

MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2011

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

<b>District 1</b> Robert Bless Anna May Miller Marc Munaretto Robert Nowak	<b>District 2</b> J.S. "Scott" Breeden James Heisler Kenneth Koehler Donna Kurtz	<b>District 3</b> Mary L Donner Nick Provenzano Kathleen Bergan Schmidt Barbara Wheeler
<b>District 4</b> Sue Draffkorn John Hammerand Pete Merkel Sandra Fay Salgado	<b>District 5</b> Tina Hill John P Jung Jr. Virginia Peschke Paula Yensen	<b>District 6</b> Randall Donley Diane Evertsen Mary McCann Ersel C Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

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. Ms. Schuster gave the invocation/personal remarks.

#### ROLL CALL

The roll was called by County Clerk Katherine Schultz. The following members responded: Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Hill, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden and Koehler. Absent: Donley, Hammerand and Munaretto. Parliamentarian Tom Carroll was present. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with twenty-one (21) members responding.

#### MINUTES

*Minutes of County Board Regular Session meeting of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010*

Ms. Miller made a motion seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve County Board minutes of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any changes/corrections to the minutes. Ms. Peschke noted a typo on page 4 that will be corrected.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion to approve County Board minutes of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 as corrected has passed.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler said he hoped everyone had a happy holiday season. He told the board that Mr. Munaretto's father passed away on January 1<sup>st</sup> and he asked members to keep him and his family in their thoughts and prayers. As well he said Katherine Schultz's husband and Ms. Peschke's husband have been ill and going through treatment so keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers too.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

##### 7.1 GFOA Awards

Chairman Koehler asked Pam Palmer, Auditor to come forward to speak about these awards.

Ms. Palmer said the most recent award was the Popular Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2009. This is our second year of receiving this award. She noted that McHenry County is the only county in the State of IL that fills out the paperwork, submits it and receives this award. She feels this report is something that helps with our transparency because it has graphs and is very easy to read for our citizens. Ms. Palmer said this is the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in receiving the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) Award. Ms. Palmer said one of the duties of the Auditor is to collect, analyze and preserve statistical financial information for the county and that's what she believes these reports do for the county. She gave the board some interesting fact comparisons from November 30, 1961 statistics compared to 2010. Ms. Palmer recognized her staff for the work that they do: Jim Bernier, Financial Reporting Manager and CPA, Charis Bradley and Luann Kanaly who handle a lot of the accounts payable among other things and Shannon Teresi, Internal Auditor who is not here today.

APPROVED: 01.18.2011

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 8.1 *McHenry County EECBG – John Hadley and Becky Werra of Siemens Industry*

Mr. Hadley came forward and introduced Becky Werra from Siemens Industry who went through a power point presentation of the green initiatives the county has done over the past three years. A handout was given to board members to follow along with the power point presentation. Mr. Hadley said the county embarked on our energy conservation efforts in 2007 working with Siemens Industry to review the county's performance and where changes could be made to benefit the county. The presentation went over some of the different things that have been done including the boiler heating plant upgrade/replacement; lighting retrofit; solar panel installation at the Administration Building; skylights at the DOT; and window replacement in the Government Center just to name a few. Mr. Hadley said the county received the EECBG (Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant), which was about \$2.5 million dollars for a number of projects that would make the county buildings more efficient. The most recent and most noticeable would be the recent installation of solar panels on the Administration Building roof and the lighting change in the parking lots to LED lighting. Ms. Werra talked about the accomplishments which Mr. Hadley had mentioned since the program began noting that the savings to the county already have been just over \$200,000. Ms. Werra said the county should be very proud of the improvements that have been made making the county more energy efficient while saving money for the county.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any questions. Board members thanked the Facilities Management team and Siemens Industry for their hard work in making the county more energy efficient and saving money at the same time.

### PLATS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Koehler explained the rules of Public Comment. The following person(s) spoke:

Lee Stevens of Crystal Lake re: Walkup Road improvements and communication with MCDOT

Noting no others wishing to speak, Chairman Koehler closed Public Comment.

### NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 11.1 *Resolution authorizing changes to the McHenry County Board's Standing Committees*

Mr. Jung made a motion seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the above-named resolution.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Ms. Salgado said would be voting no because she didn't feel the Vice Chairman should be the Chairman of a committee. Mr. Provenzano noted a typo that will be corrected.

Noting no other discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it noting one (1) nay, the Chairman declared the motion to approve authorizing changes to the McHenry County Board's Standing Committees has passed.

### APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Jung made a motion seconded by Mr. Provenzano to approve the Appointments to the Standing Committees and Related Agencies.

Chairman Koehler said everyone has received a copy of the appointments that have been set. If there are any questions, please contact him. A copy of the chart showing the appointments is in the County Board file.

Noting no discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it noting one (1) nay, the Chairman declared the motion to approve the Appointments to the Standing Committees and Related Agencies has passed.

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Ms. Peschke said there will be a special Public Health meeting tentatively set for Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. McCann said there will be an Environmental Committee meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:15 a.m.; members will be receiving information on some of the issues to be discussed.

Ms. Schuster said the Management Services Committee meeting will be on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. She asked members to be sure to pick up their packets. Ms. Schuster encouraged board members to attend as they will be discussing different issues including those brought up about some County Board rules.

Ms. Hill said this morning at the Planning & Development Committee meeting they discussed the issue of waiving fees i.e. penalty or hardship fees. In general the committee has been against that but she would like feedback on this issue from the rest of the board members as they go forward. They also talked about the Unified Development Ordinance and key member interviews of 16 different groups. The general direction they gave to Mr. Sandquist was to go to those groups and have them appoint people that they would like to sit in to see what issues they think we need to initiate in our zoning review and other ordinances. Ms. Hill encouraged board members to contact her or a committee member or to attend one of their meetings with any input you might have.

#### ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, there was none.

Ms. Yensen made a motion seconded by Ms. McCann to approve the Routine Consent Agenda as presented.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Noting none, he asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Hill, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden and Koehler. Absent: Donley, Hammerand and Munaretto. The vote being twenty-one (21) ayes noting three (3) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Routine Consent Agenda as presented has been approved.

#### ORDINANCES

None

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin told board members to mark their calendars for February 4, 8:30 a.m. to noon for the Strategic Plan update meeting. Also, Law & Justice Committee meeting will be Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 and the Finance & Audit Committee meeting will be Tuesday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Austin said there will be a hearing on the Alden Road project on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 7 p.m. here in this building. Also on January 25<sup>th</sup> he will be attending a Metro Counties meeting where they'll have an in depth discussion on what's likely to take place affecting IL counties; he will report to the Legislative Committee on this meeting. Also, he would like to have a Legislative Committee meeting next week, so he will speak with Mr. Heisler to get this set up.

Mr. Austin thanked Mr. Sarbaugh and his staff for their work on the budget and noted that it will be on line tomorrow. He said they are keeping an eye on what is going in Springfield. The one issue that could have an impact on local government and businesses is the workers' comp reform but there is some momentum towards possible changes. This has been talked about in a number of committees in the last six months as it is an expensive issue in IL.

#### MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Wheeler asked why the board meeting was changed to today. The Chairman responded that there were several people who were going to be out of town because of the New Year's holiday so it seemed more logical to change it to today. Ms. Wheeler asked Ms. Miller to explain to the board the situation that Mr. Stevens referred to in his public comment about the Walkup Road project and his property.

Ms. Miller said this goes back a couple of months. Mr. Stevens came to the Transportation Committee with concerns; he is a property owner on the portion of Walkup that we are upgrading at this time. He and his wife attended all of the public meetings and had asked questions about what impact this project was going to have on his property. When he went out of town, the portion of the project that was on his property was finished. When he returned the slope of the ditch was very different than what he had anticipated preceding the project and he was concerned because he was told there would be no impact. He came to the Transportation Committee with his concerns and he wanted the DOT to go back to that portion of the project and instead of the large slopes, which fall within the normal slopes of any of the right of ways you will find on county highways, he wanted it leveled out. Ms. Miller said to do that it meant ripping out what was there now, installing at least six other storm water facilities at a cost of approximately \$60,000. Ms. Miller said they talked, she talked to staff and they made an appointment to meet with Mr. Stevens on his property about what could be done. Ms. Miller said practically speaking, when he was told there would be no impact, there actually was no work done on his property per se, the changes were done in the county's designated right of way. Previous to this project Mr. Stevens had been able to use his riding lawn mower in the ditch but he is now not comfortable with certain areas of his ditch in front of his property because it is too steep. They talked about what the changes would mean and the expenses involved to the county to go back and change things and given that the changes are to the county's designated right of way and are acceptable from a federal and local perspective, they talked about what the homeowner could do. Immediately adjacent to the right of way on Mr. Stevens' property is a berm with trees on it and if he would like to remove the trees on his property, hire a contractor

and level out that berm which would then in effect change the slope on the back side of the ditch, this could help resolve some of his concern. Mr. Stevens said he would think about it but he didn't think he wanted to do this at his expense. Ms. Miller said she didn't feel to go back at this time with that part of the project done that a \$60,000 reinvestment would be a prudent idea. Ms. Miller said when she talked to Ms. Wheeler earlier she told her that if she would like this discussion to be brought up again to please have Mr. Dvorak do so during member's comments at the Transportation Committee meeting. Ms. Miller said from her perspective she did work with the homeowner and offered him some resolution. She did tell Mr. Stevens that if he had a mowing problem in the right of way he should contact someone in the DOT and if there is not resolution there he should give her a call and she would look into why the right of way isn't being maintained. Ms. Miller said for some reason this issue was never brought up again in Transportation. Ms. Miller said Mr. Stevens brought up some good points when he was at the meetings and asking questions. In looking at a cross section of an engineering drawing it's hard to tell what the actual outcome will look like. She said in the future they will need to make their presentations understandable for the public that attend. Ms. Miller requested a copy of Mr. Stevens's letter so that she can talk with the Transportation Committee and the DOT about some of his requests.

Ms. Wheeler thanked Ms. Miller for this information. Ms. Wheeler asked if Valley Hi residents received Christmas gifts as she didn't remember seeing a request for donations. Mr. Annarella responded that there was an outpouring of gifts this year with each resident receiving 5-7 gifts so there was no request of the County Board members. Ms. Wheeler asked if Government Awareness Day would be brought back. Chairman Koehler said due to a lack of interest last year it was not done. Ms. Draffkorn added that another county does an essay contest which might be a better option but there was money attached to it as a prize. The students would come here and find things out and write essays on what county government does. This was a possible direction to go in to attract the students. Chairman Koehler said one of the conflicts we run into is that the judicial side has an event which attracts a fair amount of people so the schools are not inclined to have too many days with the students out of the classroom. It was suggested that the Legislative Committee could look into this.

Ms. Donner told members that a floral arrangement was sent to Ohio for Mr. Munaretto's father compliments of the McHenry County Board Memorial Fund. This fund is used when a County Board member or staff person is ill or passes; an arrangement is sent on behalf of the board showing our support to them. She said the funds are getting low in this account and asked board members to contribute \$25 each so that the fund can be brought back up. It seems there have been many instances over the last couple of years where there has been occasion to send a floral arrangement. Chairman Koehler asked Mr. Austin to send out a memo on this.

Ms. Peschke asked in regard to the County Board minutes, what the most efficient way would be to handle minor typos rather than taking up time on the board floor. Chairman Koehler suggested contacting Linda in the County Clerk's office who does the minutes. Members can call or stop in any time before the meeting and a typo can easily be corrected. If there is something in the minutes that is in question you contact Linda and she can review the audio to verify what is there so that the question can be answered to the individual and to the board as a whole if necessary.

Mr. Provenzano said the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress went into session yesterday and he congratulated Joe Walsh on being sworn in.

Ms. Yensen noted an article she read in the Chicago Tribune which quoted MCDOT's Mark DeVries and the work he does. She was very proud to know and read that McHenry County is involved in such cutting edge things. Chairman Koehler said McHenry County has seen a great deal of recognition all over the U.S. and some other countries because of Mr. DeVries work.

Ms. Schuster asked if Mr. Stevens would get the items he requested. Ms. Miller said she would be getting a copy of the letter to see what she could do. Ms. Schuster said when the DOT has their hearings/meetings she thinks it is important that some of the information should be brought down to the average person's way of looking at the project so that they can get a better understanding of what the engineering means.

Ms. Draffkorn welcomed new members to the CDBG Commission. She said next week they do have interviews for their sub-recipients. She asked that CDBG members stay after today's meeting so that she can talk to them for a few minutes. Chairman Koehler said he believes there would be some training offered prior to that .

Ms. Kurtz asked if there would be additional discussion relative to the Strategic Plan so that when they go to the meeting they will be productive. Chairman Koehler responded that these meetings are always very productive and engaging. He said if there is any information that she might need before that she should contact Mr. Labaj or Mr. Austin.

Ms. Hill said in regard to the workers' comp discussion she has been following this in Rep. Tryon's office. They are getting unhappiness from both sides; from the business community and doctors so it is still a work in progress. Rep. Tryon wasn't sure if they would get it done this week in the Lane Duck Session. Chairman Koehler said he feels we have all seen how impacted the county is in regard to workers' comp claims as we've seen many of them with high pay outs. Ms. Hill said one of the issues being discussed is that the chambers want to be able to pick the doctor that people go to for their treatment so that people don't go doctor shopping. Chairman Koehler said it has been his experience in his prior job that the doctors that they sent their employees to were doctors who were concerned about the patient's care but were also concerned about the dollar spent by the employer and would get the employees back to work in a timely manner. He does not see that happening with the McHenry County claims.

Ms. McCann said in listening to Mr. Stevens issue it seems that we have not implemented a contact sensitive solution or design approach to a level where we are comfortable talking to a group of stakeholders about the issue; committees or small groups of people have not been formed that communicate with other people along the road. She thinks that it would be beneficial for the board to hear a presentation on contact sensitive solution by someone who has facilitated such programs as we tend to have public meetings but they don't always communicate effectively. Ms. McCann said she noticed in talking with people regarding the Fleming Road project that the information seems to be coming from the engineers out on the road doing Phase I work which is not an effective way to communicate with people. She would like to see board members and the DOT have some training on contact sensitive solutions so we can implement communication more effectively.

Ms. Yensen said in response to Ms. Miller's comments she believes we need to create an approach where people can visualize the plans from a layman's view not an engineer's view.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hill made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2011.

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

ATTEST:

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

APPROVED: 01.18.2011