



McHenry County
County Board - Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

January 12, 2023, 9:00 AM
County Board Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Pamela Althoff (D6), Carolyn Campbell (D3), Joseph Gottemoller (D4), Eric Hendricks (D3), Carl Kamienski (D6), Jim Kearns (D9), Matt Kunkle (D1), Theresa Meshes (D1), Louissett Ness (D7), John Reinert (D2), Brian Sager (D7), Mike Shorten (D4), Michael Skala (D9), Larry Smith (D8), Gloria Van Hof (D2), Kelli Wegener (D5)

Members Absent: Terri Greeno (D5), Tracie Von Bergen (D8)

Full comments on all agenda items are included in the video recording of this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 9:00 A.M.

Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator; Adam Letendre, Director of Purchasing; Kerri Wisz, Assistant CFO; Joe Tirio, County Clerk/Recorder; Alicia Schueller, Communications and Project Manager.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

4. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:03:27

Good morning, and welcome to the McHenry County Board's first Committee of the Whole of the new year. I have some items to share with you before we begin reviewing the agenda for next Tuesday's voting meeting.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4, the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership officially launched. The partnership brings together governments and economic development organizations from McHenry, Kane, Lake, Will, Kendall, and Cook counties, plus the City of Chicago, to leverage our strengths and unite our efforts to strengthen the regional economy in an increasingly competitive global market. The partnership will promote the region's many assets, such as our extensive freight, air, and interstate infrastructure and our world-renowned research, innovation, and cultural assets. I'm looking forward to the economic prosperity this alliance seeks to bring to McHenry County and the entire six-county region.

Last week, we received the resignation of Chairman Tom Burney from the Regional Plan Commission that is overseeing the development of the McHenry County 2050 Comprehensive Plan. We will be adding a resolution to the County Board agenda that will appoint RPC member Mary Donner as the new chairwoman.

Last Thursday, I joined County Administrator Peter Austin and Valley Hi Administrator Tom Annarella in offering a tour of Valley Hi to Winnebago County Board Chairman Joe Chiarelli and Finance Committee Chairman John Butitta (pronounced Boo-TEET-ah). Winnebago County voters approved an advisory referendum to keep their River Bluff Nursing Home under county ownership, and are considering the creation of an operating board similar to what was used in McHenry County throughout much of the last decade. Their fact-finding mission was fruitful – they had a lot of good questions, and we had good answers. Thank you to Pete, Tom, and Valley Hi staff.

Finally this morning, I want to thank County Board members who took the opportunity during our first round of committee meetings since the board's seating to tour the various county departments that report to them. The next opportunities will be a tour of the Sheriff's Office and our Corrections Department following the Law and Government/Liquor Committee on Jan. 31, and a tour of the 22nd Judicial Circuit and probation following the Feb. 28 Law and Government meeting. You don't need to be a member of the committee to participate; in fact, we encourage any County Board member who wants to participate to do so – just contact Deputy County Administrator Scott Hartman so we know how many people to expect.

As County Board members, if there is an office or department you would like to visit and learn more about, regardless if you are a new board member or a veteran one, please contact County Administration, and they will be happy to arrange it for you.

That's all I have this morning.

5. MEMBERS' COMMENT

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:06:14

William Hellyer, of Algonquin IL, Opposing 9709 Zimmer Drive/Conditional Use

Terry Kappel, of McHenry IL, Supporting Route Bus Expansion in McHenry County

Jan Vanderspool, of Woodstock IL, Opposing Ancillary Dwelling Unit as a right in Estate Zoning

Deborah Althoff-Will, of Algonquin IL, Opposing Legaspi R1-R1C

Eric Mecher, of Algonquin IL, Opposing 9709 Zimmer Drive/ Conditional Use

Eric Kresken, of Algonquin IL, Opposing 9709 Zimmer Drive/Conditional Use

Nikola Sciog, of Algonquin IL, Opposing 9709 Zimmer Drive/Conditional Use

Edward Gogol, of Crystal Lake IL

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a Review of the January 17, 2023 County Board Agenda Items

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:27:25

Chairman Buehler asked for any items that Board members will remove in order to allow staff that is not necessary for questions to return to their departments.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.1 - Zoning Application # 2022-002 Legaspi - Algonquin Twp - R1-R1C (Needs majority vote of members present.), removed for discussion by Ms. Meshes

DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.1 - Zoning Application # 2022-002 Legaspi - Algonquin Twp - R1-R1C (Needs majority vote of members present.)

Ms. Meshes stated they read a lot about the Conditional Use Permit and they need to make a decision based on the standards. Based on the standards she intends to vote no because the neighborhood has narrow roads and the additional traffic brought to the area due to the deliveries/visitors for each resident can be hazardous.

Ms. Van Hof stated she intends to vote no because she communicated with several of the residents in the neighborhood that will be affected. She stated she is familiar with what takes place in a facility that has residents that require care, they could have visits from all sorts of entities, and all of those services in and out of the community are not fair to those who live there.

Ms. Ness stated it is not the purview of the zoning process to understand the program inside of the facility. It is incumbent on the developer to meet the zoning standards, she finds it unsettling that the developer did not go to the neighbors and involve them in the process before proceeding. From a zoning perspective, she has no comment but the emotional impact on the neighborhood she does not support.

Mr. Kunkle stated he concurs with his colleagues' opinions but he wanted to mention a study that found that properties proximate to a group home experience a decline in value over time, which speaks volumes about creating a facility in a subdivision that was planned for single-family use properties.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:32:49

- Mr. Austin stated they have discussed using the ARPA funds to expand Fiber, and they are now up to 22 letters of support for the expansion of Fiber in the North and West townships, school districts, business groups, and the farm bureau. He stated Phase 3 Connect Illinois Program should open up in the middle of February, and they are prepared for when it does open. Adam Letendre and himself were on a conference call yesterday with one of the private entities that want to join.
- There was a good discussion with the Finance & Audit committee about the ARPA funds and how they want to save about \$3 million in the event they need to match funds and he believes that was received well. Stephen Gray did a great job updating the committee about the program and what is remaining, which is about \$14.5 million. That needs to be allocated to the community per the previous County Board's plan, and they have already received more than \$14.5 million worth of applications, so they are well-positioned to move into February and get those funds out.
- Chairman Buehler, leaders from the City of Marengo, ComEd, MCEDC, and himself will be meeting in a week to talk about utilities down on 23 & 90. It is a real priority as they discuss the strategic plan initiatives and economic development, but nothing will occur until they get Nicor and ComEd to put in the utilities that are necessary to facilitate the types of development, manufacturing, and distribution.

- On their desks are four resolutions, two are brand new, one from the County Clerk and Mr. Tirio presented information to the Finance & Audit committee about needing to get new applications in the mail for voters and the associated postage costs, so that will be added to the agenda after reposting. The other is from the Coroner's office regarding medical examination costs that came in late Fiscal Year 2022 that will need to be paid in Fiscal Year 2023, it was also discussed at the Finance & Audit committee meeting.
- He emailed the members last week that CFO Kevin Bueso left the County to join the RTA, they are proud of the work Mr. Bueso did and are looking forward to his next steps with the RTA. He is confident and pleased that they have the talent in-house from Kerri Wisz to step into that position, the finance team completely supports her.
- Stephen Gray who was the point person on the Advance McHenry County project is also leaving to join the Lake County Treasurers' Office, he is confident that they are well positioned internally with what has been done on the project and their relationship with Bronner Group that they can make a smooth transition for that position.
- Donna Kurtz is the new County Treasurer and he wanted to express his appreciation to her and the finance division for the regular meetings they've had already. Ms. Kurtz is looking to implement best practices in her office and learn from how they've interacted in the past and build on them.

10. OTHER

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

Mover: Meshes

Second: Shorten

That the Board move to Executive Session at 9:38 A.M.

Aye (16): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Hendricks, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Ness, Reinert, Sager, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, and Wegener

Absent (2): Greeno, and Von Bergen

Approved (16 to 0)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Skala

Second: Kamienski

To Adjourn at 10:09 A.M. -TCMcKinnon

Aye (16): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Hendricks, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Ness, Reinert, Sager, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, and Wegener

Absent (2): Greeno, and Von Bergen

Approved (16 to 0)