



McHenry County
County Board - Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

December 15, 2022, 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), Terri Greeno (D5), Eric Hendricks (D3), Carl Kamienski (D6), Jim Kearns (D9), Matt Kunkle (D1), Theresa Meshes (D1), Louisett Ness (D7), John Reinert (D2), Brian Sager (D7), Mike Shorten (D4), Michael Skala (D9), Larry Smith (D8), Gloria Van Hof (D2), Tracie Von Bergen (D8), Kelli Wegener (D5)

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.

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 00:03:10

Good morning! I have some items to share with you before we begin reviewing the agenda for next Tuesday's voting meeting. This month's meeting is going to be unique in that the agenda is a short one, but none of the items on it have been reviewed at the committee level, so feel free, as always, to ask questions.

First off this morning, thank you to all of you who submitted your names to volunteer for appointments as County Board liaisons to area boards and commissions. I will be spending this weekend reviewing them.

After two days of packing, moving and unpacking, I'm happy to report that the Regional Office of Education reopened for business yesterday at its new home at 408 S. Route 31 in McHenry. The larger office will allow the ROE to incorporate a Pearson testing lab that will allow it to administer GED exams as well as more than 200 other education industry exams.

In the first quarter of next year, our Finance Department will be sliding down the hall to take that space – County Administration will keep us posted.

Last month, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus unanimously selected Cary Mayor Mark Kownick as its next chairman. The caucus represents about 275 Chicago-area municipalities to act as a forum to work on common issues and improve quality of life for residents throughout the region.

Having partnered with the Village of Cary to forge an intergovernmental agreement to turn the old village hall into a police training center, and to build a law enforcement indoor shooting range on vacant land held by the Public Works Department, we can testify that Mr. Kownick is a great choice to head a group tasked with working collaboratively to get things done. Congratulations to Mark, and best of luck.

I'd also like to congratulate Naturally McHenry County for winning top honors from the annual Illinois Governor's Office on Tourism awards. They won the award in their category for best printed collateral for their 2022 Insider Guide – besides the fact that it looks great and catches the eye, it was the first to incorporate the new branding that Naturally McHenry County, our County government, and the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, now use.

Finally this morning, I'd like to remind the County Board that there will be no committee meetings until January because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays falling on the last week of December.

That's all I have this morning. I was reminded that, under the updated County Board rules, my comments are now followed by Board members' comments, and then public comment. After that, we will bring up Comcast to officially receive their generous award of laptop computers to help clients of several of our social service agencies find jobs and job training.

5. MEMBERS' COMMENT

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:06:03

Terry Kappel, of McHenry IL, regarding Public Transportation

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.a Comcast laptop donation for Workforce Network

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:09:19

Jeffery Poynter, Director of Workforce Network, and Joan Sage, Comcast Local Government Relations Manager, joined the Board to discuss the Presentation.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a Review of the December 20, 2022 County Board Agenda Items

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:22:14

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

Ms. Meshes inquired about the item that was placed on the members' desks. Mr. Austin stated it is not on the agenda yet which is why it is on their desks, he stated he apologized but three resolutions arrived late and they will be added to the agenda when they repost. He explained because of the odd schedule and no committee meetings they had three items that came after the fact.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.3 - Zoning Application # 2022-044 Gilman - Grafton TWP - E2V-E2V (Needs majority vote of members present to pass.), removed for discussion by Mr. Smith

10.b.1 - Zoning Application # 2022-037 Crystal Bowl - Nunda TWP - R1, B2, B3 - B3 (Needs super majority, 14 "yes" votes, to pass.), removed for discussion by Ms. Wegener

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13.i - Resolution to Award Interest Accrued from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Grant Program Funds to Warp Corps L3C in the amount of \$22,500.00 (90), removed for discussion by Ms. Meshes

Health - 2022 - 011 (51), removed for discussion by Ms. Meshes

DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.3 - Zoning Application # 2022-044 Gilman - Grafton TWP - E2V-E2V (Needs majority vote of members present to pass.)

Mr. Smith stated at the last Planning, Environment & Development (PED) meeting they discussed going into January and reviewing the Ancillary Dwelling Unit (ADU) and he stated it is a variation to go from 900 sq. ft. to 1100 sq. ft. He stated there have been a few objections from the neighbors due to a shared driveway that is of concern to one of the neighbors, because they are going to be reviewing the Ordinance in January he will be requesting the item go back to committee for further discussion.

10.b.1 - Zoning Application # 2022-037 Crystal Bowl - Nunda TWP - R1, B2, B3 - B3 (Needs super majority, 14 "yes" votes, to pass.)

Ms. Wegener stated she has concerns because it did not pass unanimously through the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), especially because currently there is a bowling alley, truck training facility, and acres of trees. She stated one of the comments made by a petitioner was that the current owners of the property could cut down the trees anytime, but that does not mean he is going to. She has concerns about cutting so many trees away because they act as a bumper to all of the busy intersection noise and she requested someone from the ZBA come and give an explanation as to why they voted the way they did. Mr. Wallen stated he does not have anyone from ZBA at the meeting to give that opinion, he apologizes for that because it was added late upon review and discussion with another Board member. If anyone has questions about the six objections that are contiguous to the property, they drive the three-quarter majority vote, which he sent out to the members. Ms. Wegener stated other neighbors around that area are not contiguous but do have objections as well, it is an intersection that was developed in the past 10-15 years and she has concerns for the people who still live there, and will be talking with the neighbors further.

Mr. Gottemoller stated under the State Statute if 20% of the neighboring property owners object they can force a three-quarter vote, it works not on conditional use but only on zoning variations, changes, or map amendments. He stated he believes it requires 14 people voting yes for it to be approved, but he too has concerns about it as well because it is something he expected the petitioner to work out with the neighbors to allow some of the buffer to remain but that has not happened which is why they are there with objections.

Ms. Wegener inquired if the petitioner was in the audience, if not she suggested it would be helpful for them to be at Tuesday's Board meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13.i - Resolution to Award Interest Accrued from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Grant Program Funds to Warp Corps L3C in the amount of \$22,500.00 (90)

Ms. Meshes inquired about why Warp Corps was chosen to receive the grant funds. Mr. Mach stated Warp Corps has a gap in funding at the current time, the funding will begin around January 1, 2023. In consideration of the fact that the homeless population is vulnerable, the thought process would be to go

to the Board to request to use some interest funds from the ARPA allocations to bridge them over for three months. He stated the homeless population is assisted by street outreach with accessing services, they need to develop a level of trust with the individual and work them on to the next level which involves an emergency or transitional shelter. Ms. Meshes inquired if there are any other gaps in other agencies that they serve through the different grants the County offers. Mr. Mach stated there is affordable housing which is one of the biggest gaps, with about 6000 units of affordable housing which is not easily attained but is continuously being worked on as it is a motivating factor for their work.

Mr. Austin stated Warp Corp is continuing what they have been doing all year, after coming to the County in October because of the gap that was going to present itself between January 1 - March 31. He stated the Mental Health Board (MHB) is supportive of the funding after approaching them in terms of trying to find a solution but they were not able to because of the guidelines that the MHB has. He stated Mr. Mach and Mr. Bueso got creative in finding the solution, which is essentially interest from the ARPA funds, it is a short-term solution but important to Warp Corp and the homeless population. Ms. Meshes stated she is supportive but she wanted to make it clear how they were chosen.

Health - 2022 - 011 (51)

Ms. Meshes inquired if there was competitive bidding for the contract. Mr. Letendre confirmed there was, stating it was done last year through Valley Hi and they allowed cooperative purchasing so the Health Department is trying to sync with the Valley Hi contract. Ms. Meshes inquired if it is just for Valley Hi or if it is also for parts of the Department of Health. Mr. Letendre stated it is for the Health Department, independent of Valley Hi but worldwide staffing is capable of providing services to both those parts of the County.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

- Mr. Austin stated yesterday afternoon he emailed out his quarterly County Administrator report, it is significant with the assistance of Mr. Hartman and Ms. Bough. He stated he is appreciative of the Elected offices and department heads for getting them the content included in the report. It is large but they have time over the next several days to review it as there is a lot of good information included in there. He wanted to note a few items that are not included in the report.
- He wanted to go back to the Advance McHenry County program, it was the innovative and forward-thinking program to get the ARPA funds distributed to the community. They paused as they seated the new board and adopted the 2023 budget, and they are going to get back into that at the January Finance & Audit committee. There is about \$14 million left to allocate, and there are more than \$14 million in requests. One thing they funded last year was an innovative program to get high school seniors into manufacturing internships over the summer, and he is pleased to report that he has been involved with the manufacturing pathways program in the County and they are excited to do it in summer 2023. They funded over \$770,000 which was able to support over 100 high school interns last summer and they will be doing it again.
- He wanted to note yesterday was a big day for the County's preparation for the pre-trial fairness component of the Safety Act, and the no cash bond is happening and will begin January 1. They hosted a meeting yesterday at McHenry County College with roughly 60 police chiefs and deputy chiefs, and the State's Attorney's Office did a great presentation on what it would mean for law enforcement. The state is modified some of the legislation and added more definitions to what is a detainable offense, but there are still questions and those answers are forthcoming. The modifications made in Springfield in recent weeks, people view as positive, not everyone is satisfied but things are moving in the right direction.
- He stated after the meeting at the College there was another meeting at the Courthouse for their practitioners, those who run the court system. Chairman Buehler was eager and able to attend the meeting as well, Chief Judge Chmiel led the discussion but they had a room full of people within the court

system who are on that next step now that someone has been brought and booked in Woodstock they went through the 48-hour process pertaining to their detention.

- Now that there are new members on the Board, they will see him sending out daily emails titled capital facts, which is an update about what is going on in Springfield. He stated it is not to be forwarded, the County has an account that permits him to send 25 of those but the members need to keep the email to themselves.
- He noted he has lanyards for any member who would like one for their County badge.
- For County Board members who are a part of the Health Insurance program are entitled to a Wellness Screening, they did over 300 in December but the County gets more money from the Insurance Cooperative if they get 500. He stated they are on track for that goal but encourages the members who are a part of the program to sign up.
- At 11:30 a.m. the employee Holiday Luncheon begins and he welcomes any of the members that would like to attend.
- Lastly, Carla Wyckoff has been the County's champion parliamentarian for the State's Attorney's Office Civil Division and it is her last week. He wanted to thank her as she has been an immeasurable assistant to the County and he is saddened to say goodbye but wishes her much luck.

Ms. Althoff stated for the members who have constituents that are interested in the remaining \$14 million of the ARPA funds, she inquired if they have set up any new parameters for how they will look at allocating those funds. Mr. Austin stated he would not call them new parameters but they have 5 or 6 community groups that have scored well and need to be revisited with the Finance & Audit Committee which would use about \$5 million. Then they have a few Water/Sewer projects that are in the queue and where they need the Finance & Audit Committee's help to lay out parameters for a maximum award, if they set a maximum they can fund more projects. Additionally, Comcast is making an investment in Fiber in the County but there are other private entities that are looking to make a significant input into the County. He stated between Chalen Daigle, Adam Letendre, and himself they have been able to secure 17 letters of support from school districts, municipalities, townships, the farm bureau, and the fiber network for the Fiber investment. Phase 3 of Connect Illinois is set to be open in the latter part of January and they want to partner with a few private entities to jump on the dollars to get the rural parts of McHenry County hard-wired. They may need some of the remaining \$15 million to make some of the match dollars, roughly \$2 - \$3 million, to help facilitate the matches to work on the Fiber connection.

10. OTHER

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

None.

That the Board move to Executive Session

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Gottemoller

Second: Shorten

To Adjourn at 9:43 AM. - TCMcKinnon

Approved