

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners, Merle Kirby, Barb Kyes, Jeff Fore, Ed Whitcomb and Bob Lott were present. County Clerk Gene Treseler, County Treasurer Jackie Horn and County Coordinator Steve Duncan were also in attendance.

Chairperson Kirby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the September 29, 2009 Board regularly scheduled meeting, Bruce Harris & Associates invoice related to quarterly GIS map maintenance expenses and the Menard County Community Services monthly report for September 2009, as presented. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action

There were no unscheduled public comments.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

County Engineer Tom Casson was in attendance and presented Highway Department bills for September. He informed the Board, again, that a Simmering Avenue bridge, located over Cabiness Creek, had to be closed due to scouring under west abutment footing and rotten timber piles on pier and east abutment. He stated they were looking for funding sources to replace the bridge.

Mr. Casson informed the Board about the status of the Athens Blacktop Road project and that the contractor had established aggressive positive drainage along outside edges of aggregate base, mixed Portland cement in wet areas of pugged CA-6 aggregate base to help dry and stiffen base, and were placing final lift of aggregate base today. He said he was now hopeful that the project would be completed by late October or early November.

Mr. Casson provided a brief overview of the Courthouse parking lot project, informing that the contractor was not wanting to open the parking lot until he was able to backfill around the parking lot and reduce his liability exposure. He stated that the parking lot would have to be closed for a short time to put down a salt-guard sealant and that it should be done on annual basis, if there were no objections. There were no objections from the Board to this proposal.

Mr. Casson passed out the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposals for the various Highway Department funds and provided a brief overview. The Board informed that they would review the budget proposals and discuss them at a later meeting.

Mr. Casson informed that the Highway Department would be looking at using cinders that don't have the "needles" that often damage tires. He stated that the Highway Department would still need to deplete its current inventory before it could use a different material.

Sunny Acres Nursing Home Report/Requests for Board Action

Pat McNeal, Sunny Acres Nursing Home Administrator, and John Smith, the facility's contracted financial consultant, were in attendance to give an overview of Sunny Acres Nursing Home and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal. She reported that the census was 93 with 4 admissions pending this week. She reported that the George Alarm System was being installed and that the Illinois Department of Public Health would need to inspect it before it became operational at the facility. She informed that FR&R, a retained consulting firm, would like to meet at the facility to discuss mission, goals, directions and concerns the Board may have, capital limitations that are in place and review the referral and service area.

Ms. McNeal presented a quote to purchase twenty-three (23) electric beds to replace crank beds in the amount of \$28,101.40. She asked the Board to authorize the transfer of funds, in the amount of \$96,449.80, from the Sunny Acres capital fund to help pay for the beds and allow for the payment of bills related to capital projects. Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the transfer, as requested. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McNeal informed the Board that Sunny Acres had been awarded a \$5,000 "Design on Dime" grant from the Pioneer Coalition, one of only four nursing homes in Illinois selected, to help modify the residents' living environment. She submitted a bid from Knob Hill South Lawn & Landscape to provide lawn mowing/trimming, lawn fertilizer/broadleaf control, snow removal and salting. The consensus of the Board was that Sunny Acres should engage Knob Hill South to perform the services of lawn fertilizer/broadleaf control, snow removal and salting, as needed, but continue to provide lawn mowing/trimming, in-house. They also wanted snow removal done by in-house employees to the degree that equipment could handle the required snow removal.

Mr. Smith spent time providing an overview of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal. The Board directed Mr. Smith to budget \$60,000 as a transfer to the General Fund for re-payment of a loan from that fund. The Board asked Ms. McNeal and Mr. Smith to evaluate what kind of salary/wage increases were necessary to be competitive in the health care labor market. There was discussion that the monthly fees needed to be evaluated at Countryside Estates.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Treasurer Horn passed out financial reports for September and gave a brief overview. Ms. Horn asked the Board to transfer \$402.38 from General Fund Contingencies to the Employment & Training Fund to erase this closed funds deficit. Commissioner Lott moved to approve the transfer, as requested. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

Chairperson Kirby asked Mr. Treseler if he would be agreeable to being appointed to act at the County's Freedom of Information officer. Mr. Treseler agreed to be appointed. Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve Mr. Treseler's appointment as the County's Freedom of Information officer. Commissioner Kyes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

State's Attorney Report/Request for Board Action

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

County Coordinator's Report/Request for Board Action

County Coordinator Duncan presented the remaining executive session minutes, from August 26, 2008, to be considered for opening to the public. Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve opening the August 26, 2008 executive session minutes, as prepared. Commissioner Lott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. County Coordinator Duncan presented executive session minutes, from April 14, 2009, to be considered for opening to the public. Commissioner Kyes moved to approve opening the April 14, 2009 executive session minutes, as prepared. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Duncan asked the Board to authorize a line item transfer in General Fund 011, in the amount of \$6,000 from 40400-011 "regular salaries" to 40600-011 "part-time salaries. Commissioner Kyes moved to approve the line item transfer, as requested. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Duncan asked if the Board approved of the notification of auction to seek bids for the cash rent of the county-owned farm ground, to be held November 9, 2009. There were no objections to the notice. He presented a letter to the Board praising Sheriff Jones and the Sheriff's Department's service.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

There were no reports or requests for Board action.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Preparation Discussion

The Board spent time discussing various budget preparation topics. Mike Snedeker, Snedeker Risk Management, was in attendance. He informed the Board that, as the County's broker for property, liability and workers compensation coverage, he was soliciting proposals from both the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust and Bliss McKnight. Mr. Snedeker asked if he could provide a proposal to provide some life insurance for County employees. There were no objections to Mr. Snedeker proposing a cost for provision of life insurance.

The Board directed staff to provide in the General fund budget a transfer of \$250,000 to the Building Improvement fund and provide for \$200,000 (not \$210,000 as previously directed) in the General Funds contingency line item.

Pursuant to Board direction, County Coordinator Duncan presented a zoning fee increase proposal. Commissioner Lott moved to direct Mr. Duncan to initiate the Menard County zoning ordinance text amendment process, to provide for the zoning increase proposals, as presented. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Treseler spoke in support of giving non-union/non-contractual employees a four percent raise to correspond with similar raises given in union and employment contracts.

Executive Session

There was no executive session held at this meeting.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Lott moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.