

MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
667 WARE ROAD - WOODSTOCK IL 60098

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

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

District 1 Bob Bless Anna May Miller Marc Munaretto Robert Nowak	District 2 JS “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 T McCann Ersel Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. The following members were present: Bless, Donley, Donner, Evertsen, Hammerand, Jung, Koehler, Kurtz, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler and Yensen. Ms. Hill arrived at 8:19a.m. Ms. McCann and Ms. Miller arrived at 8:22a.m. Mr. Heisler arrived at 8:50a.m. Mr. Provenzano arrived at 8:55a.m. The following members were absent: Breeden, Draffkorn.

Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Adam Lehmann, Assistant to the County Administrator; Jamie Rein and Tom Carroll, State’s Attorney; staff, interested public and the press.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

BUSINESS

Discussion – County Board Rules: The meeting focused on the McHenry County Board Rules and changes as recommended by the Management Services Committee. Management Services Committee Chairman Schuster informed committee members that the committee had recommended this information be brought forward for consideration by the whole County Board. She stated the County Board rules could be pulled and sent back to committee or if needed, the rules could be amended on the County Board floor.

The Committee members reviewed the suggested changes section by section, beginning with Section 3, CHAIRMAN. It was recommended that the Chairman not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. This was a recommendation as the term cannot be limited, per State Statute. Committee members questioned why we should address this issue in the rules if the term cannot be limited specifically by statute. Committee members stated that the rules are a guide on how we operate as a board. The rules are not cut in stone and these recommendations give leeway to allow the

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 1, 2011

Page 2

County Board to bring new blood into this position. Concern was raised regarding the inclusion of rules when they have no sound basis in the law. It should be the responsibility of the board members to vote how they want and not as "recommended". It was also stated that a good part of our board rules are not based on statutes but our desire to manage our organization

Chairman Koehler stated he would need a definition of "directive related communication" included in the rules.

Committee members were informed that the VICE-CHAIRMAN section included the same changes as recommended in the term limits for the County Board Chairman. The rules for this position were changed to not allow the County Board Vice Chairman to serve as a Committee Chairman, effective December, 2012. Committee members questioned why they would restrict the role of a County Board Member. It was stated that the responsibilities for the Chairman has increased significantly and the person in the Vice Chairmanship position may need to fill the role of Chairmanship at any time so they need to have the ability to have a seamless transition if the need should arise.

The succession role of the committee's was changed to allow for a more seamless transition with the roles of the committees. The Management Services Committee did not feel in its current form that it fit the roles of succession as needed.

In the Conflicts of Interest section, language was added calling for Board members to notify fellow Board members of believed conflicts informing them that they will not discuss or vote on a specific matter. It will be up to each member to determine whether a conflict exists. Ms. Wheeler stated that in some of the committees there could be issues regarding voting for Social Service Agencies. Some of the members won't speak up because they want to vote in favor of funding for their agencies then vote in favor or against other agencies, causing an indirect conflict. They have been working with P & D Staff regarding this issue as HUD has raised concerns as well.

In Section 7.1 mileage paid to County Board members was changed to "may" be reimbursed, instead of shall. This allows each of the County Board members to decide whether they want this compensation or not. Mr. Hammerand stated that a County Board member is not required to accept this reimbursement and "may" opens the door for interpretation. He suggested the wording changed to "mileage reimbursement may be accepted". It was noted that the idea was to point out the options for this reimbursement. #7.2 was changed to expand the definition of allowable expenses which will be reimbursed from a County Board member's expense account which has been broadened to include "expenses incurred for County Board business". County Board members were reminded that any "item" purchased from these accounts becomes property of the County. Committee members questioned who will be responsible of tracking this inventory. Committee members were informed that this is an issue of the Auditor. In section 7.3 wording was included to clarify how County Board member expenses are approved.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 1, 2011

Page 3

Section 8.1 was more clearly defined. Section 8.2 was changed to hold both of the County Board meetings during the evenings to allow more participation of the public. Committee members stated they are aware of other County Board's that hold all of their meetings during the day hours and this has not closed participation by the public. They stated if attendance of the public is an issue, maybe the board meetings should be held on a Saturday. Other committee members stated that having both times available allows those individuals who work during the evening hours to attend a day meeting and alternately, to attend an evening meeting when they are unable to attend a day meeting.

A case in point is that there is a large contingency of the public attending this morning's meeting. By allowing alternate times there is a good balance for choice of attendance. Additional committee members stated that they think there is a good balance with the times remaining as they are currently scheduled. Committee members also voiced concern with requiring staff to attend two evening meetings per month as well.

Mr. Heisler arrived at 9:50a.m.

Mr. Provenzano arrived at 9:55a.m.

Committee Chairman Schuster stated that since discussion has not been completed on the County Board rules the board members would be notified of a proposed future meeting. This Resolution will be pulled from today's County Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Ms. Salgado. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Dated and approved by the McHenry County Board at Woodstock, Illinois this ____ day of _____, A.D., 2010.

Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

Katherine C. Schultz, County Clerk

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