

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF THURSDAY MAY 26, 2011

Chairman Heisler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following Committee members were present: James Heisler, Chairman; Ersel Schuster; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; John Jung, Jr.; Marc Munaretto; and Nick Provenzano. Pete Merkel arrived at 9:13 a.m. Also in attendance: Chairman Ken Koehler; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Adam Lehmann, Assistant to the County Administrator; Nicole Gattuso and Brittney Venetucci, GIS; Robert Miller, Algonquin Township Road Commissioner; Anna May Miller, County Board Member; interested public and the press.

James Heisler, Chairman	
John Jung, Jr.	Pete Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Nick Provenzano
Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	Ersel Schuster

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from May 12, 2011. Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Provenzano to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Miller from Algonquin Township joined committee members to voice concern regarding the redistricting map as suggested. He stated he did not attend the public hearing regarding suggested changes but was made aware of these changes while attending a meeting at Prairie Isle. He stated that he was shocked to see that District 1 has rotated clockwise and changed the northern boundaries for the District. He stated that District 1 has always followed the township boundary lines in this area and now the boundary has been pushed down. He stated he was distressed to see that the County has not accepted public comment on the suggested map. The map that was placed in the newspapers was unreadable. He stated that he would like the committee to consider additional tweaking of the map to put these three precincts back into District 1. This would allow for the neighbors to be cohesive. He requested the committee members to review the geographical area and stated that to keep this boundary as is makes more sense.

PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Designating the Number of Board Members and Adopting the McHenry County Redistricting Map: Committee members entered into a discussion regarding the proposed redistricting map as suggested at the previous committee meeting. Committee members voiced concern regarding the changes being made would divide some of the communities. Some of the committee members voiced concern that the committee is only focusing on one corner of the map and voiced frustration in the process. Ms. Schmidt stated that there have been no verbal discussions regarding the suggested map. She stated that they have suggested putting some of the rural area into an urban area and she does not like this. Committee members noted that no matter what changes are made, all of the districts will be impacted and will see some of the current population shifted into other districts. Each of the committee members stated that they feel the least amount of disruption is the best. It was stated that each of the districts is represented in this committee and at the previous meeting this committee felt the proposal of the previous map was reasonable. Mr. Provenzano requested the committee members to continue to explore the options. The previous map was approved so he suggested that this map be reviewed to see if additional changes could be made in order to get agreement on the map. He stated this would allow for the committee members to see what the impact of their changes would be. He reminded committee members that if they change the numbers in one district they will have to be picked up somewhere else. It was stated that District 2 may be the only district that does not change too much only because of their geographic location on the map. Committee members agreed to move forward with the Federal Legislative update while waiting for another draft map for review.

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Federal Legislative Update: Committee members were informed that there is very little to report. They are still trying to figure out how they will allocate funds to the local agencies. It is known that earmarks are out for this funding round. There are some efforts to set aside 5% of the budget for prioritization of local projects. Mr. Austin stated that they had a fairly lengthy discussion with the Ferguson Group and the DOT regarding funding for phase 2 of the Randall Road project. Mr. Austin reported that it may be necessary to get in contact with the Administrators for some of the programs to form a relationship in order to get additional funding. They may have to review the funding request list and see where there are opportunities to meet with the Administrators for some of the programs. This will be more labor intensive, especially this late in the year.

Additional discussions have been held regarding requests for funding for Stormwater. The County now has a strong relationship with the Corps of Engineers so it is hopeful that some Stormwater funding will come to the county.

Mr. Merkel arrived at 9:13a.m.

NEW BUSINESS CON'T

Committee members reviewed a new map as suggested by Mr. Munaretto. The biggest change was to try to not divide the Municipalities and Townships as much as possible and find alternatives that are agreeable. Committee members voiced concern that there has not been any public comment on any changes to the map. They stated they should be proactive in getting community input on the suggested changes. Committee members stated that they thought there was a consensus at the last committee meeting regarding the last suggested map and with the new recommended changes brought forward today they stated they don't think the map is any better and in fact feel it causes more concern. They questioned why they are reviewing new maps when they had a consensus at the previous committee meeting regarding the suggested changes. Chairman Heisler stated that they need to decide whether to keep the previous map or the map as put before the committee today or, a new map if either map needs additional changes. He stated he would like to take a poll of the committee members to see the decisions of the committee members. Committee members were reminded that they still have no map until it is voted on by the County Board. Proposals can be brought forward in order to redraw the map on the board floor. It was stated that a decision is not needed today as there is an additional committee meeting prior to the County Board meeting if additional discussion is needed. Some of the committee members felt that they should be allowed additional time to study the decisions made at the previous committee meeting. The County Board members could review the suggested map and concerns can be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Provenzano and Mr. Jung stepped out of committee at 9:40 a.m.

Chairman Heisler noted that he would like to move forward on this issue as soon as the two members return to the committee meeting. Chairman Heisler requested that the meeting move forward to the State Legislative update while waiting for the committee members to return to committee.

State Legislative Update: Mr. Lehmann provided committee members with a State Legislative Update. He stated he emailed an update of the State Legislation Tracking report. Committee members stated that one of the issues they would like to bring back for discussion is the issue of cell towers. This legislation will give the County the same powers as those granted to the municipalities. The first part of the report shows the bills that have passed both Houses. The second part shows those bills that are still active and the last part of the report shows those bills that have stalled or been defeated.

They are also tracking the legislation on the distribution formula for local governments. This legislation is being looked at by both the House and Senate and if changes are done it will be through a budget implementation bill.

Committee members questioned if they have received any information on funding for the Probation office. It was noted that they are trying to restore full funding for this issue, though no action has been taken. A bill has been entered by both the House and the Senate, though the House bill is not as attractive as the Senate bill.

Committee members were informed they are still watching SB1686 regarding the publication fee for Assessments. This issue has general support and the county will continue to monitor this issue.

Committee members were reminded that back in February they received a proposal to cut 6% funding to nursing groups. This has been eliminated but has lengthened the time frame in which funding is being received.

The Regional Office of Education is still waiting to see what the General Assembly does on this issue. The County has a position that it needs to fill, but does not know if any funding will be received for this position. Committee Member's questioned if they don't get funding from the State, who would pay for this position. The State only funded both the Regional Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent positions for 11 months. Though there are a handful of larger County's that augment these positions, McHenry County previously elected to not fund these positions. It was stated that this issue may affect any person that may apply for this position. Committee members were told that if an applicant is applying for this position, they are likely to know about the unique situation that is taking place. Applications for the position close on June 10th.

Mr. Jung and Mr. Provenzano returned to committee at 9:50a.m.

Committee members requested the issue regarding the cell towers brought back to this committee for discussion. They stated they would like to see that County's have the same power as the Municipalities on this issue. It was stated that this is an issue that could be included in the State Legislative program when the County's legislative program is being put together in October/November.

Chairman Heisler requested committee members put a motion forward regarding the map. Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung to recommend the Resolution Designating the Number of Board Members and Adopting the McHenry County Redistricting Map, as suggested at the previous committee meeting. The motion carried with four ayes (Jung, Merkel, Schuster, Heisler) and three nays (Munaretto, Schmidt, Provenzano)

Committee members were reminded that the maps will be provided to the County Board members on June 7th. Final modifications will be completed by June 9th and will then be voted on at the June 21st County Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Committee members were reminded that the EDC Breakfast has been scheduled for June 9th at 7:30 a.m., they were questioned if they thought the next committee meeting should be scheduled a little later to accommodate those that may wish to attend this breakfast. It was suggested that the next committee meeting begin at 9:00a.m.

Committee members requested that a PDF of the new map reviewed today sent to the other County Board members for review. They stated that this should be sent out as a proposed map of what was looked at today.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Schuster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution Designating the Number of Board Members and Adopting the McHenry County Redistricting Map

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