

MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING
MAY 4, 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, May 4, 2010.

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

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Deputy Clerk Linda FitzGerald. The following members responded: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler and Barnes. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with twenty-two (22) members responding. Parliamentarian Jamie Rein was present.

MINUTES

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to approve COW (Committee of the Whole) meeting minutes of April 15th.

Ms. Schuster made a motion seconded by Ms. Hill to postpone approving County Board minutes of April 20th until the May 18th meeting so that revised minutes can be reviewed.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any changes. Noting none, he asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the minutes of the COW meeting of April 15th approved and County Board minutes of April 20th postponed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler said the County Board has gone through a lot in the last month. Noting three important things that were accomplished: the sitting of the McHenry County Housing Commission which took place on the 20th; the 2030 Plan being passed, although not perfect it sets the stage for us to now do the work on the ordinances; and lastly was finding out that McHenry County received a Aaa bond rating from Moody's. This is a great accomplishment for a County the size of ours as we are the smallest County in the United States to have this bond rating and one of only three counties in the State of Illinois to have that rating. Chairman Koehler said the Housing Commission is going to spend a lot of time organizing and getting a feel for what the needs and conditions are in McHenry County; the 2030 Plan will now be used to work on the ordinances; and the Aaa bond rating is an accomplishment but now we must maintain this excellent rating. He thanked everyone who helped in any of these areas.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

7.1 Proclamation – Recognizing Skinners' Amusement Inc.

Ms. McCann made a motion seconded by Mr. Donley to approve the above-named Proclamation.

Ms. Donner asked that a word change be made "entertaining" to "entertainment" the Chairman said that could be done.

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

Chairman Koehler asked the Skinner family to come forward. On behalf of the Board he presented them with a Proclamation (wording will be corrected) as well as a gift prepared by the County Recorder, Phyllis Walters.

Ms. Walters looked at all of the records that have been filed with the County and put together a history of Skinner Amusements for 100 years. The family was introduced and they thanked the Board for this recognition.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Update on Strategic Plan (Peter Austin/John Labaj)

Mr. Austin and Mr. Labaj came forward to speak about the Strategic Plan. Mr. Austin said that the Strategic Planning meeting was held in March and was well attended. At this meeting they used teams of people involved in the strategic plan to give an update on where we are. A hand out was given to board members, a Strategic Plan Report Card, which was referenced throughout this presentation. A copy is on file. Mr. Austin explained the handout saying the tool being used are dots: green dot means we are on target; yellow dot means there are some concerns with meeting our target; and the red dot means we did not meet our target. He focused on items that had yellow or red dots. Those fall in some of our community planning efforts (Growth & Planning areas). He talked about the areas that are being worked on at this time. Another area was in the service delivery wherein the State's Attorney office and Public Defender system would be fully implemented and updated in the integrated justice system by 2011. In 2010 that is still being worked on. Also in the yellow is the Livability area which is the planning of a new Public Safety Building. Mr. Austin said this is in development and the Sheriff and County Administration will be re-accessing the revenue stream and timeline for planning and construction and they will identify an appropriate measure for this. He said they have set aside the months of May and June to re-open this issue and look at things. Mr. Austin said they have external forces moving in on our space. There will be a new circuit judge coming on December 1st; that circuit judge will be replaced by an associate judge in the spring of 2011 and we are likely to get another associate judge due to population growth in the summer of 2011. With two new judges we will be at capacity and when we build out courtroom #104 and remodel courtroom #365, the next judge will be a judge without a courtroom.

The only area that has a red dot was in the Economic Development & Opportunity area wherein Mr. Austin said that the number of requested letters of support they were looking for (100% support) regarding the NIU Greater Rockford Area Fiber Optic Systems (GRAFOS) ARRA project has been put on hold as the rules changed. The state agencies that are involved in the decision making and distribution of these federal dollars changed the rules and it's more of a state ownership of this process. They **have not** tabled the NIU Greater Rockford Area Fiber Optic Systems (GRAFOS) ARRA project just the letter collection.

Mr. Austin said the other piece of the strategic planning exercise was to collect ideas. Mr. Labaj has placed a legal size sheet on member's desks. There are some 30 ideas that were put forth by board members during the Strategic Planning meeting. Those were divided among the six categories in the plan. When you look at this there were some themes that emerged and they were folded into the current plan. Mr. Labaj went over this sheet pointing out some areas. Of note he said was that we have a new Internal Auditor, Shannon Teresi. Hopefully she will be able to fulfill some of the internal controls that were brought forth in the revenue and demand section. He said there were many comments from board members on alternate energy, tax credits, solar panels and wind farms. They noted staff response to all of the ideas but model policies are going to be presented and discussed at the P & D Committee. There were also comments on alternate transportation and how to improve bike ways and car pooling. They are working with PACE in providing information to County employees on PACE car pooling and the Transportation Committee looks at things such as bike paths as part of any new road project. Many of the recommendations on alternate modes of transportation are being implemented from the McHenry County Transit Plan. Under service delivery, technology was a main theme that emerged. He encouraged everyone to check out the County website as we now have an information access portal which IT has been working on. This is to make it easier for the public to gain access to information. They've also talked about live media broadcasting of County Board meetings. They will be bringing forth proposals to the Management Services Committee on this in the future. In regard to livability and economic development opportunity, the economic climate dominated the ideas and comments under those two areas. He encouraged everyone to go to the MCEDC website as they have a RSS Feed which you can sign up for which gives a timely report of activities within the MCEDC.

Ms. Hill asked about the growth & planning area, #2 and #3 where it talks about solar panels, wind and other alternate energies to go to Planning & Development and #3 talking about tax incentives etc. She asked if this referred to projects in #2 and will it go before Natural Resources? Mr. Labaj said #3 does refer to #2. Ms. Hill questioned that the policies are going to come before P & D but the tax incentives are going to Natural Resources & Finance. Mr. Labaj said the work of P & D would precede going any further with that. She just wasn't sure why the Natural Resources Committee was going to figure out the tax incentives.

Mr. Austin said if anyone has any questions or comments on the statuses of anything please let them know.

PLATS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Koehler explained the rules of public comment. The following people spoke:

Ron Kopke of Spring Grove	regarding	Stade petition for CUP
Scott Puma of Crystal Lake	regarding	Stade petition for CUP

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

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Koehler said we will vote on these separately by request of Ms. Yensen. Ms. Yensen said she would like to separate these because she feels with Mr. Eldredge serving on two other committees, EDC and Housing Commission, and having done an excellent job working on the RPC, that we need to have more diversity and participation on these committees. Mr. Sandquist said Mr. Eldredge has resigned from the Housing Commission.

12.1 Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Mr. Dvorak to approve the following Appointment:

McHenry County Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
David Stone term to 09/01/2014

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler, Barnes and Donley. The vote being twenty-one (21) ayes noting three (3) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointment of David Stone to the ZBA has passed.

12.1 Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Mr. Dvorak to approve the following Appointment:

McHenry County Zoning Board of Appeals (DBA)
Charles Eldredge (Alternate) term to 12/15/2012

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Salgado, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Heisler and Koehler. Nay: McCann, Peschke, Ryan, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Hammerand, Hill and Kennedy. Absent: Wheeler, Barnes. The vote being thirteen (13) ayes and nine (9) nays noting two (2) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointment of Charles Eldredge (Alternate) to the ZBA has passed.

12.2 Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Peschke to approve the following Appointments:

Public Aid Committee
Preston Rea, Alden Twp term to 11/30/2010
Dianne Klemm, Algonquin Twp term to 11/30/2010
Roger Naylor, Coral Twp term to 11/30/2010
Robert Pierce, Dorr Twp term to 11/30/2010
Donna Schaefer, McHenry Twp term to 11/30/2010

Chairman Koehler said that periodically there is an appeal that is requested on a decision that is made by the townships in regard to public aid assistance types of issues. We have had this committee before and have had a couple of hearings in the past and there apparently are a couple of hearings coming up so we have to re-appoint individuals. This is a power given by state statute.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler and Barnes. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes noting two (2) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointments to the Public Aid Committee has passed.

12.3 Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the following Appointment:

RTA Commuter Rail Board (METRA)
Jack Schaffer term to 06/30/2014

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler and Barnes. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes noting two (2) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointment to the RTA Commuter Rail Board (METRA) has passed.

12.4 Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to approve the following Appointment:
RTA Suburban Bus Board (PACE)
Aaron T. Shepley term to 06/30/2014

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler and Barnes. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes noting two (2) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointment to the RTA Suburban Bus Board (PACE) has passed.

**Ms. Peschke asked if any appointments require a super majority vote such as the ZBA. Ms. Rein said she would check on this to get an answer. (response after vote on Routine Consent Agenda)

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Ms. McCann said that they had a watershed roundtable meeting on Friday. In looking at the Strategic Plan she felt that we could add watershed groups in more of our planning especially related to water/storm water because they did prove to have an enormous resource base and background information. They also talked about a nuisance ordinance and while we're trying to deal with water and different issues in the Environmental Committee, she would like to hear from anybody who thinks they have a nuisance issue in their district. They will be looking at revising or updating any nuisance ordinances that we currently have. Chairman Koehler said in regard to the nuisance ordinance that she collects all of the townships ordinances so we know what may or may not be in place in each of the different townships.

Mr. Hammerand said the IL Liquor Control Commission will be having a free meeting on Tuesday May 25th from 1-3 p.m. at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford. If you would like to attend you need to RSVP by Friday May 14th. If you don't have information and would like to attend, contact him so that he can give you more information.

ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, there were none. Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Ms. Orphal to approve the Routine Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: McCann, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke, Ryan, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy and Koehler. Absent: Wheeler and Barnes. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes noting two (2) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Routine Consent Agenda as presented has passed

**In regard to Ms. Peschke's question on if there are any appointments that require a super majority vote, Ms. Rein said that the County Board rules just require a roll call vote, it's not specific, however ZBA positions area statutory created positions. She did review this before coming to the meeting, but if memory serves her correctly it is advice and consent of the County Board which would require just a majority vote.

ORDINANCES

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin told the board that he provided a written update on all of our activities and thanked all of the different offices/departments for their input and putting this together.

Mr. Austin asked Mr. Hadley to speak on what is coming to the County. Mr. Hadley said that on May 26th, someone from Springfield will be dropping off the 95th Calvary McHenry County/Boone County flag that was flown in the Civil War. We will have this on loan from Springfield for the next two years, The flag is enclosed in a glass frame and it will be mounted on a wall in the Administration Building, away from sunlight, but in a location for the public to view it.

Mr. Hadley said they are working with Gloria from the McHenry County Historical Society to present this flag. Also they are planning on June 15th a dedication ceremony before the County Board meeting to unveil the flag officially. After two years Mr. Hadley said it may be possible for us to keep the flag for a little while longer. Chairman Koehler said this is something that the preservation people have been working on for some time.

Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Labaj for organizing the highway clean up for county employees; they did that last week after work out on Charles Road.

Mr. Austin encouraged everyone to check out the access portal that Mr. Labaj mentioned on the County's website. This is a one stop shop for the most frequently asked or sought after information.

Mr. Austin said that the Regional Plan Commission is going to be celebrated with a thank you dinner on the evening of May 13th. All of the County Board members are invited and he asked that if you are planning on attending he needs to hear from you.

Finally, the evaluation process for the County Administrator position is getting under way shortly. This is a multi-week process where he does an evaluation of himself and he gets thoughts back from the County Board. If anyone has ideas on how you would like to provide information to Management Services and Chair Schuster about the performance of your County Administrator or things you'd like to see in the future, please let Ms. Schuster or him know.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Yensen said our meeting on April 20th was a long one and feels Mr. Ross was not introduced as he should have been, so she would like the new County Assessor, Mr. Ross to come to a future meeting to introduce himself to the County. Also, she said she is concerned about the Mental Health Board and the bonding authority that we gave them. She thought that they were shovel ready with their project and she is concerned that they are going to have to hire a consultant to provide services or oversight to move forward in their project, and they hired someone out of County. Ms. Yensen said herself, Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Kennedy met with some labor leaders recently and they're concerned about the kinds of jobs that come with this bonding authority and putting our people to work. She believed that this bonding authority was a stimulus package to get our people back to work and she was with the perception, right or wrong, that this project was further along than what she read about in the paper. She would like to see the Mental Health Board to come before the board for a full report about the progress on their project.

Ms. Peschke said a picture was passed around of Skinner Amusement and wondered if this was a poster. Chairman Koehler said this was a piece that was put out for advertising their 100th year. He does have a brochure and some patches if anyone is interested. He said there might be a way to have this blown up as it would make a nice poster.

Ms. McCann responded about some of the public comments regarding the Stade CUP that will be coming up. It was mentioned that this was uncharted territory, but she respectfully disagreed saying that there is one farm that is larger than Stade's, which is Royal Oak in Hebron, that does the similar things. Also there is Tom's Farm in Algonquin which also has a CUP. She reminded the board that only four liquor licenses are issued a year. Finally, she said the EDC is heavily promoting these kinds of businesses because they do bring in tax dollars.

Ms. Salgado said in regard to the Stade petition that will be coming before the board, as background information Stade's had worked very closely with the Village of Spring Grove to work this out as an annexation which is what is usually encouraged. After a while of negotiating, Stade pulled back and came to the County because they would be able to do more things with the County. She said when reading through their petition she can't say that she is for everything they would like, but one of the things that is important is the length of the conditional use permit. She plans on presenting an addendum for a 10 year CUP with a 5 year review. As far as the entertainment, she feels the concerns are reasonable. Also, it was mentioned about the CUP being tied directly to the land, the State's Attorney is giving an opinion on that. She asked that board members review this as there are concerns that can be addressed.

Ms. Hill said she received a Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin 2010, a year round local food guide. It has good information and she can get more copies if anyone else would like one.

Ms. Schmidt mentioned that the Historical Society successfully opened for the season on Sunday. One of the features was a dedication of the tree carvings, which are excellent. There are a number of events as May is local History month, one in particular is a bus tour to Spring Grove and their famous criminal haunts!

Ms. McCann responded to Ms. Salgado's comments about the Stade petition saying that the property the CUP is being requested for does not touch other property owners. Also, she saw the booklet that Ms. Hill has and this is the kind of thing that Wisconsin does a lot of. One of the things the EDC is trying to do on a limited budget is to try to see

that everyone knows McHenry County has many types of those businesses here in McHenry County that make us unique in Northern Illinois.

Mr. Donley said he will fight the Stade CUP request as he feels the proper zoning for an amusement park is B3. They have gone beyond the corn mazes and offer rides and attractions that you find at amusement parks.

Ms. Salgado added that board members should drive out and take a look at the property. She said she does advocate for the EDC but she represents the individuals who live in Spring Grove, even with the events that go on now at the Stade farm that they support, you can hear it a mile and a half out, imagine that at night.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Communications

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Yensen made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to adjourn at 10:09 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 18th day of May, A.D., 2010.

S/ Kenneth D Koehler
Kenneth D Koehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

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