John Deere back-hoe to the County Highway Department in the amount of \$85,430.25 (including trade-in of a 1997 JCB 214S back-hoe with 2,700 hours). He informed that this proposal was available as part of a State of Illinois request for bids and that this bid price might not be available at a later time. It was the consensus of the Board to not purchase this piece of equipment at this time.

Chairman Kirby asked Mr. Casson to look into whether or not the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was purchasing aerial photography of the entire State of Illinois. It was discussed that IDOT may be doing so but the photography resolution may not be of a very high quality.

### **Sunny Acres/Countryside Estates Report/Requests for Board Action**

Pat McNeal, Sunny Acres Nursing Home Administrator, was in attendance and provided an overview of the nursing home's operations. She informed that the census at Sunny Acres was 93 and 20 at Countryside Estates. She informed that the two vacant apartments at Countryside Estates were being painted and one room's carpet replaced before using the waiting list to fill the vacancies. She informed that they are also replacing floors in ten apartment units and two of the visitors' bathrooms at Countryside Estates.

Ms. McNeal informed that the remodeling of the beauty shop was progressing. She informed that information had been sent to the State's Public Aid office for review. She provided an overview of the Federal Monitoring survey that was recently performed at Sunny Acres. There was a discussion about employee health insurance and working with brokers to evaluate options to provide cost effective coverage. She provided an overview of the new alarm system, informing that staff was becoming more use to the system and that they were working to resolve some issues. She provided an update of the marketing efforts to be undertaken by Sunny Acres.

### **EMS Department Report/Requests for Board Action; Medivan Bid Prices**

EMS Administrator Larry Graf was in attendance to inform that the EMS Department had performed around 790 medivan transports in 2009 and that bid prices he had received to date for replacement of the medivan were between \$30,000 and \$32,000. No action was taken on the medivan at this time. Chairperson Kirby directed Mr. Graf to direct his employees to spend more time studying maps of the County so as to improve response time.

### **County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Treasurer Horn informed the Board of several generous bequests that had been given to Sunny Acres Nursing Home through the years. She presented various financial reports and provided an overview. She informed that the State of Illinois was four months behind in reimbursing the County's allocation of income tax (currently 10% of state income taxes, paid by unincorporated Menard County residents, is returned to the County as a source of revenue). Commissioner Kyes informed that it appears that Governor Quinn's budget will be proposing that there be a reduction from 10% to 7% in the amount of state income taxes that will be returned to local governments (including the County and incorporated, County municipalities, e.g., Petersburg). There was a brief discussion that this was a large source of revenue to local governments. There was also discussion that the State of Illinois might not be able to reimburse the salary amounts of several County employees, as had been provided in past years. As most of these positions are statutorily required, it may result in budget difficulties.

### **County Clerk's Report/Requests for Board Action**

There were no County Clerk's report/requests for Board action.

### **State's Attorney Report/Requests for Board Action**

There were no State's Attorney report/requests for Board action.

### **County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Coordinator Duncan presented executive session minutes from the August 25, 2009 Board meeting to be considered for opening to the public. Commissioner Lott moved to open the August 25, 2009 executive session minutes to the public, as prepared. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Coordinator Duncan presented a proposal to perform work on the Courthouse elevator. As there were questions about State of Illinois code requirements and the State inspection report, the Board asked that the Sheriff, as custodian of the courthouse, be asked to look into the necessity of these repairs. Mr. Duncan presented various mailings that had been received by his office for the Board of Commissioners.

### **Request to Provide for Private Wind Turbines in the R-1 Zoning District**

A letter from Menard County resident Nicholas Collier was presented to the Board, requesting that the County amend the R-1 Single-Family zoning district regulations to provide for private wind turbines as an allowable structure. The consensus of the Board was that they wanted to think about the request. There was a discussion about the potential for commercial wind farms to be located in the County and whether the Board wanted to amend the zoning ordinance to allow for and encourage such development. The Board wanted to continue to study the issue.

### **Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action**

Commissioner Kyes moved to have the full-time, hourly Animal Control employees scheduled for a 40 hour work week versus a 35 hour work week. Commissioner Kyes stated that the Animal Control Administrator believed the increased costs could be covered by the existing budget. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Fore moved to adjourn to executive session at 9:01 p.m. to discuss matters related to personnel. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Fore moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.