

reviewed the supplemental which include a request for a scanner and printer. He stated he supports this request since this would allow the Department to begin an imaging program that would store building permit records, zoning files, mylars and maps, etc. It would allow for ease of access and decrease printing costs. He stated he would strongly recommend approval of this supplemental request. Members agreed noting that this would be a step in implementing a unified imaging program for the County. Ms. Ehardt reviewed staffing needs and the need to continue to have contractual services. She noted the need to add additional inspectors and pointed out that inspections have increased to 20 to 25 inspections per inspector per day. She stated with the number of inspections and the significant workload, the timeframe to get a permit is now at 11 to 12 weeks. Chairman Gilman asked if additional staff should be added now rather than waiting for the budget time. Ms. Ehardt stated she would rather wait and follow procedures. Mr. Munaretto asked if there was any component of the Stormwater Ordinance that could be handled differently. Ms. Ehardt responded no, but some of those concerns will be addressed by the newly hired engineer. She added that staff is reviewing ways to reschedule workloads or adjust time schedules to address needs. She stated this is not an emergency situation but one that can be addressed through the budget process. Mr. Sarbaugh reported that a separate OCA code has been created to track Stormwater costs in the next budget year. Ms. Ehardt noted that fees will be reviewed in the next couple of months along with the Stormwater Ordinance that needs some issues clarified. Maps will also need to be updated per FEMA.

Sign Ordinance – Discussion: Chairman Gilman reported that she is concerned that there have been some County Board Members that have been recommending to their constituents that they can ignore the County's Sign Ordinance. She noted that this is mainly taking place in the Wonder Lake area and although people just need to get a permit, they are not doing so. She stated that perhaps staff could meet with representatives from Wonder Lake to discuss the Sign Ordinance. Ms. Ehardt felt this would be a step in the right direction. She stated that people do not understand that every sign is different. She noted that it becomes very frustrating to staff when county board members do not support ordinances they approve and then tell citizens they can ignore an ordinance. She reviewed examples of sign violations and the differences in determining if a sign is considered an awning sign or a roof sign, which depends on how such a sign is attached. She agreed that there is a lot of misinformation going around that should be addressed. She stated she would contact the Wonder Lake Chamber to see if a meeting could be scheduled to discuss these concerns and get this issue resolved. Mr. Munaretto stated perhaps the board members who have been making the comments should be invited to meet with the Planning and Development Committee to discuss these concerns. He added that the State's Attorney does not have the power to rewrite any ordinance that was approved by the County Board. Chairman Gilman added that she had not authorized the two board members to talk with the State's Attorney, but the County Board Chairman Koehler had given this authorization.

In response to Mr. Philpot's concerns raised during Public Participation, Ms. Ehardt stated that a previous State's Attorney's opinion had indicated that the department had no jurisdiction in right-of-ways. She noted that she had requested an additional review and the current opinion is that we can now enforce violations in right of ways. She reviewed possible methods to enforce sign ordinance violations in right-of ways which could include tagging signs or removal of signs. The State's Attorney did raise concerns with possible liability issues should a sign be removed. She noted that letters could also be sent to violators asking them to remove their signs or they would be taken to court. She added that the Sign Ordinance does allow for special event signs and they could install such signage legally. However, signage in right-of-ways is not allowed. Mr. Merkel stated that the City of McHenry does not allow these signs and they aggressively enforce their sign ordinance by removing the signs and fining the offender. Chairman Gilman asked that Ms. Ehardt find out if we have the authority to remove the signs and if so staff should move forward to enforce the ordinance. Chairman Gilman reported that the State of New Jersey has banned all memorials along their roadways and noted an increase in roadside memorials throughout McHenry County. She stated that road crews currently mow around these obstacles. She suggested that they be picked up and held for a certain amount of time and if not claimed they should be thrown away. Mr. Philpot reported that he had asked the City of Woodstock if he could remove the signs and was told they would view this action as a theft

since he did not own the signs. After the discussion, Ms. Ehardt was directed to check with the State's Attorney's office to see if the signs can be removed legally.

REPORTS

Stormwater – The next meeting is scheduled for August 30. Two variance requests will be considered. The Crystal Lake Project to improve the intersection of Crystal Lake Avenue and Pingree Road and a request from White Oak Ridge Subdivision to redesign a stormwater retention area so large oak trees are not impacted. Ms. Ehardt also reported that Prairie Grove has requested to be certified. The Commission will also be reviewing the Stormwater Ordinance for possible amendments. Mr. Munaretto asked if the Commission would be considering the tile survey requirement. Ms. Ehardt responded that this is an item for the Technical Advisory Commission. She reported that letters indicating no tiles have been accepted.

NIPC – Chairman Gilman reported that the integration with CMAP is moving forward and it appears that this reorganization will be beneficial. She noted that IEPA has rules that govern the whole State of Illinois and some of their permitting requirements do not apply to the Northern portion of the State. She was hopeful that reorganization will address this process.

MCCD – No Report

Planning Commission – No Report

Imagine McHenry County – The survey results will be presented in September. It was also reported that a search committee has been appointed to find a replacement for Karen Patel who has resigned as President of the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Patel will be leaving this post on September 15.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Ehardt distributed a pamphlet that was recently prepared by P & D staff. The pamphlet is an update to census data. Members were pleased to have this updated source of information and felt the additional use of maps and graphs would be very useful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Chmiel, to adjourn at 9:28 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

None

:bjt