

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2007

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Sandra Salgado; Anna May Miller; James Heisler; Mary L. Donner; and Randy Donley. Daniel Ryan was absent. Also present: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty, Health Department; Mary McCann, County Board Member.

Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Randy Donley	Mary L. Donner
James Heisler	Anna May Miller
Daniel Ryan	Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of December 8, 2006. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Peschke, noting that the applicants have not arrived for today's meeting elected to discuss other items of business as listed on the committee agenda.

Review 2006 Committee projects and discuss 2007/2008 Goals & Objectives: Committee members Mr. McNulty stated that the big objective for the Health Department would be the completion of the new Animal Control facility. Water will continue to be a big issue as well as the response to the water plan. He stated that water well fees would be increased and the department is hopeful to find groundwater contamination position on staff. Mr. McNulty stated he would like support for the above projects as well as support for the new Agritourism group. Mr. McNulty stated that the Board of Health, along with the State's Attorney's office is continuing to work of necessary changes to the Animal Control Ordinance. He stated they are hopeful that this will be ready to come back to the next committee meeting for review. He stated that there were issues that needed to be addressed by the State's Attorney's office.

Mr. Labaj noted that they would be scheduling an open burning forum meeting on the 26th following the Public Health & Human Services Committee meeting on January 26th. He noted that they are hopeful to bring forward possible recommended changes to the current ordinance. He stated that there would not be a total ban on burning, but, recommendations for alternatives, with set back increases for high density areas. He stated that they are hopeful in creating a viable ordinance that includes enforcement and costs associated with the recommended changes. He stated there would be a phase in period to these changes. It has also been suggested that community service officers be hired to handle expanded enforcement in this area. Previously, tickets have been thrown out of court because of the lack of proof of who started the fires and fines have been minimal and are not considered a deterrent. Mr. Labaj stated that education is a key component to this issue.

Noise Ordinance: It was noted that the State's Attorney's office continues to work with the Sheriff's office for training of their officers regarding this issue.

Mr. Labaj informed committee members that the Senior Services Grant Commission consists of 17 members with representation from 7 categories. The members include all of the members of the Public Health & Human Services Committee, an appointee from McCog, Highway Association, Township Supervisors, 3 not for profit groups and 3 citizens at large and one from the Housing Authority. Mr. Labaj stated that he would furnish the new members with a copy of the by-laws and background information regarding the commission. He stated he would furnish a listing of all the allocations for the following year. If there are any questions regarding the commission committee members can contact Mr. Labaj. He stated that one of the current issues surrounding the commission is the law currently does not allow for any administration fees to come from the tax levy. Legislation needs to be changes to address this issue. State Representative Tryon has been contacted regarding possible changes to this law. He noted that the Commission has stated they want to be more pro active to address senior issues.

Senior Services Grant Interviews: Committee members interviewed the following individuals for appointment to the Senior Services Grant Commission: Don Larson; Linda Schmidt; and William C. Markison. Suzanne Hoban had applied for appointment to the Commission but because of a prior commitment was unable to meet with the Committee today.

Approved 01.26.07

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

WIB: Chairman Peschke stated she would be attending the yearly convention in Washington DC. Funding for the WIB continues to be an issue. Trends of the indigent will continue to be discussed. The WIB has received a good response from the welding boot camp.

HRC: The next meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday. The piñata project has been sent to the schools. Election of officers is needed. Chairman Peschke stated that the group should to a presentation to the County Board regarding activities of the HRC as this is a requirement.

Housing Authority: Julie Biel Claussen has been appointed as the new director for the Housing Authority. She replaces Ellen Sonntag who has retired. Chairman Peschke stated that updates for the Housing Authority will be needed from Ms. Orphal, who is the County Board liaison member of the Housing Authority.

Board of Health: Mr. McNulty stated that this month Agritourism will be discussed at the Board of Health. Mr. McNulty informed committee members that there is a groundwater issue that has been reported by the EPA. The area has been put into the voluntary remediation program since FY2003. Committee members questioned why the Health Department has just now been notified of this issue. Mr. McNulty stated since they went into the remediation program, they were not required to notify the Health Department. The Health Department has taken upon themselves to begin sampling of wells in the surrounding area. Notification will be sent out to those who may be affected by the contamination. The Health Department will be sending out a press release as well. He stated that in order to get information from the EPA regarding this issue the Health Department must send in a FOI form, (Freedom of Information). According to the EPA the spill has been contained to the property (per the EPA) and they are sampling the property to ascertain the contamination. He stated that the contaminants include long term carcinogens that are used in industrial use. If the immediate area shows contamination, testing will be obtained further out. He stated this is an area of shallow wells. Mr. McNulty stated he would keep the committee members updated on this issue.

Ms. Donner left committee at 9:35a.m.

Animal Control: Ms. Miller stated she attended her first Animal Control Advisory Committee. She stated this was an interesting meeting and they would like County support for cat registration.

Mental Health Board: None.

Noise Ordinance: See above.

VAC: Mr. Iwanicki provided committee members with the Veterans Assistance Commission 2006 annual report.

Open Burning Forum: See above.

Senior Services Grant Commission: The commission will be meeting at the end of February with community members in order to suggest possible program ideas. The commission will meet 2 weeks later to discuss these ideas.

Committee members questioned if we need to interview Ms. Hoban since she has been on the commission since the beginning of the program. Committee members stated that since there are so many new members of the committee they would like to interview Ms. Hoban during the next Senior Services Grant Commission meeting. Committee members noted that Mr. Markison could fill one of the not for profit spaces with Mr. Larson being a possible appointment as a member at large. Mr. Labaj noted that the Highway Commission has suggested the reappointment of its current members. Ms. Salgado stated that she would speak to the Highway Commission regarding this issue as there are attendance issues that need to be discussed. It was stated that appointment to the commission is subject to County Board Chairman approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to adjourn the meeting at 9:58a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

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