

MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock, IL 60098

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009

Chairman Schuster called the Management Services Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members present: Chairman Ersel Schuster; Yvonne Barnes; Lyn Orphal; Pete Merkel; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; and Tina Hill. Paula Yensen was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Tom Sullivan and Paul Lerner, IT; Cathy Link, Purchasing; Adam Lehmann, County Administrator Intern and interested public.

Ersel Schuster, Chairman	
Yvonne Barnes	Tina Hill
Pete Merkel	Lyn Orphal
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	Paula Yensen

MINUTE APPROVAL

Committee members reviewed the minutes of April 28, 2009. Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bob Anderson, Wonder Lake, joined committee members to follow up on a petition that requests that the County Board pass an ordinance which limits board members to one paid elected position. This petition was provided to the County Board at their last meeting. He feels it is unethical for elected officials to hold more than one elected position. He stated that he feels there is a conflict of interest when they are serving on two units of government. He would like this office to create a policy that states that County Board members cannot hold two elected jobs. The County Administrator informed Mr. Anderson that there is a question whether this board can make a rule governing itself. They cannot trump state law. He suggested Mr. Anderson draft a letter and state what he would like the County to do and to address this letter to County Administration.

PRESENTATION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Worker's Comp Claims Update: Mr. Labaj joined committee members to provide an update on the status of the Worker's Compensation Claims for the first six months of the fiscal year. It appears the County is having a good year so far. There are currently 25 open claims, which are sent to the third party administrator to handle. Seven (7) of the smaller claims are being handled in house. These are small claims that usually settle for medicals costs of \$2,000 to \$3,000. There are three large claims that will be costly to the County. The first claim is for an LPN that suffered an injury to her knee when kicked by a resident of Valley Hi. This individual is in a lot of pain and has had surgery on her knee. The Independent Medical Examiner (IME) has stated that this person has reached their maximum level of improvement. She is unable to work while in pain. Since she has reached her IME, her medical benefits have been terminated and she is now receiving Social Security disability. Because of the situation, the County is required to provide a Medicare set aside. This requires an actuarial analysis to determine the amount required for the set aside. This amount has estimated between \$75,000 and \$130,000. A firm will have to manage the account after approval by Medicare. If the amount for future care exceeds this amount, the overage would be covered by Medicare. If the amount is lower, the remaining balance is returned to the County. There is also a new regulation that requires the County to report any case for anyone over the age of 62, which could result in a Social Security disability claim. This case is being referred to the Workers Compensation Commission as she has refused further negotiations. The two remaining large claims are for two corrections officers. One claimant stated they slipped and fell in front of an elevator. This individual has also filed a claim from an earlier injury, for which a claim was never filed. We have denied this claim. The individual is stating that the earlier injury was aggravated by the fall. This case involves PEDA (Public Employee Disability Act) which is for law enforcement personnel only and ups the Workers' Comp. reimbursement rate from 66 2/3% to 100% if, in the case of a correctional worker, the injury was sustained due to inmate interaction. This is the point of contention in the lawsuit the employee has filed with the County. The County is denying that this individual was hurt while interacting with an inmate. The third employee underwent surgery on the left shoulder in 2/09 with a projected 4 month recovery period.

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However, we are now evaluating the right shoulder for complaints of pain so the 4 months may be longer. The good news about injuries sustained in the jail is that everything in the jail is filmed. There are now adequate corrective actions in place by requiring pre employment physicals and accident investigations that take place after an injury has occurred to help alleviate any future large claims.

Resolution adopting a McHenry County 2009 Strategic Plan: Committee members reviewed a Resolution adopting a McHenry County 2009 Strategic Plan. Mr. Merkel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hill to recommend approval of the above Resolution as submitted. Mr. Austin noted that on May 20th a meeting has been scheduled with committee chairs to speak with the planners to develop action-plans and put steps into broad goals and strategies. The next step would be to review how to make these into department plans. The plan would prioritize what will be worked on and the Board would make sure the deliverables move forward. Committee members voiced concern that under Livability, the strategies not recommended included assessing quality of life ordinances. They noted that this is a huge area of concern for the constituents of the County and would like this issue to remain in the plan. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hill to include in the strategies under the Livability section, Assess quality of life ordinances. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote. Committee members were questioned whether more discussion should be held prior to passing the 2009 Strategic Plan on to the County Board for consideration. Committee members were reminded that the plan is a stepping stone in the strategic process and needs review by the County Board. The motion carried with the majority of members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Hill, Merkel, Orphal, Schmidt, Schuster – Aye) (Barnes – Nay)
It was noted that if more discussion is held on the County Board floor the plan could be tabled and modifications made at a later date.

Annual Performance Review – Administrator: Mr. Austin emailed committee members a list of performances and challenges for the Administrator for the past and coming year. This report was generated to evoke discussion and provide a reminder of what has been accomplished this past year. This information will be sent out to the whole board for review. He stated he would like comments regarding what has went well and where he may need improvement. He would then like the committee to come back in two weeks for further discussion, in executive session if they choose. Chairman Schuster would then create a short report for review by the whole county board. An update of last year's goals would be provided for review. The Planning and Development Department had a lot of big issues that needed to be addressed and this consumed a lot of the Administrator's time. The financial issues of the County has consumed a lot of time as well. The Campus plan has moved forward with some good decisions being made. This has freed up some space in the Administration Building. The goals for next year will include addressing the decline of revenue, wrap up the land use plan, how to govern Valley Hi and the retirement of the Chief Assessment Officer. An additional issue would be when the Treasurer moves from this facility into the new facility and the transition of payroll. For better roster management, payroll will remain within the Administration Building. This should be a function that is controlled by the County Board and not within an elected official's office. Additional ideas to explore would be low cost electronic communication.

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Administrator: None

Cable Commission: A meeting was recently held with Mr. Smoran, the legal council on the Comcast issue, Comcast and County personnel. They reviewed the franchise agreement and remaining issues. There was a lot of give and take and a new agreement is being reviewed by Mr. Smoran. This should come back to committee for review at the next committee meeting.

Council of Governments: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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Ms. Hill informed committee members that she attended a recent Historic Preservation Commission meeting where they discussed the Victory Garden concept that was implemented during World War II. The Historic Preservation Commission is holding free seminars on how to create these gardens and Ms. Hill stated she thought the County could have their own garden, worked on by County Employees, overseen by the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Hill was questioned if the employees have been surveyed to find out if they would be interested in this sort of project. She was also questioned about the maintenance and liability for the garden. Chairman Schuster requested Ms. Hill obtain the necessary information, including surveying of the employees and bring the information back to the next committee meeting for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Hill with all members present voting aye.

RECOMMENDED FOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

Resolution adopting a McHenry County Strategic Plan

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