

MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING
MARCH 2, 2010

Chairman of the Board – Kenneth D. Koehler (District 2)

District 1 Yvonne M. Barnes Robert Bless Anna May Miller Marc Munaretto	District 2 J.S. "Scott" Breeden James Heisler Kenneth Koehler Lyn Orphal	District 3 Mary L Donner Ed Dvorak Kathleen Bergan Schmidt Barbara Wheeler
District 4 Sue Draffkorn John Hammerand Pete Merkel Sandra Fay Salgado	District 5 Tina Hill James P Kennedy Virginia Peschke Paula Yensen	District 6 Randall Donley Mary T McCann Daniel P Ryan Ersel C Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by County Clerk Katherine Schultz with Members of the Board, department heads and visitors participating. Mr. Breeden gave the invocation/personal remarks.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by County Clerk Katherine Schultz. The following members responded: Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Barnes, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Dvorak and Koehler. Absent: Draffkorn. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with twenty-three (23) members responding. Parliamentarian Jamie Rein was present.

MINUTES

None

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler welcomed Mr. Bless back after his recent surgery and welcomed Mr. Hammerand back from his vacation. Also, he recognized Mr. Kennedy wishing him a happy 55th birthday and told everyone to enjoy the cupcakes that he brought in. Chairman Koehler noted that he and several others are leaving for Washington D.C. this afternoon and will have a pretty rigorous schedule on Wednesday and Thursday having meetings with all of our legislative people in Washington. He will update the board when he returns.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Hack-Ma-Tack (Hackmatack) Wildlife Refuge – Ed Collins and Lenore Beyerclaw

Chairman Koehler said the journey on this started back in Mike Tryon's last year as County Board Chairman. Fortunately this project showed signs of fruition and it has been worked on seriously since 2005. There was a letter from Dick Durbin signed by himself and many others on February 17th supporting a study for this project. This project falls within McHenry County and extends into Southern Wisconsin.

Mr. Collins came forward to speak along with showing a power point presentation. Mr. Collins said the name refers to the Tamarack Tree in a Native American language and it was selected because there are Tamarack trees located in both Southern Wisconsin and here in Northeastern McHenry County and they stretch back to about 11,000 years ago. These trees are found across the area that is proposed as the refuge study in small isolated pockets.

Mr. Collins said if you go to the National Wildlife Refuge website they will explain exactly what refuges are. It states that a refuge is the premier system of public lands and waters anywhere in the country and their mission is specifically directed at preserving fish, wildlife and plant populations for the enjoyment of the public. He said over 40 million people visit refuge areas each year and they put over a billion and a half dollars into the local economies around them. Mr. Collins said this is an opportunity to let our resources pay their way by bringing people in to see them and having them spend their money in the local economy. Mr. Collins said this area was selected as a refuge site because the proposed study area lies within about 60 miles of the two largest metropolitan areas in the United

States; Milwaukee and Chicago. He said many other agencies and entities have looked at this section of Wisconsin and Illinois over the past 30 years and have discovered that the area is packed with incredible things. For both Wisconsin and Illinois, the area is recognized in their statewide wildlife action plans which are plans that each state is required to complete so that they can allocate and spend dollars that come to them from the federal government specifically for wildlife preservation. In the Hackmatack study area the Lake/McHenry County wetland complex has been identified by the state as a conservation opportunity area which means that there is not only the land base and resources but the will to be able to do large conservation projects. In the area being proposed, Mr. Collins said there are 57 endangered species which are listed on the state level of endangered species, with one at the federal level and over 20 species of wildlife. Also of note is that we have one of the largest concentrations of rare things in the state. Three of which, black soil, savannah oak barons and mesic prairie, are rare not only nation-wide but they are globally imperil. These natural communities that we have here and have identified are actually rarer than tropical rain forests. Mr. Collins said all of the ingredients are here to give this area national significance outside of our own County.

Lenore Beyerclaw came forward to talk about the economics of the project. She works with a regional organization called Open Lands who are also involved in this project helping to move it forward. She said this project is important for the people and the communities of this area. She said that every refuge has the opportunity to be an urban refuge and those cases are highlighted. One of the key points is working closely with education and working with schools offering a visitor center, which is also an opportunity for families and children to interact with nature. In addition Open Lands and Trust for Public Land commissioned a viability study that talks about economic viability; the advantage and goals that can be capitalized on by local communities as they're looking to identify this as perhaps a way of establishing community identity but also as a potential for economic development in the future. They have identified a few areas that should be highlighted noting there will be more; Agricultural heritage; an existing trail system that hooks up with the Grant IL Trail that is over 100 miles of trail connections; and proposed trails that would hook up with the White River Trail that is a large expansive network in Wisconsin; also a large variety of cultural amenities in the communities and they anticipate that there would be a number of different and complimentary economic and recreational activities. Ms. Beyerclaw said there are many opportunities for economic development with this project. She said they are looking for resolutions or letters of support for Hackmatack to help move this project forward. Chairman Koehler asked for any questions. It was asked if the Village of Richmond is in support of this. She said they have talked to them and they have expressed support of the project. Chairman Koehler said they were waiting to get this study put together so that the facts were there to support the project. Several members of the board expressed their support Hackmatack and it was requested that a resolution in support of this be put together. Chairman Koehler agreed and said this will be done. He thanked Mr. Collins and Ms. Beyerclaw for their presentation today.

8.2 Animal Control Building/Program – Pat McNulty and Kara Plonczynski

Mr. McNulty came forward and said the Animal Control used about three-fourths of the facility in Crystal Lake. About one-fourth of the building is used by their Public Health Nursing side. It is the home of the IL Breast and Cervical Cancer Program which has been very successful as well as they do WIC and family case management. They also have meeting space there which is used by them and other departments as well. With the high profile location of this facility, many programs have increased in usage.

Ms. Plonczynski, Volunteer Coordinator/Health Educator, came forward and gave a power point presentation. She said that the Crystal Lake facility has been well received and they here positive remarks on a regular basis. She said there is an Animal Control Advisory Committee with ten members that is still in effect and there are 21 staff members at Animal Control of which 14 are full time. She said they have many volunteers that utilize the outside pen for the dogs to run around as well as walk them. This pen is also used for people to introduce their animals to dogs they are thinking about adopting. Animal Control now has a showcase room with floor to ceiling windows for the cats so that when visitors come in they can see a cat or more playing in this room. Ms. Plonczynski went through the power point pointing out statistics; i.e. rabies investigations she said we typically have the highest rate of positive results for bats in the State of IL and this is because we have a very aggressive response to bat calls. The number of dog and cat bites increased in 2009. They do a bite prevention program in the schools and they are going to expand that because the majority of the bites involve people 30-50 years old. She said dangerous dogs have come down with 17 calls and 12 declared dangerous in 2009. Ms. Plonczynski said adoptions have gone well in their new facility, the ratio between dogs and cats is about the same; 250 dogs and 255 cats adopted in 2009. The cost of adoption is \$80 for either cat or dog. She added that their reclaim to owner rate on dogs is one of the highest in the nation. They would like to improve on the return rate of cats and are working on a program to do that. Euthanasia rates were up in part due to over population and also in part because of an upper respiratory infection that was going through the

facility. Many times cats they get that were abandoned or neglected and are in pretty bad shape and they have to put them down.

Of note is the amount of volunteer hours that our volunteers give; she said about 20 volunteers have been with them since the inception of the program four years ago. On average she said they have about 46 volunteers a month. She said volunteers wanted to see a way for Animal Control to get more out into the community and get the animals adopted so they helped to develop a 501c3, a not-for-profit agency which they just now are getting up and running. They hope to focus on spay and neuters because if they can help control the animal population a lot of the numbers will look better. Also Animal Control is also developing a face book and twitter website that they are developing now. Ideally they would like to see Animal Control have a spay/neuter clinic.

Ms. Plonczynski talked about the Animal Welfare Coalition which is about nine different groups and they meet on a routine basis. They've been able to combine purchasing efforts, buying items in bulk so that they can share amongst their groups and reduce their cost. They get free cat litter donated amongst all of the groups and one of the greatest things is the animal food pantry. Companies have donated food to them and the volunteers disburse it out to the food pantries. The animal food flies off of the shelves and they are often requesting more. This is definitely a great way to serve the community. Ms. Plonczynski said future objectives would include increasing the number of low cost rabies vaccination and micro chip events and also low cost spay/neuter clinics and increasing volunteers and what they can do for Animal Control.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any questions. It was asked what age you had to be to volunteer as there are many young teens who would love to help with the animals. Ms. Plonczynski said you must be 18 to interact and work with the animals. Teenagers can volunteer if a parent is doing so at the same time. It was asked if the drop in dangerous dog reports went down after the law changed. Mr. McNulty said he believed it is the awareness and publicity and the public knowing that the County is serious about these types of complaints. Mr. Hammerand said he saw an interesting presentation on the White Nose Fungus on bats and wondered if we have seen that here.

Mr. McNulty said no we haven't seen that in this area. He said any animal that is caught they are sent in for analysis. Noting no other questions, Chairman Koehler thanked Ms. Plonczynski and Mr. McNulty for their presentation today.

PLATS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Koehler explained the rules of public comment. The following people spoke:
Kurt Beystehner of Harvard against Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge

Noting no others wishing to speak, Chairman Koehler closed public comment.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proclamation – 2010 Census Partnership

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Hill to approve the above-named Proclamation.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed.

Chairman Koehler said in the last census McHenry County was undercounted. The census mailing will be out by the 15th of March and there will be a four week period where people have the opportunity to return the questionnaire. He said we're hoping for much better participation with the census this time as it could mean more money for McHenry County. Also, it was noted that all information provided on the census form is confidential for 72 years. Everyone was encouraged to do their part when the census forms are received.

APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Hill made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to approve the following Appointment:

Community Development block Grant Commission
Mark Ruda term to 02/01/2012

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Barnes, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Dvorak and Koehler. Absent: Draffkorn. The vote being twenty-three ayes (23) noting one (1) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Mr. Munaretto told the board that on February 18th McHenry County executed its parameters ordinance for Series 2010A and 2010B (Series 2010C was not used). They sold \$7.95 million dollars in tenure debt certificates at an average yield of 2.48%. They sold an additional \$4 million dollars in 2010B bonds for a term of 15 years with an average yield of 2.55%.

Ms. Hill said when the 2030 Plan final draft was put in member's mailboxes they didn't realize that some sections were missing and one was added that they had taken out by Housel & Levine, our consultants, inadvertently. That has been caught now and those sections that were missing are now in members mailboxes. Ms. Hill said they were at our first public meeting last night and they continue those meetings every night this week. There wasn't a large public turnout last night in McHenry Township but tonight they are in Harvard and she expects there will be more people. Secondly, there is a P & D meeting this Thursday and they have gotten a lot of interviews and interest in the Housing Commission. They will do one set of interviews this Thursday and then she has a Special Call meeting out there and she believes staff has contacted her committee members to see if they can be there. Please let her know if you will be at the meeting so she knows if she has a quorum.

ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kennedy removed Item 14.2 B4.

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Mr. Dvorak to approve the Routine Consent Agenda with one item removed.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Barnes, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Dvorak and Koehler. Absent: Draffkorn. The vote being twenty-three (23) ayes noting one (1) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed.

14.2 B4 Resolution authorizing the payment of Special Prosecutor Fees from the General Fund FY 2010 Contingency

Mr. Munaretto made a motion seconded by Mr. Ryan to approve the above-named resolution.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Mr. Kennedy asked what case this was for. Chairman Koehler said these fees were for an investigation for a case against the State's Attorney.

Noting no other discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Barnes, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Dvorak and Koehler. Nay: Donner. Absent: Draffkorn. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes and one (1) nay noting one (1) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed

ORDINANCES

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said they are moving ahead with interviews for Chief County Assessor, there are six very strong candidates to review which makes the process more difficult as they are all very qualified. Chairman Koehler agreed. Mr. Austin is hoping to get this done by the week of March 15th. He thanked all those who have participated in this process. Mr. Austin reminded board members that the Strategic Plan meeting will be on March 12th, breakfast at 8 a.m. with the meeting starting at 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy commended Planning & Development staff and the Committee on the fine presentation given on the 2030 Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Communications

Tom Carroll from the State's Attorney's office came forward to update the board on a couple of cases. Because they are no longer pending it is not necessary to go into executive session.

Resurrection Center case – Mr. Carroll said this case was dismissed a couple of weeks ago. It was asked if this can be refiled. Mr. Carroll said there is a chance but the essence of it was that they had a time in which they were to have filed, a month passed, they had a court date and they didn't show up.

Ehardt case - Mr. Carroll said this case has been dismissed in finality. The plaintiff's have chosen not to refile.

Mr. Carroll also noted that there were three cases against the Sheriff that were filed, one by an inmate and two by jailers, and those were dismissed as well.

Mr. Carroll said if anyone has any questions, please give him a call.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kennedy made a motion seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 16th day of March, A.D., 2010.

s/ Kenneth D. Koehler
Kenneth D Koehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

s/ Katherine C Schultz
Katherine C. Schultz, County Clerk