

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

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 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 Donner Nick Provenzano Kathleen Bergan Schmidt Barbara Wheeler
District 4 Sue Draffkorn John Hammerand Pete Merkel Sandra Fay Salgado	District 5 Tina Hill John Jung, Jr. Virginia Peschke Paula Yensen	District 6 Randall Donley Diane Evertsen Mary McCann Ersel Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Koehler. The following members were present: Anna May Miller, Marc Munaretto, Robert Nowak, JS “Scott” Breeden, James Heisler, Kenneth Koehler, Donna Kurtz, Mary Donner, Nick Provenzano, Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Barbara Wheeler, Sue Draffkorn, John Hammerand, Pete Merkel, Sandra Fay Salgado, John P. Jung, Jr., Virginia Peschke, Paula Yensen, Randall Donley, Diane Evertsen, Mary McCann, and Ersel Schuster.

The following members were absent: Tina Hill, John Jung, Jr., and Bob Bless.

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’s Office; Paul Lerner, IT; Kathie Schultz, County Clerk; staff; interested public and the press.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion – County Board Redistricting:

Chairman Koehler laid out the timeline for redistricting which included:

- April 23 - Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) will pass a resolution with guidelines for redistricting
- May 3 – County Board will approve a resolution with guidelines for redistricting
- May 12 – LIA will review initial maps
- May 26 – LIA to pass new map
- June 7 - County Board to be presented the new map
- June 9 - discuss any final modifications to map
- June 21 - approve new district map by County Board

- Chairman Koehler further discussed that the main purpose of the Committee of the Whole (COW) is to discuss the following core questions:
 - How many County Board districts?
 - How many County Board members?
- Mr. Heisler highlighted the presentation LIA heard on April 14th with regards to the technology capabilities for redistricting.
- Mr. Austin gave the background for Dr. Fortner and indicated he is a State Representative from West Chicago and is also a Statistician from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Fortner has done a lot of work in the past on redistricting and saw an opportunity to use Dr. Fortner as a third party. The first core question to look at is how many County Board members and districts they want to have.
- Mr. Carroll indicated we have to have the core questions in place by the first County Board meeting in July (July 6, 2011).
- Ms. Salgado asked how much we were paying Dr. Fortner for his work and Mr. Austin said that the number is under \$5,000.
- Mr. Heisler was asked about the types of districts that were looked at by Ms. Yensen. Mr. Austin said that during the April 14th LIA meeting, six members were present and four were in favor of leaving the maps as six districts, one member wanted single member districts, and one member wanted nine districts with 18 representatives.
- Ms. Salgado asked putting the County Board Chairman being elected Countywide on referendum on what the timeframe would be. Mr. Carroll responded that this can be done at any time, but if the County Board were to take a move without a referendum, now would be the time.
- Mr. Merkel made an argument for the reduction of County Board members and that now is the time to do it. It was discussed that having less Board members would be more cumbersome and that a full-time wage might be needed if this were the case.
- Ms. Wheeler spoke in favor of a single-member district like Lake County has. Ms. Bergan Schmidt supported the notion of single member districts and that the County Board has the ability to run different scenarios using the software.
- Ms. Kurtz indicated that now was the time for the County Board to reinvent itself through any restructuring it would take and she supports Mr. Merkel's proposal.
- Mr. Hammerand is in support of 24 members in six districts and feels that it represents the residents well. He feels that it is important to keep the structure similar to the way it is for equitable representation on committees from all districts.
- Mr. Randy Donley likes the size of the districts, but feels the County Board should be reduced to 12 people, and feels that an increase in salary would be beneficial.
- Ms. Schuster is in support of Mr. Hammerand's proposal. She is also in favor of seeing a map of the proposed districts.
- Ms. Salgado is in support of Mr. Merkel's proposal, but wants to see a map as well. There is concern about people not knowing who their County Board member is.
- Mr. Provenzano supports the current structure with the committee workload.
- Ms. Yensen felt that they have to be conscientious of school district and township boundaries.
- Ms. Peschke indicated that historically the County Board has not had an issue being representative no matter how the map is drawn.

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ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Provenzano, seconded by Ms. Miller. 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., 2011.

Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

Katherine C. Schultz, County Clerk

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