

MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

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

**District 1**  
Robert Bless  
Anna May Miller  
Marc Munaretto  
Robert Nowak

**District 2**  
J.S. "Scott" Breeden  
James Heisler  
Kenneth Koehler  
Donna Kurtz

**District 3**  
Mary L Donner  
Nick Provenzano  
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt  
Barbara Wheeler

**District 4**  
Sue Draffkorn  
John Hammerand  
Pete Merkel  
Sandra Fay Salgado

**District 5**  
Tina Hill  
John P Jung Jr.  
Virginia Peschke  
Paula Yensen

**District 6**  
Randall Donley  
Diane Evertsen  
Mary McCann  
Ersel C Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 1, 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. Yensen gave the invocation/personal remarks.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by County Clerk Katherine Schultz. The following members responded: Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner and Koehler. Absent: Hammerand, Hill, Munaretto and Salgado. Parliamentarian Jamie Rein was present. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with twenty (20) members responding.

MINUTES

*Minutes of County Board Regular Session meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Miller to approve County Board minutes of January 18, 2011.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any changes/corrections to the minutes, there were none.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion to approve County Board minutes of January 18, 2011 has passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler told board members that Ms. Hill is in the hospital and asked that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Because Ms. Hill will not be at the meeting on Friday and she was one of the cooks and because of the impending weather, the sausage and gravy throw down is cancelled. Lastly, anyone who will be attending the groundbreaking ceremony for Rakow Road let Adam know by Thursday morning.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

*7.1 Proclamation to recognize Robert Martens for 33 years of public service with Family Services & Community Mental Health center*

Ms. Peschke made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to approve the above-named Proclamation.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*8.1 State of the County Address – Kenneth D. Koehler*

Chairman Koehler welcomed everyone present and talked about the many accomplishments the County was able to achieve in a difficult economic year. Of note is that the County was able to adopt a balanced budget and reduce it by \$6.9 million dollars while still delivering the services our residents expect. The Chairman thanked all of the elected officials and County staff for helping to make this possible.

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Chairman Koehler went on to talk about some of the County's accomplishments i.e. the improvement of the County's debt rating to a Triple A; the GFOA Awards; the EECBG (energy efficiency grants); Underage Drinking Task Force just to name a few. A copy of the Chairman's address is in the board file which talks in detail of the accomplishments. In closing the Chairman left the board with a quote "Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow." He said if we all come together to guide our organization through these challenging times, we will be able to continue our commitment to conservative fiscal management while continuing to provide the services that our residents expect.

*8.2 McHenry County Transit Program – Joe Korpalski, MCDOT; Jason Osborn, Principal Transportation Planner at MCDOT; Sarah Chadderdon, Transportation Planner at MCDOT and T.J. Ross, Exec Director PACE*

Mr. Korpalski came forward and introduced the people with him here today to speak on this program and the ongoing efforts to coordinate transit services in McHenry County.

Mr. Osborn gave the presentation following along with a power point. A paper copy of the power point slides is on file in the board file. He said the goal of this program is to offer expanded transit options for efficient and flexible movement within the County. Mr. Osborn pointed out that PACE has helped a great deal having three fixed routes within the County as well as subsidizing five Dial-a-Rides. The fixed routes have two major stops in Crystal Lake and Woodstock with other stops along the routes. PACE has the third largest bus transit fleet in the U.S. and Canada and has a state of the art call center and dispatch, which is very beneficial for McHenry County. McHenry Township has gone so far as to turn over its scheduling and leases their buses now, which is a cost savings for the township. Mr. Osborn said there are townships out there providing services for seniors and disabled persons by using the municipal Dial-a-Ride (DAR) program, which is a call ahead program to arrange a trip.

Mr. Osborn said they have been focusing on coordinating service within this area with the County Dial-a-Ride, the Pilot Program to enable travel in between the different areas. One of the biggest problems is that we don't have any fixed route services where we have 2/3rds of our population, in the southeast corner of the County. Our density is the seventh most dense in the state and the indicators show that we should have between 5 and 35 bus routes. Mr. Osborn said despite the many projects being built on our roads, congestion is likely to be twice as bad as it is today within the next 30 years. Mr. Osborn talked about the RTA Sales Tax allocation and the Transit Grant Program and how that helps moving people around the County. He said we have a contract with Pace to provide services between Woodstock, McHenry and Crystal Lake. With this contract we are able to provide several grant programs to different areas i.e. Marengo DAR, Algonquin Twp Senior Bus, Faith in Action of McHenry County, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association and Veterans Assistance Commission. PACE has a large fleet of vehicles that McHenry County has been able to utilize to benefit our residents. Mr. Osborn said with our PACE contract people only have to call one number and they have coordinated the calls and the dispatch, so being able to travel between communities helps to dissolve boundaries.

In the future Mr. Osborn said he is hopeful that we'll be able to offer full service where we can turn three trips into one trip by combining destinations. The question being asked is how the Pilot Program is working and overall this program is working out very well. It has turned out to be very cost effective for Dorr Twp to buy into this system instead of running their own. Mr. Osborn said Ms. Chadderdon has been registering individuals with the registration going through the County DOT offices as this helps them get to know who is using the system. It also allows them to educate the users by directing them to PACE's fixed bus routes first, if they're available, because they are the most reliable and then try to provide them with as many other options as possible. Ms. Chadderdon said they've had over 1,400 people register for the service and have seen regular registrations every day noting there is a good representation of seniors, 60 and over, using the services. She said riders are coming from throughout the County with the core cities of McHenry, Woodstock and Crystal Lake being serviced with a good amount of people from Harvard as well. Ms. Chadderdon said in looking at the surveys received 56% of the riders have listed having at least one disability and many of the registrants indicate they are low income noting 95% of those giving information regarding their income are under 80% of the area of median income with just about half right at the poverty level. Mr. Osborn continued by saying from what they have tracked, ridership throughout the County has remained constant and growing and he feels this program is working. The bus routes that we have are handling several thousand trips a month and with the combined Pilot Partners, the County contract with the other contracts, we are providing almost 10,000 trips per month with the coordinated effort. He said in May they started asking people why they were using the service and about 45% are using the service for work. Another 15% is for school and medical purposes. The Senior Express in McHenry Twp is providing predominantly services to the Senior Center. Combined, it's meeting many of our resident's needs and Mr. Osborn feels this program should continue, it is meeting the goals set for the program. He said we have been able to get a federal grant specifically designed to help us get over the next hump which is going to one contract. In moving forward Mr. Osborn said they are going to do more planning, funding and operational changes to keep the program strong.

Mr. Osborn said in the first cycle the County Board appointed an Implementation Task Force; hired a consultant; got a Senior Services Grant for services related to seniors; and then the mini Transit Grant Program was created to fund it. He said we are now in the second cycle where the operations are being monitored and continued funding has been applied for. They will be looking to allocate more money as part of the whole Transit Grant.

Mr. Ross from PACE came forward and said they are committed to working with McHenry County on making this program a success. He talked about improvements that are being made that should be available within the next month which will help our residents. In the end, once the federal grant money is used, the goal is that we will be in a sustainable position with this service. He noted that they have assigned a permanent Project Manager to this project to work with McHenry County in making this work.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any questions. Ms. Peschke asked if the free senior rides were eliminated.

Mr. Ross said the legislature has changed the law and it's up for the Governor's signature. It would include means testing, so if they were eligible for the State Circuit Breaker program they could ride the transit systems free.

Ms. Wheeler asked how we are defining success or failure of this program, the number of ridership or cost or both.

Mr. Osborn said you look at the numbers, riders and cost effectiveness, as well as the partnerships that can and have been formed. He said with this Pilot program they wanted to test two models with the townships. The first one was with McHenry Twp to see if they could turn over their call and dispatch to PACE and that worked out. The other model was with Dorr Twp and whether or not a township should open up its own service to buy its own vehicle and operate it. For Dorr Twp it turned out to be very cost effective. The overall cost per ride is between \$9 and \$13. Dorr Twp residents are paying about \$7 per ride. It was asked who is paying the difference. Mr. Osborn said they call and use the County contract services and they have to pay \$3 per trip. If it's a \$10 trip then that trip was paid 100% by the rider and Dorr Twp. If it cost more than that it would be considered a County subsidy as that is how we partnered with them. Mr. Osborn said we received Senior Grant dollars in the amount of \$180,000 to do the Pilot program and we used about \$225,000 County RTA Sales Tax and our costs for operation in 2010 were about \$220,000. This \$220,000 was for about 800 trips per month. Mr. Osborn said they've been working with the Auditor on keeping all of the numbers straight.

It was asked if any new fixed route was coming. Mr. Osborn responded that a bus along Route 14 could enjoy quite a bit of ridership as well as the north end of McHenry where a lot of commercial building was done. There is a process to go through before anything could be done. Mr. Osborn said Greenwood Twp looks like they want to go in this year and Richmond Twp is looking at something limited. He added that Grafton, Algonquin and Nunda Twp provide their own services. Lake in the Hills and the Village of Algonquin are facing hard choices in that they have stopped their services. Mr. Osborn said they would like to study the whole southeast area to see what could be done. It was asked where the financials could be seen for the Pilot program or the overall McHenry County RTA program.

Mr. Osborn said between him and the Auditor's office they should be able to get the board what they are looking for.

Ms. Evertsen questioned the amount of registered riders being so low. Mr. Osborn said not everyone in the system is registered as registration is required for the inner community services. We are averaging about 30-40 people a day in the inner community. The other riders are from services being provided within the cities. Their best guest of total number of users of Crystal Lake, Woodstock and McHenry DAR in the County contract is over 2,600 unique riders.

Ms. Schuster asked if McHenry County was going to be assuming the coordination and contracts for the municipal governments (McHenry, Crystal Lake and Woodstock). Mr. Osborn said this is correct. Mr. Osborn said if we combine the four contracts out there into one and start working towards standardization services, this is worth the funding that is provided. PACE would manage the contracts and the County would be providing oversight. Ms. Schuster said she would like to see copies of the manifests for the tri-cities program from April through November along with the reports on the ridership and the costs. Mr. Osborn said he will get this information for her. Ms. Schuster then asked if the western half of McHenry County has been considered as to how it's going to be included at some point. Mr. Osborn said the 2005 Transit Plan included some options for the whole County. What is being done now is the first step of a multi phase implementation. To best serve the distances there are a variety of things that will be looked at. Right now there are no plans in place.

Mr. Provenzano said his concern is with Richmond Twp only looking to provide service for special needs. He asked who would be responsible to talk with municipalities about programs they may or may not choose. Mr. Osborn said they have been working with the Implementation Task Force which included the Township Supervisors for some townships and Mayors for several of the communities. Notices are sent out. Chairman Koehler said a presentation was given at MCCOG so municipalities who might not have been at the Task Force meeting could have heard about it there.

Chairman Koehler said our goal is to deliver services to our residents that we can all afford.

Several board members and Chairman Koehler thanked Mr. Osborn and the DOT for this very informative presentation. Ms. Osborn said the power point slides could be posted on our website as a PDF for reference if anyone wanted to see it.

Chairman Koehler asked Mr. DeVries of the DOT to come forward to talk about the impending snow storm. Mr. DeVries said there have been several calls about this historic storm that could produce as much as 24 inches of snow before it is all over. There will also be 50 mph winds occurring between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. tomorrow. He said their crews have been working 24 hours a day since the weekend. Their goal is to try to keep roads passable but short of that it will be difficult if not impossible to keep up. They will be adjusting their crews to overlap to try to have roads open as much as possible during the rush hour but then some of the crew will need to rest. Arrangements have been made to keep their staff here in Woodstock at the Days Inn so as not to get snowed in at home. It was noted that safety is the most important thing and if there are whiteouts they will have to stop their trucks until there is some visibility. There is the possibility that some roads will be impassable due to drifting and great amounts of snow. Meetings are ongoing with different emergency entities to coordinate the handling of this historic event. Chairman Koehler said the Sheriff's office has deployed their snowmobile units as there are many accidents across the county already.

PLATS  
None

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Laurel Ksepka of Woodstock	against	Petition #10-14
Constance Jones of Alden	against	Alden Road project

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

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Koehler said the Mental Health Board appointments will be removed as they were not on the Agenda.

Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Mr. Jung to approve the following Appointments:

12.1 Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission	
Brian D Jenkner	term to 01/01/2014
Robert R LaPorta	term to 01/01/2014
Virginia D Peschke	term to 01/01/2014

Ms. Peschke asked to abstain from the vote.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner and Koehler. Abstain: Peschke. Absent: Hammerand, Hill, Munaretto and Salgado. The vote being nineteen (19) ayes and one (1) abstention noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Appointments has passed.

Chairman Koehler said in regard to the Mental Health Board appointments he was advised there was one more candidate that needs to be chosen so they will be brought forward at a future meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Ms. Miller said the DOT Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been rescheduled for Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. before the County Board meeting.

Ms. Schuster said Management Services is working on the County Board Rules of which there are many issues. She asked that members take a look at the minutes of the last meeting and make any observations to any one of the committee members.

Ms. Donner said the Planning & Development meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning. where there will be a UDO discussion. Mr. Sandquist said the UDO meeting is before 10 a.m., then P & D at 10 a.m., NERC at 11 a.m. and the ZBA at 1 p.m. Public meetings will be after that.

ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Evertsen asked to remove item #14.2 K(2).

Ms. Peschke made a motion seconded by Mr. Provenzano to approve the Routine Consent Agenda with one item removed.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Mr. Provenzano noted that we have our debut Legislative Program for 2012 which came out of the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. He thanked Mr. Heisler for his coordination on this.

Noting no other discussion the Chairman asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner and Koehler. The vote being twenty (20) ayes noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Routine Consent Agenda with one item removed has been approved.

*14.2 K(2) Resolution to approve the Acquisition of Right-of-Way for highway purposes for the Alden Road Bridge project*

Ms. Miller made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to approve the above-named Resolution.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Ms. Evertsen asked for clarification of the Resolution and what kind of land we are acquiring with this. Ms. Schaupp of the State's Attorney's office said whenever we do land acquisition for any kind of road project we do a Resolution exactly the same as this. Whether we negotiate a deal prior to the project beginning or if this particular piece was one that was in litigation but a settlement after pre-trial conference has been ascertained, so now based on the settlement we need the money moved over. It is still land acquisition for a project and we never specify whether it's a negotiation or a settlement however, if this was a judgment that would be different, but this was not. This is one that the parties did settle based upon information that came in at a pre-trial conference.

Ms. Schuster said when a Resolution comes to the board like this she feels the board has a right to know if litigation was involved. Ms. Miller said she understands the concerns being voiced, she suggested that in the future the DOT provide a memo with the Resolution giving some background on how we arrived at a particular resolution then everyone knows firsthand what the DOT knows moving forward. Ms. McCann appreciates this suggestion but she does not feel the resolution is accurate about the business dealings of the County. Ms. Kurtz said she has trouble approving this because it does not describe the situation.

Noting no other discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Draffkorn, Heisler, Jung, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner and Koehler. Nay: Evertsen and Kurtz. Absent: Hammerand, Hill Munaretto and Salgado. The vote being eighteen (18) ayes and two (2) nays noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve 14.2 K(2) has been approved.

ORDINANCES

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin reminded board members that the Strategic Plan meeting will be Friday from 8:30 to noon.

Mr. Austin noted that Mr. Annarella will be staying overnight with staff at Valley Hi to make sure everything runs smoothly there during the snow storm. Mr. Austin said the Valley Hi Operating Board is having their own Strategic Planning meeting on Saturday from 8 to noon.

Finally, Mr. Austin said he and Chairman Koehler would be meeting with the Chief Judge, EMA, DOT, Facilities Management, Court Services and the Sheriff to talk about the impending blizzard. It does look like McHenry County facilities will be closed tomorrow (Wednesday) noting this is the third time in six years the county has had to close due to weather conditions. It is his anticipation that an e-mail will be sent out to all county employees by this afternoon.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Peschke urged anyone who gets resume's from people applying for various commissions to shred them if they are not needed so that personal information is not lying around. Also, she urged board members when we have presentations to ask questions and in the interest of time if you have a report that is your own information that is not of general interest for the rest of the board that you talk to staff members outside of the meeting.

Ms. McCann thanked Chairman Koehler for a thorough State of the County Address. She asked if meetings are cancelled for Thursday (namely UDO) will that be posted on the web page. Mr. Austin said if the County facilities are closed on Thursday it will be on the website. If the facilities are open but Camiros makes the decision not to come, Mr. Sandquist will know early and he'll be in touch with board members.

Ms. Miller thanked Mr. Korpalski and staff from MCDOT for the Alden Road hearing and also for all of the board members who were able to attend to see what had been done with the plan. She feels they are working very hard and moving in a positive direction with being more available to residents concerns.

Ms. Schuster asked about the CDBG that the Chairman mentioned in his address regarding the loss of funds. Chairman Koehler responded that two years ago when we had problems with agencies that didn't handle their paperwork correctly, and although we tried very hard to correct things we were penalized by the Federal Government because of that. We have corrected many things having had to go back eight and nine years to redo work that was done incorrectly.

Ms. Kurtz thanked Ms. Miller for the Alden Rd presentation and overall event as it provided a great overview and gave her an opportunity to meet with interested citizens.

Ms. Wheeler said she was disappointed in the Northwest Herald's coverage about the Alden Rd meeting. There was an emotional and concerned resident that staff talked with and worked with to help her understand the process and get the information she was looking for. She was very impressed with staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Koehler said there was a need to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Mr. Donley made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to go into executive session.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Miller, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner and Koehler. Absent: Hammerand, Hill, Munaretto, Salgado and Donley. Chairman Koehler noted a quorum present with nineteen (19) members responding going into executive session.

Ms. Schuster made a motion seconded by Ms. Evertsen to return to open session.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Draffkorn, Evertsen, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner and Koehler. Absent: Hammerand, Hill, Merkel, Miller, Munaretto, Nowak, Salgado and Breeden. Chairman Koehler noted a quorum present with sixteen (16) members responding coming back into open session.

Chairman Koehler noted that no action was taken while in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Evertsen made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 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: 03.01.2011