

**MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING
AUGUST 2, 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, August 2, 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. McCann gave the invocation/personal remarks.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to approve County Board meeting minutes from June 21st and July 5th, 2011 and COW meeting minutes from July 19th, 2011.

Chairman Koehler asked for any changes or corrections. Ms. Kurtz asked that two sentences of her remarks be added to the June 21st minutes of the County Board. Changes have been noted and will be added.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it he declared the motion to approve County Board minutes of June 21st (as changed) and July 5th and COW meeting minutes of July 19th has passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS/REPORTS

Chairman Koehler said in the last two weeks he has spent quite a bit of time at the IL Tollway Authority. He believes that we are going to see some major improvements coming up that are going to be beneficial to McHenry County. They are looking at doing some major renovations to the I-90 corridor from the Kennedy Expressway all the way up to Rockford and will include one of the interchanges that we have wanted to see done for a long time. Projects could start as soon as 2012 and the improvement will greatly improve capacity at that corridor as well they are looking at ways to add public transportation to the corridor at the same time. They feel by moving these projects up they will save about \$500 billion dollars in the overall project costs.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1 County Artwork – Tina Hill

Ms. Hill asked that we move forward as the artist is not here yet.

8.2 Assessment Process – Robert Ross

Chairman Koehler said he gives Mr. Ross a lot of credit coming on board with the county in a year when we've had so many protests to property taxes and the home values going down.

Mr. Ross came forward and noted that a spreadsheet handout was passed out to members to follow along. It illustrates the 2010 McHenry County Assessment process Board of Review results and the subsequent 2011 projected equalization factor that is a bi-product of the 3-year sales ratio study as well as the activity and value loss that occurred at the Board of Review the prior year. Mr. Ross said it's very difficult for assessment officials at this time with property values going down as they are and with the Department of Revenue making officials adhere to a 3-year sales ratio study.

Mr. Ross said around April of each year after the Board of Review assessments have been certified to the Clerk and have been sent to the Department of Revenue they will send us back a tentative equalization factor for each township. The tentative equalization factor that was given to each assessor for 2010 is the first column after the township on the spreadsheet copy (copy in the board file). After the townships have certified their books to the Supervisor of Assessments office they then apply a factor to get them to 33 1/3. This projected factor shows where assessments have to go to be at 33 1/3. Last year they ranged from 12.5% to approximately 6% and still achieved a 1.

There was only one of 17 townships that made changes equating to a 1 and that was Algonquin Township. The first 15 townships did not do much assessment change therefore when the books were certified by the Supervisor of Assessments to the Board of Review it resulted in an applied factor that was fairly close to the projected factor that they were given. Fifteen out of 17 townships accepted negative equalization from the Supervisor of Assessments, meaning their assessments from the prior year were reduced before they were sent to the Board of Review.

At that point the appeal process began with a total of 5,885 appeals being processed last year. After figures were calculated the total percentage loss for McHenry County townships was 3.48% which resulted in the state equalization factor of 1.0348. Value loss was significantly in one township and that was Grafton.

Mr. Ross said last October the Assessor in Grafton Twp wanted to submit his work with changes that approximated 18% in downward assessments. That would have resulted in the bottom line of an equalization factor going on the assessment notices of approximately an 11% increase. So, all the assessments in Grafton Twp would have been raised 11% if the original assessments were accepted by the Supervisor of Assessments for Grafton Twp. He thought that would have been a big problem with the assessment notices going up 11% so he then thought he should take this to the Board of Review to indicate that the Assessor wanted to make these changes and what it would cause if these were done pre-equalization. It would have caused a massive number of appeals in Grafton Twp and the value loss in Grafton Twp, although it might not have exceeded 11% as it did, he still feels that the assessment loss in Grafton Twp would have been 5%-7%. Mr. Ross said in October of last year they had a potential problem with getting done on time and still keep the tax cycle in a timely fashion, as it was they were a week late. This did cause a bit of a problem in Kane County where they made the assumption that we had a 1% equalization factor from the state when it was actually 1.0348.

That will be corrected next year but Mr. Ross said it's important for McHenry County to get back on track as far as getting assessments done in a timely fashion by the first or second week in March at the latest. He said that may present a problem with what they are encountering. The number of appeals has risen from about 1,000 in 2006 to 5,885 in 2010 which does not include a significant amount of appeals from Grafton Twp; actually only 209 from Grafton Twp because there was 9,340 revisions and corrections. The other factor that has now been a problem with Grafton Twp is that they have a 1.053 projected factor for 2011 based on the value loss at the Board of Review which primarily came from the revisions and corrections that were submitted by the Assessor and accepted by the Board of Review. Mr. Ross said the intent is to get Grafton Twp back on track as soon as possible but they are having a problem; at this point the Grafton Twp Assessor is recommending that everyone appeal again this year in a different fashion than what happened last year. Mr. Ross referred to the message to property owners on the Grafton Twp website under the heading July 2011 where it talks about their assessments. It indicates that notice of assessments will be mailed from McHenry County at the end of August or early September; Mr. Ross said they have not yet received their books so he does not know if the notices will be sent at that time. Also in this newsletter Mr. Ross said he has a problem with some of what is written because the changes that were made last year at the Board of Review that resulted in the Board of Review loss and the subsequent 1.0531 factor this year was based primarily on the assessor wanting to make these changes. Mr. Ross said blaming McHenry County or the State of IL for a 1.0531 factor this year is not fair; he accepts his offices responsibility and the Board of Review's but he doesn't feel it is the county's fault solely.

Mr. Ross went on to say last week at an American Legion presentation, with information from a resident's group at Sun City an e-mail that was copied, Mr. Ottley allegedly told everyone they should appeal their assessment and that he and his staff would help. He hoped that the Board of Review would receive 12,000 appeals and be saturated. He allegedly advised residents to find two sales within the year for their models to use as comparables for their appeal. Apparently one of Mr. Ottley's assistants indicated in an e-mail response back to the resident in Sun City that this was correct and they encouraged property owners of the township to protest and that the staff at the township office would help the best they can.

Mr. Ross said he has a concern with the continued attitude of the Grafton Twp assessor in this process. He feels that it threatens Grafton Twp, those districts that touch Grafton Twp and it threatens the property tax system in McHenry County. He feels there is a right and wrong way to effect change and this is not it.

Chairman Koehler asked what the impact is on the rest of taxpayers in McHenry County.

Mr. Ross said the PTEL increase was 2.7% and all districts that were under PTEL could achieve revenues of 2.7% higher this year than they did the year before, which with assessments going down resulted in a burden shift to some people who did appeal vs. those who didn't appeal throughout McHenry County. The shift of burden is an unintended consequence of the way the system is set up with Board of Reviews and appeals. Representative Franks has introduced a Bill that if assessments in a county have a negative equalization factor, the Bill would suggest that the PTEL calculation, CPI should be zero and not 2.7% or 1.5% which it is this year. Mr. Ross said the primary reasons why taxes go up in a PTEL County is based on the increase in the CPI or the amount of money tax districts would ask for as well as a shift in the burden. Assessments in themselves do not determine, with the exception of new construction which there has been very little of, how much a district would get; they determine who pays the portion the tax districts get but it does not affect the amount of money that a tax district would get.

Chairman Koehler asked if Mr. Ross could say how much the burden shift took place with people that might be in the same school district but not in the same township. Mr. Ross said the burden shift happens throughout McHenry County, significantly in Grafton Twp and those districts that they share because there was a 12% value loss in Grafton Twp. Mr. Ross explained that if a township were to go down by 10% and there were no appeals or activity and the CPI was 2.7% which is what most tax districts ask for, those tax bills would go up 2.7% even with the 10% assessment reduction. The assessment burden depends on if your relative assessment compared to others in your tax district.

Several board members commented on being unhappy and/or disappointed in the way things were done in Grafton Twp. Others applauded Grafton Twp for assessing properties at a more realistic level of the market today. It is noted that the information that Grafton is giving out is misleading. Just because you get your assessment lowered does not mean your taxes will necessarily go down. Mr. Ross said they are looking at the appeal process as a vehicle to reduce their burden and that's part of the problem right now.

Ms. Hill said that this is a very confusing issue and appreciates the comments on how to affect change. She thinks change needs to be affected from the board level and they all don't understand the process. When she gets complaints about assessments there is no uniformity or consistency of how assessors assess and she feels there has to be a way for us to get some consistency and uniformity in how all homes are assessed. Mr. Ross said the Department of Revenue does try to level out assessments between county with inter-county equalization, that's where these factors come from. However, the Department of Revenue is basically telling a township here is where you have to go in assessments in the aggregate (the total). Within that total it is up to the discretion of the assessor to spread the burden as they feel fit amongst residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural properties. This is where various levels of experience come in. Mr. Ross said in regard to the 12% reduction mentioned earlier, he appreciates the comments that assessments should be down to indicate a true market value but under the system that we have the reduction of 12% has now created a situation that it has to go up in Grafton Twp and he doesn't know if the results were what was really desired in the long run. He is looking to put things back into an equilibrium state as quickly as possible.

Ms. Yensen said she lives in Grafton Twp and asked if Mr. Ross has had an ongoing conversation with Mr. Ottley in Grafton Twp about some of the issues. She thinks we need to look at the taxation piece and whether it is consistent from one township assessor's office to another and that there should be discussion with units of governments about how much people can afford to pay for services. Mr. Ross said his first concern to him was that it became apparent that the 1.0531 factor has to be applied and there will be no more revisions or corrections this year, we have to get back on track. Within that 1.0531, once his books are submitted, he will look to see where the reductions are; the Board of Review will be scrutinizing appeals from Grafton Twp very closely and in the spirit of fairness this year it will be those that had large reductions vs. those that didn't. Mr. Ross said there have been preliminary discussions but they haven't produced a lot.

Mr. Ottley has told Mr. Ross that he is going to let Mr. Ross, as the Supervisor of Assessments, equalize at 1.0531. Mr. Ross said he will reach out to him and try to figure out if we should sit down and look over changes that were made.

It was asked if assessors from townships were invited to today's meeting. Chairman Koehler said not for this meeting, today was to give the County Board an idea as to how the process works and then have a follow up meeting to this where we will invite all of the assessors along with any board members that wish to be a part of the meeting.

Ms. Schuster asked that the Legislative Committee take a look at this issue and try to figure out what we can recommend to our state legislators to help the problem.

Ms. Kurtz stated that we need to look at our own specific responsibilities on this board when it comes to approving various expenses and that comes back to the idea of being efficient and having a smaller government. She feels we should be looking to see how we can make county government more cost effective and we can't do that if we continue to grow it.

Ms. Salgado said tomorrow there will probably be an article in the paper that discusses this and it will also discuss the shift in burden and people will panic. She asked what Mr. Ross's plan of attack is for that. Mr. Ross said the budget has not been finalized yet and they might need more Alternates to the Board of Review; also they could possibly need to have weekend or evening hearings. Everyone who requests a hearing or appeal is entitled to it and they must be finished by early March so that the Board of Review assessments can be certified to the Clerk and then get them down to Springfield.

Ms. Peschke commented that this needs to be looked at more globally because things have changed over the years with people living longer and such instability in the economy. The State of IL is not living up to its statutory obligation to pay for the schools 51%, and if it were paid for the way it should be, our tax bills would probably go down by at least one-third.

Chairman Koehler said Mr. Ross has been out to many places trying to explain the assessment issues and will continue to help people understand the process. He thanked Mr. Ross for his presentation this evening.

8.3 Webcasting and Agenda Management- Adam Lehman

Mr. Lehman came forward and said Management Services has requested that this presentation be done for the full board about where we stand currently with webcasting and what we could be looking at in the near future. He said the county began looking at webcasting in 2006 through the Management Services Committee to provide our citizens with streaming over the internet the ability to watch or listen to our meetings. This summer we have been in contact with a company called IQM2 out of Long Island and with Dale Nelway at MCC, who has a background in Installation, to talk about what we would have to do to make it possible to stream with cameras and audio over the internet. Transparency is one of the main drivers behind this project and McHenry County does have a lot of information on the internet for the public to see and use. Along with live streaming of the meetings, this project would include an Agenda Management program which would make the process of putting together an agenda much more efficient.

The cost for Agenda Management with workflow processes and document generation etc. will cost about \$2,575 per month. To add webcasting to this would cost about \$575 per month additional which would allow us to have the ability to put what we capture on camera and stream it over the internet through the system that we already have in place. On the web display we would have the video next to the agenda itself and you would be able to go within the agenda, click on it and go to that part of the meeting that you are most interested in which goes hand in hand with time stamping and indexing. Reporting tools and Google analytics will allow us to understand who is viewing our meetings and where they are viewing them from. Mr. Lehman said we would also be able to generate meeting minutes which would allow us to streamline the process through utilizing it to go hand in hand with the agenda management process. It would be done with pre-developed set up and boxes for unlimited text and will be complimentary to the way we do minutes now. Mr. Lehman said he recently met with Mr. Nelway from MCC and the hardware cost would be about \$6,050 and is a one-time cost. This would include installation of three mounted cameras at different points of the room, a switcher-data-video feed to control going between each camera, two monitors to see what we have on the cameras and a controller, a Copius ADDC55 which is the other items we would need to capture what is said and make sure everything is formatted digitally before we broadcast it out. The installation cost of these items with wire installation and commission would be about \$31,762.24; this would update the County Board room and expand into the other room.

Mr. Lehman said with the consent of the board an RFP could be distributed for web streaming services and also an RFP for equipment and installation. The board would also need to decide if this should be a FY2012 supplemental or utilize available funds in the current FY2011 budget. Ms. Schuster, Chair of the Management Services Committee wanted to see what the board as a whole would like to do on this project as it has been discussed for some time.

Mr. Austin asked the board if this is something we want to pursue. The board felt that this is a good project to continue with the county's transparency efforts to the public, however, at this time some felt spending the money when the county is trying to cut costs is not right. Some members questioned spending over \$31,000 for something that very few people will actually log onto to watch. Mr. Provenzano felt that live streaming would be critical to this project and asked if all three cameras would have that ability to live stream so that the viewer has the ability to view what they want vs. someone controlling the switcher deciding what is going up the link to the web. Mr. Lehman said he believed it would be one camera at a time. Some board members said they would not want this to be a supplemental expense.

Ms. Schuster said the first part of any action taken would be the Agenda Management portion. With this program they are looking to bringing together a process that will eliminate a good deal of the labor intensiveness of the current way of doing the agenda. The time and work involved right now in putting the agenda together and doing the minutes is mind boggling. It was also felt this might reduce FOIA requests because everyone would have access to the meetings.

Ms. Kurtz commented that the board discusses complicated topics and this tool will be important. The most important impact she sees is that this makes the County Board more accountable.

Ms. Schuster thanked Ms. Hill for starting this ball rolling several years ago. She noted that we will be using I-Pads shortly and this is the type of thing we can carry with us and we don't need paper any more.

Chairman Koehler thanked Mr. Lehman for his presentation and the Management Services Committee for keeping this project in the forefront. If anyone has any comments or questions, get them to Ms. Schuster or a member of the Management Services Committee.

Ms. Hill noted that the artwork is in the room. The artist can't be here this evening so she asked board members to take a look at the art before they leave this evening.

PLATS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Koehler explained the rules of Public Comment. The following persons spoke:

John Reihansperger of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
RJ Kruger of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Mark Galassa of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Bob Beltran of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Trudi Baer of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Ed Wolff of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Jim Cosgrove of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Ned Neumann of McHenry	regarding/for	care of Non-Dedicated Roads (NDR)
Jim Bolinger of Huntley	regarding	Grafton Twp Assessments

Noting no others wishing to speak, Chairman Koehler closed this part of the meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Koehler talked about the Superintendent of Schools issue saying that we have three counties, ours being one of them, that are interested in consolidation of this office. However, based on the laws that are out there it does not allow a county of our size to be able to do consolidation. As of today the Governor still has not done anything to provide funding for this position. Many of the Regional Superintendents are currently working for free hoping that when we get into the fall session that the state legislators will come back and find money to pay these people. The Chairman said we have a dilemma here because we have one position that needs to be replaced with no funds to do it, and the opportunity to make government smaller, at least under the current statutes, does not allow us to take that action. He said 11 people applied for the position and upon review of the applicants only four of them have the qualifications for the position. Although he doesn't know how many of them would work for free, they are going to go through the motions in making the final contact to see if any of them are interested under the current parameters.

If one of them chooses to take on this position they are committing to run in the election next year for that position. The Chairman said he will be talking with Mike Tryon to see if there is anything that could be done legislatively and then bring it back to our Legislative Committee so that they can begin to take a look at it.

Mr. Hammerand asked when the Regional School Superintendent position is vacant who will take care of registration of teachers and bus drivers etc.. Chairman Koehler said currently we are working with the Regional Superintendent from Lake County; she has been signing all of the documents that need to be signed. Mr. Hammerand asked if we could make an offer to pay Lake County for their services. The Chairman said we are required by statute to have this position filled and to staff and house the office of the Regional Superintendent. At this time we pay for four staff members for this office. The Chairman said we must take action by the next board meeting. If we don't have a candidate that is willing to serve, he doesn't know what we have to do.

Ms. Hill said she reached out to District 200 and talked to the School Board VP and asked how they are doing. Apparently they are working very well with the fire department on life safety issues and the rest is with the help of the Lake County Superintendent. The political argument remains: is this position of Regional Superintendent of Schools really needed or can the school districts take on the duties themselves. Obviously there is political dysfunction if statute requires that we have this position and that the state is to pay for this position, and then the Governor refuses to abide by the statute by removing the funding for this position from the budget. The Chairman said this position was set up back in the 1800's when we had one room school houses around the county,

Mr. Provenzano said we are doing what is required by advertising for the position as we have no control over people not wanting to work for free. He suggested leaving the position open and just let the state sue us. He believes we had one applicant who had called him and she said she would be willing to take the job without pay and she has the qualifications.

Chairman Koehler said there are other States that operate under a completely different system and that is what IL needs to look at. He said we do have another problem and that is if we don't appoint a person then we might have to have a special election. County Clerk Schultz said there is nothing out there that she is aware of to call a special election if you don't make an appointment. She discussed some of these issues with legal counsel for the State Board of Elections and there is nothing there. She said the board does need to be aware that the Regional Board through the Superintendent's office also takes care of boundary changes in your school districts which could be critical if we got any districts that were looking at changing boundaries.

Mr. Merkel asked what happens if we find no one. Chairman Koehler said we will continue to work with Lake County as long as we can. They actually pay their Regional Superintendent a stipend above what the state salary is, which presents a whole different problem for them. The Chairman said if Lake and Kane County come to a point where they can no longer help us we will have to shift the burden back down to the State of IL, we won't have a choice.

Mr. Merkel asked where the other counties are on this issue. The Chairman said we are unique in that we had two elected officers walk off the job because they weren't going to be paid. County Clerk Schultz said something else to be aware of when talking about other counties is that most of your regional school boards are not a county office they are multiple counties that form that office. When you get down state you could have more than five counties making up a district.

Ms. Yensen said she is opposed to someone volunteering their time and would like to see the Legislative Committee draft a letter to the state and our local representatives as to their commitment to this unfunded mandate at this point. The Chairman said from his conversations with local representatives, they are not interested in funding this office.

He said we are concerned about this and our students and want to make sure that our teachers are certified and that they go through the back ground checks and stuff that needs to be done.

Chairman Koehler said next week you will hear an announcement made from the three county Chairmen from Lake, McHenry and Kane, in regard to another issue and he hopes the board will be supportive of that initiative.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Routine Consent Agenda.

Chairman Koehler removed item #14.2 K(5) from the agenda by request of DOT.

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

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Ms. McCann said in regard to 14.2 K4 and K5 she requested that the residents and businesses on Dowell Road & River Road and the one resident on Charles Road be notified that a project is pending, the parameters of the project and a rough time line of the project and who to contact if they have questions. Ms. Donner commented that the people at River Road and Dowell Road will be thrilled with the project.

Noting no further discussion Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Peschke, Provenzano, Salgado, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung, Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak and Koehler. Absent: Hill and Miller. The vote being twenty-two (22) ayes noting two absent, the Chairman declared the Routine Consent Agenda with one item removed has passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said our new Workforce Investment Director has been very involved with some job fair activities with the new WalMart coming into Johnsburg.

Out at Valley Hi he said they are having a second informational meeting where they invite county residents out to Valley Hi to learn about how things are going out there. This meeting will be on August 17th and they will talk about Medicaid. The intent is to get people familiar with Valley Hi.

Also, Mr. Austin recognized Dave Christensen and Bob Ellsworth in following up on the request for more generators. We reached out to the IL Terrorism Task Force and we now have three new 60 kilowatt generators that will be stored here. We will need to share them with other counties should need arise but we will have access to them.

Mr. Austin noted that HR is starting a new program in August. There will be three programs during the lunch hours that will be providing information to employee's on fiscal health i.e. investing for retirement and those kinds of programs.

Mr. Austin said the Jail has just received a report back from ICE on a 3-day audit that was done; the report was very strong and they were impressed in how the jail is being run.

Mr. Austin noted that we have new signage around our campus noting that the signs have been reworked and freshened up a bit.

Tomorrow the DOT will have two events; at the Transportation Committee meeting there will be a presentation on the 2040 Transportation Plan and then following the meeting there is going to be a demonstration of the new Brine making system.

Mr. Austin said on August 16th from 4:30 to 6:30 we will have an open house on the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the progress being made. There will be a brief presentation on the UDO at the County Board meeting at 7 p.m. Prior to the board meeting there will be a COW meeting at 6 p.m. to update the board on finances.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES/MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Wheeler said regarding PTEL and Mr. Ross's presentation. She said in a time where there is no growth and assessments are lower it says on the internet that we as a County Board can put a referendum up asking to opt out of or rescind participation in PTEL and feels we should look into this. Chairman Koehler and County Clerk Schultz said that the collar counties can't rescind. Ms. Schultz said we couldn't opt into it so we can't opt out of it, we have no choice. This will be verified.

Ms. Yensen said the Stormwater Commission had a meeting and there was a suggestion to put the Stormwater Commission monthly meetings on the County Agenda calendar instead of on the Planning & Development one. She noted that Dave Brandt is retiring and asked that we put together a Proclamation in his honor recognizing his service to the county. Also, a request from the Stormwater Commission is being sent to the NERC Committee for the rewrite of the Stormwater Management Ordinance as they think it is time for an update. Lastly, Ms. Yensen said she went on line to the Attorney General's site and took the Open Meetings Act test and now has her certification. She encouraged all of the board members to do this as it was a learning experience.

Ms. Kurtz reminded the board that there will be a Children's Health & Safety Fair tomorrow at MCC. It is an opportunity for children to get many freebies including health and dental care provided by Centegra Family Health Partnership. Secondly, Ms. Kurtz said since our last meeting there was an article in the paper on the 23rd stating that "Plan would oust five from Metra board" with a sub-title of "Agreement in place for group to retire, reshape entire board since Pagano's death. "

The issue concerning this was the Regional County Board members, including our Chairman, had discussion at that time about retiring a number of board members, of interest to us is Jack Schaefer. Mr. Schaefer was the Treasurer when Mr. Pagano died and was defensive of Mr. Pagano at the time of his death. Troubling to everyone was the level of corruption that occurred at Metra at that time. Ms. Kurtz asked Chairman Koehler if he had an update from that meeting. Chairman Koehler said no he had no update at this time. He provided a letter to board members stating something that was agreed upon between the County Chairmen who were at that meeting. He suggested that Ms. Kurtz not believe everything she reads in the paper because there is not a 100% consensus on this issue. The best he can say right now is to stay tuned because there is going to be more action that may or may not be coming forward and there is too much influx right now to make a formal report on this issue. Ms. Kurtz referred to Section 3 of our County Board rules in which it requires the Chairman to provide updates as they become available or at the upcoming County Board meeting. She thinks it is important for all members, with the issue of corruption at hand and Mr. Schaefer was right out in front of it with Miss Doris, who is now gone, to be informed as it makes everyone sensitive to the situation.

Chairman Koehler said publicly there has been a report put out that she has the ability to look at. As far as the negotiations that have been going on, they are with three specific senators and he doesn't want to get into it because it is more politics than anything else. The comments that were made in the paper were via Jack Franks and the Chairman said the issue out there has to do with personal attacks on Mr. Schaefer. He said this is a delicate situation that all of the county Chairmen are trying to work through with their appointees. The fact of the matter is even up to the top, including Carol Doris, none of these individuals had anything to do with the day to day operations; this was something that was done by an employee, there was no way that the others had any control. Under their watch all of this was uncovered and this is one of those issues that are extremely sensitive at the moment. Once there is a complete decision and they are ready to disclose what they are going to do, it will be brought forward.

Ms. Kurtz noted that transparency is very important in this situation and the more details that board members have regarding this is very important. Also, the issue of accountability is paramount and she's not sure how comfortable she is with the issue of not being involved with day to day operations, obviously boards are not involved with day to day operations. Chairman Koehler said there are 11 people who are appointed to this board; of those each of the collar counties has one appointment. There is a tremendous concern about balance on the board so that it's fair for both the collar counties and Cook County and the City of Chicago. He reiterated that the issues that are out there that involve what was stated in the paper are very sensitive issues and ones that currently will not be brought out in the public eye.

Ms. Schmidt said this Sunday the Historical Society has a special event going on, an open house at Pringle School which is a limestone, one room school just North of Marengo. There's also the opportunity to visit the Stewart Scottish Cemetery which is nearby there. This is a family cemetery that has been restored within the last ten years. It's on private property, the Wilson farm, and on Sunday you can go on the property to see the cemetery. The address is 29016 River Road, just East of Rte 23, and it will be open from 1 – 4 on Sunday. Pringle School is West on River Road.

Mr. Hammerand said the McHenry County Fair will be opening tomorrow and closing on Sunday. He encouraged everyone to go over and take a look at the exhibits and talk to people in the area. He was asked to be a judge for small engines, welding and bicycles and the children were very knowledgeable and articulate. Also, he said he has been to several financial seminars in the last six months and he hasn't run into any citizens that were telling him that they were paying too much in taxes or that they really thoroughly understood the taxing system. Most of them thought that we were walking away with the barn because of the way it is set up. Mr. Hammerand said he would like to see a system that we can understand with clarity and be able to explain to people in short sentences. An interesting thing about our system is the equalizer; when they say they're going to re-assess and bring up the value of the house 5%, he wondered if the tax rate would preclude that. Mr. Ross responded that if they all went up by 5% the tax rate could go down or up depending on the assessments.

Mr. Heisler said on August 11th at 8:30 a.m. there will be a Legislative Committee meeting. He would like to hear from people who have ideas on what should be on that agenda ahead of time.

Ms. Draffkorn said she lives on a non-dedicated, heritage road and she would like the County Board to look into the matter of helping with these roads. Also, in Wonder Lake tonight the Sheriff's office has their National Light Out at Harrison Benwell.

Mr. Merkel said he also lives on a non-dedicated, heritage road and his neighborhood went through the process of getting it upgraded. In talking with many people he explained the process they went through and the people who spoke here today are not looking to go that route where it costs them money. This is a complicated issue and there is no free ride. Mr. Merkel said people should talk with their township supervisors and highway commissioners to get educated on this issue.

Ms. McCann said she also lives on a heritage road but they did get paved. She complimented the gentlemen who gave their statements during public comment so that the board could get a picture of the big problem. She said she would like to sit down and look into this. Chairman Koehler said this should probably start at the Legislative Committee to look into the opportunities.

Mr. Austin said there have been a couple of significant presentations on non-dedicated roads at the Transportation Committee within the last couple of years. They have met with these folks and they are passionate but it's frustrating to not be able to offer a more direct solution for them. One thing he has learned is that it's not a one size fits all answer. The easy roads have been taken care of it's the challenging roads that remain. He asked that if there is more discussion on this that we involve staff that has had discussion and the State's Attorney's office as they have a big file on this.

ORDINANCES

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Ms. Hill to adjourn at 11:57 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 6th day of September, 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: 09.06.2011