

**CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE FORUM (CALF)**  
**McHenry County Government – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koehler at 8:15 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Koehler; Ann Kate; Virginia Peschke; Dan Shea; Ann Gilman; Lyn Orphal; Perry Moy; and Mary Lou Zierer. Don Brewer arrived at 8:18a.m. Absent: John Hammerand; and Marc Munaretto. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John W. Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; Sue Draffkorn and Don Larson, County Board Members; Pam Palmer and Jim Bernier, Auditors; and Dave Stone, State's Attorney; and the press.

Don Brewer	Ann Gilman
John Hammerand	Ann Kate
Perry Moy	Marc Munaretto
Lyn Orphal	Virginia Peschke
Dan Shea	Mary Lou Zierer
Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman	

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mr. Moy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to approve the November 16, 2005 CALF meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as presented with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

Mr. Brewer arrived at 8:18a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

*Discussion of a legislative agenda:* State: Mr. Austin reported that sent out a questionnaire to elected officials and department heads on ideas on legislative issues for the State that the County may wish to pursue. He stated that he did not receive a lot of response. The two main issues for the State will be transportation funding and vicious dogs. If there is any other issues that need to be presented we will need to proceed soon as the assembly is scheduled to start shortly. Policies adopted by the Board have been passed out. The session is an abbreviated session this year. Mr. Austin reported that the County as subscribed to "Capitol Fax". He stated this is another tool for use by the County. He noted that this fax provides insider information. A recent article in Cranes was also in the Capitol Fax, but, additional information was included. He has obtained permission to forward this "newsletter" to the elected officials and departments. When Mr. Austin pushes this publication out to the elected officials and department heads it is important that this not be forwarded to any other persons. This is a McHenry County internal account only. It is not to be forwarded beyond us. Chairman Koehler reported that a meeting has been scheduled with Tim Martin in Chicago to push for additional funding for McHenry County. Chairman Koehler, Mr. Shea, Mr. Austin and Mr. Korpalski will be attending. He noted that if there is anyone else interested in attending, to please let him know. He noted that they have held meetings to strategize the approach needed for this meeting. The EDC may attend as well. He stated that he understands they will be allowed as much time as necessary for this meeting. McCog is scheduled to go to Springfield on the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month. The next Legislative Committee meeting of McCog is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> if there is additional information that should be presented to the legislators. They met with Senator Althoff, who provided information on how to approach the Legislators. It was noted that it is important to get McHenry County's name in front of the Legislators as much as possible.

*Federal:* Mr. Austin provided committee members with a draft of the Federal Legislative Program for FY2007. As a local government, McHenry County depends on both the state and federal government for authority and financial assistance to carry out its responsibilities and to effectively meet the needs of 300,000 county residents. Three categories of importance are:

**Direct Initiatives** will be the primary focus of the County's legislative efforts in the coming year. McHenry County will seek Congressional assistance to pursue these issues and take action when appropriate.

**Supported Initiatives** include projects likely sponsored by other associations or agencies that are strongly supported by McHenry County.

**Policy Statements** summarize McHenry County's general position on some of the significant national issues that are of local interest.

*Direct Initiatives: Ground Water/Storm Water Strategic Protection Plan:* In 2006, McHenry County will be introducing a comprehensive and multi-year Ground Water/Storm Water Strategic Protection Plan. The Plan is predicated on a partnership from all levels of government and incorporates the ideas of a wide variety of stakeholders and professionals. McHenry County's Plan will seek Federal assistance in three areas, Stormwater Management, Ground Water Protection and Flood Plain Mapping.

The development of McHenry County's Ground Water/Storm Water Strategic Protection Plan is the next step in multi-year study of the ground water availability and protection. Having already invested over \$450,000 in studying local groundwater resources, McHenry County is well positioned to receive and effectively utilize new dollars to assist the Ground Water/Storm Water Strategic Protection Plan.

Additionally, a series of public meetings are scheduled for 2006 that will focus more attention and heighten public awareness on this issue.

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*Transportation:* McHenry County was very successful in the recent passage of the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill. The entire County is thankful to our delegation for the bi-partisan efforts to benefit McHenry County. Building off that success, we now ask our delegation of focus on the FFY07 Transportation Appropriation Bill as we continue efforts to solve McHenry County's transportation crisis. Three project requests that fit within the typical scope of the Transportation Appropriation Bill are noted below.

*Miller Road (Illinois Route 31 to River Road/Chapel Hill Road)* – \$2,000,000 is requested to build upon the \$6.36 million SAFETEA-LU award for the preliminary engineering, design, land acquisition and construction. The intention is to advance the Phase I study to the extent possible to ensure all SAFETEA-LU dollars are expended with the 4-year time period of the bill.

*Algonquin Rd. Extension (Illinois Route 47 to Harmony Road)* – \$1,000,000 is requested for preliminary engineering, design and land acquisition.

*Western Algonquin Bypass* - \$1,000,000 is requested for hardship and/or protective acquisition for those properties identified as full takes. The dollar requests for these project may be adjusted after further review with the Ferguson Group.

*Public Safety Communication:* The radio system owned by McHenry County and operated by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office needs to be replaced. This critical link between residents, dispatchers, and public safety officers has run its useful life and needs to be replaced with a new 800 MHz system.

McHenry County seeks funding to assist with the planning and construction of a new 800 MHz public safety radio system. McHenry County also intends to apply for grants, including the COPS Technology grant, and it is hoped that the County's applications for federal grants will receive the strong and active support of our delegation in Washington D.C.

*Mental Health Court:* McHenry County seeks \$250,000 to begin a new Mental Health Court. As in jurisdictions around the country, the criminal justice system in McHenry County is experiencing a quickly growing population of offenders who have mental disorders (e.g., psychotic, depressive and bipolar disorders). For many individuals with mental health problems circulation in and out of the criminal justice system is a way of life. Jailing individuals whose offenses are related more to the symptoms of mental illness perpetuates the cycle of offense and incarceration. Providing the appropriate treatment for those re-entering the community following a jail or prison sentence or providing treatment services while offenders are in the community presents a unique challenge to policymakers and practitioners in criminal justice.

Numerous defendants in the criminal justice system continue to re-offend due to untreated mental health disorders. Providing adequate treatment for this population is a challenge, particularly with current budget constraints at the local level.

McHenry County will begin a pilot Mental Health Court in 2006, with the expectation of expanding and formalizing the Mental Health Court in 2007. The program will be focused on linking offenders with services and providing options to traditional detention. This effort will partner with local organizations and other government agencies to develop a better and stronger referral network and support system for probationers in McHenry County.

McHenry County intends to apply grants to assist with the provision of services in the Mental Health Court, including grants provided through the *Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004*. It is hoped that the County's applications for federal grants will receive the strong and active support of our delegation in Washington D.C.

*Integrated Criminal Justice Information System:* McHenry County seeks \$1 million to complete a multi-year technology plan to integrate information networks and develop a seamless, automated system that integrates the law enforcement agencies, the State's Attorney's Office, Courts, the Public Defender's Office and Probation.

Mr. Brewer left committee at 9:09a.m.

This integration will reduce duplicative data entry and the errors that can result. The Integrated Justice Project will enable timely sharing of critical information, and dramatically enhance a police department's awareness of an arrestee's past and pending charges and the speed with which such information is obtained.

McHenry County has already committed over \$2,000,000 of its own dollars to this project over the past several years. The additional assistance is needed to complete the interface between law enforcement and courts systems and realize all of its benefits.

*Latino Youth Job Readiness Program:* McHenry County requests \$ 500,000 over a three year period to fund a Latino youth job readiness program for economically disadvantaged, at-risk 16-21 year-old McHenry County Latinos. Over the past decade, McHenry County has seen a dramatic increase in the Latino population and by all estimates this number will continue to increase over the next decade. Demographics show that almost 50% of this population does not have a high school diploma or GED and fall into the federal low income guidelines. These factors put the youth at risk for dropping out of school, gang involvement, and criminal activity, which

Approved: 4/27/06

leaves them lacking the necessary skills to qualify for high growth, high wage employment. McHenry County recognizes the need to outreach to and recruit this under-served population into the local workforce development system. The system will be able to assist them in obtaining the education and skills they will need to become productive, gainfully employed County residents. McHenry County  
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Job Training is currently targeting this population but only has \$153,340 in its budget for PY05 to reach out of school youth. At this current level of funding, only a small number of youth can be served. The amount of funds requested would provide opportunities for approximately 50 youth per year.

### **Supported Initiatives**

*Rt. 47 Interchange @ I-90, Huntley - Kane County:* McHenry County supports Kane County's efforts for a full interchange.

*City of McHenry Water Issue:* Discussion needed regarding the Huntersville neighborhood's pursuit of sewer and water services from the City of McHenry. Committee members agreed this issue could remain, if, this issue has the support of McHenry. It was noted that the County should not become involved with an issue with the homeowners association, if McHenry does not support this.

*McHenry County Mental Health Board:* The McHenry County Mental Health Board will submit an application to the Illinois Dept of Human Services in response to a Federal AmeriCorps RFP. AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (similar to the Peace Corps/ Vista) which provides opportunities for citizens to serve in one year intervals and fulfill community service programs. The members receive living stipends and are eligible for educational stipends at the end of their service. The community project that McHenry County Mental Health Board is proposing would provide opportunities for participants to serve as Mentors and Tutors to Children involved in the Family CARE Children's Mental Health Initiative. This would be an excellent opportunity for college students, young adults, and senior citizens to serve the community while gaining experience and educational tuition stipends. The proposal is a three year competitive grant. A proposal of request of \$150,000 would potentially fund 1 full time and 15 half time AmeriCorps participants per year.

*Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization:* The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is up for reauthorization. McHenry County and the Illinois Workforce Partnership support the principles noted below for the improvement of the Workforce Investment Act. Several revisions would improve service delivery to McHenry County residents who seek workforce development assistance. Local Workforce Investment Boards, in partnership with Chief Local Elected Officials (city and county), should have an active leadership role in all decisions involving workforce development issues in their local communities.

Regardless of the manner in which States receive Workforce Investment Act funding, local workforce investment areas should be guaranteed that the majority of dollars flow directly to Chief Local Elected Officials and Workforce Investment Boards.

Chief Local Elected Officials should be empowered to appoint Workforce Investment Board members who will provide the quality of leadership needed to drive the local workforce development system without undue administrative requirements.

Business leadership at both the State and Local levels is essential to the success of the workforce development system.

Workforce Investment Board should be empowered, and financially supported, to enhance their role as the strategic leaders for workforce development in local communities.

### **Policy Statements**

*Telecommunications Act Rewrite:* McHenry County supports rewriting provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which include protecting existing authorities and revenues, and addressing issues of convergence across a broad range of communications and technology platforms.

*Fully Fund the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004:* Fully fund federal legislation that would help divert non-violent mentally ill offenders from county jails and juvenile detention facilities. Further, McHenry County supports reconsideration of federal regulations that currently terminate entitlement benefits for such persons even before their cases have been adjudicated.

Mr. Austin stated that we do not expect to get full funding on all of these issues, but, it is important to place these issues before the legislators. He stated that the more McHenry County comes before the legislators, the more they remember us. He noted that they would like approval and support of our Legislative program at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to forward our letter on. He questioned if there were any other issues that should be included in our Legislative Program. Mr. Larson requested that the CDBG be placed in the program as CDBG funding seems to be drying up. He noted that President Bush has it on his agenda to drop all HUD funding. Committee members agreed this is an important issue to include. Mr. Austin reported that the CDBG was the main issue discussed at the NACO convention last year.

Committee members were reminded that the Auditor's position is officially vacant. Both the Republican and Democratic parties were notified of the vacancy within the required 48 hour period. Advertisements have been placed regarding the vacancy with an application deadline of January 18, 2006. The position must be filled by a Republican. Chairman Koehler stated that a selection committee will be formed, with a member from each district to choose who will fill the Auditor position. This process must be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Koehler requested that each district representatives choose a member to serve on this selection committee. Mr. LeFew will

be picking a few leaders in the County to serve on this committee. He noted that the decision is ultimately the County Boards to make. He noted that we have until May 22<sup>nd</sup> to do caucusing for a candidate. He noted he would like a name for the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilman to enter into executive session, at 9:35a.m., to discuss personnel and land/property acquisition. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Gilman, Kate, Larson, Moy, Orphal, Peschke, Shea, Koehler) Also present: Mr. Austin, Mr. Sarbaugh, Mr. Stone, Mr. Labaj and Ms. Draffkorn

It was noted that Mr. Larson was voting as Vice Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee.

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moy to return to regular session at 10:04a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Gilman, Kate, Larson, Moy, Orphal, Peschke, Shea, Koehler)

#### REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Shea motioned, seconded by Mr. Moy, to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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