

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 11, 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, County Clerk Gene Treseler, State's Attorney Ken Baumgarten and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the consent agenda which included the regular minutes from the April 27, 2010 Board meeting and the Menard County Community Services Monthly Report for April. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance & Renewal

Rick Allen, Gillmore-Allen Insurance Agency, was in attendance to discuss the BlueCross/BlueShield, employee health insurance renewal rates. He provided an overview of why the health plan rates had increased, on average, twenty-nine percent, with one of the plans offered rising as much as thirty-six percent. Mr. Allen claimed that a lot of the increase was related to health care reform provisions which had changed underwriting standards. He provided an overview of different BlueCross/BlueShield health plans that are available for consideration by the County, indicating that savings could be found with higher deductible plans. Mr. Allen informed that he could also seek proposals from Pekin Insurance. The Board asked Mr. Allen to take steps to seek a bid proposal from Pekin Insurance. County Coordinator Duncan informed that Snedeker Risk Management would likely give proposals to the County from HealthAlliance, Principal Financial Group and PersonalCare.

Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action

There were no unscheduled public comments/requests for Board Action.

Elected Officials (County Clerk, Treasurer & Sheriff) Salaries

There was discussion of setting the salaries of the County Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff's positions for the next four fiscal years. The Board was presented with a proposal to increase these salaries by four percent, per fiscal year, for the next term of office. It was pointed out that the last two years of the Circuit Clerk's and Supervisor of Assessment's current terms have been set for four percent increases to the salary, for the next two fiscal years. The Board informed that they would like to discuss the matter further and think about the proposal.

As every elected official was in attendance, the Board stressed the need to budget for expenses, including some contingency, out of special-revenue funds and as allowed by state law.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

County Engineer Tom Casson was in attendance and presented Highway Department bills for April. He informed that a Road District #10 bridge project had commenced in late April and, weather permitting, would hopefully be completed by June. He informed that they would seek bids for the Hoppler Road bridge in June. He informed that Highway Department revenues were stagnant, costs were higher and that fund balances needed to be rebuilt to afford any substantive projects. He informed that this meant that some lean years, project wise, may need to be incurred to build up fund balances. Commissioner Fore urged the Highway Department to explain to the public funding issues and why some projects were funded while others were not, for example, the Athens Blacktop Road project which was an opportunity to tap Federal funds to the tune of ninety-percent with only a ten percent local match. Mr. Casson informed that several road districts may be forced to return to gravel due to a lack of funds. He pointed out that revenues have not kept pace with the cost of materials for any road authority.

Commissioner Kyes asked Mr. Casson about railroad cars that were parked near Hwy. 97 and Kelly Street. Mr. Casson stated that he had been in contact with an individual who could come out and evaluate railroad crossings to see if there are any options. He stated that there may be Federal funding that could be applied for to re-configure rail crossings.

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 96 and 23 at Countryside Estates. She informed that Sunny Acres was seeking volunteer pastoral services. She informed that the facility was seeking certified nursing assistants to work the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shifts. She informed that the water heater and a commercial mixer had to be replaced at Sunny Acres. She provided information about various proposals to provide employee health insurance at Sunny Acres. Ms. McNeal provided an update on various, nursing home legislative changes.

County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Treasurer Horn presented various financial reports to the Board informing that revenues were down in sales, income, personal property replacement and local use tax collections. She informed that Sunny Acres Nursing Home owed the County's General Fund approximately \$60,000 from the loan that was made to them several years ago.

County Clerk's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Clerk Treseler provided an overview of setting the property tax rates for the fiscal year.

State's Attorney Report/Requests for Board Action

There was no State's Attorney report or requests for Board action.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Coordinator Duncan informed the Board that it took until June 18, 2009 to reach the same number of building permits that have been issued as of April 30, 2010, so there seemed to be more building activity occurring thus far, this year. He informed the Board that the EMS Department had been denied any grant funding, through a rural development program that had been sought for replacement of the EMS Department's medi-van. The reason for denial of the grant application was that Menard County's median household income was too high for the program's criteria by \$2,652. Mr. Duncan informed that the first County-sponsored electronics recycling event seemed to be successful with more than 9,275 pounds of e-waste collected.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Lott asked if the County Board should try to get with the County's village trustees and city boards to discuss areas of mutual interest and areas where costs may be able to be shared among the entities. There was discussion about conducting such a meeting but no action points came from this discussion.

Commissioner Lott brought up the idea of offering property tax abatement to encourage homebuilding. There was discussion about the concept but no action points came from this discussion other than the law should be reviewed regarding property tax abatement.

Commissioner Kyes asked the Board what they wanted the Animal Control Administrator to do about animal control after normal working hours, beyond an employee being on-call after hours, for emergency purposes only. The consensus of the Board was that there were no funds to provide for 24 hour, 7 day a week animal control employees.

Resolution – Re-appointment of Buddy Boston & C. Jane King to the Menard County Housing Authority

Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the re-appointment of Buddy Boston to the Menard County Housing Authority for a term of five years to expire on May 31, 2015. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and shall be known as **Resolution 21-10**.

Commissioner Lott moved to table a resolution to re-appoint Jane King to the Menard County Housing Authority for a term of five years to expire on May 31, 2015. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution – Re-appointment of Judi Brown to the Tallula Community Fire Protection District

Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve the re-appointment of Judi Brown as a trustee of the Tallula Community Fire Protection District for a three year term to expire on the first Monday of May, 2013. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and shall be known as **Resolution 22-10**.

Resolution – Re-appointment of Steve Brown to the Athens/Fancy Prairie Community Fire Protection District

Commissioner Lott moved to approve the re-appointment of Steve Brown as a trustee of the Athens/Fancy Prairie Community Fire Protection District for a two year term to expire on the first Monday of May, 2012. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and shall be known as **Resolution 23-10**.

Executive Session

Commissioner Lott moved to go into executive session at 9:28 p.m. to discuss personnel and salaries. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:05 p.m.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Whitcomb moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.