

McHenry County County Board - Committee of the Whole MINUTES

May 16, 2024, 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), Mike Shorten (D4), Michael Skala (D9), Larry Smith (D8), Gloria Van Hof (D2), Tracie Von Bergen (D8), Kelli Wegener (D5), Chairman Mike Buehler
Members Absent:	Brian Sager (D7)

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; Kerri Wisz, Chief Financial Officer; Adam Letendre, Director of Procurement and Special Services; Alicia Schueller, Director of Public Affairs; Norm Vinton, Chief of the Civil Division; Kyle Bruett, Assistant State's Attorney; Melissa Adamson, Health Administrator; Joe Korpalski, County Engineer; Scott Hennings, Assistant Director of Transportation; Darrell Kuntz, Assistant County Engineer; Edward Markison, Maintenance Superintendent; Beth Skowronski, Maintenance Assistant Superintendent; Sandra Salgado, Business Manager/Sheriff; Adam Wallen, Director of Planning and Development; Anna Kurtzman, Senior Planner of Planning and Development; Leonetta Rizzi, Executive Director of MHB; Cheryl Chukwu, Director of Human Resources; Suzanne Ziebart, Assistant HR Director; Thomas Annarella, Valley Hi Administrator.

Mover: Wegener Seconder: Skala

To allow the remote attendance of Ms. Ness and Mr. Hendricks

Aye (15): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Greeno, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Reinert, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, Von Bergen, and Wegener

Absent (1): Sager

Approved (15 to 0)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Michael Skala led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

Kathie Bough, Administrative Manager, called the Roll.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:04:41

Good morning, I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day weekend. I have several items to share with the board before we begin reviewing the agenda for next Tuesday's voting meeting.

Last week was Public Service Recognition Week, and I'd like to once again thank our loyal and hard-working county employees for everything they do. Thank you to every County Board member who took the time to thank them for their service and who attended last Thursday's employee appreciation lunch.

Last week also happened to be Teacher Appreciation Week and National Nurses Week. So to our teachers and our nurses, on behalf of myself and the County Board, I say thank you.

I'm pleased to inform the County Board that the Sheriff's Office will be cutting the ribbon a week from today on the new Law Enforcement Shooting Range. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. on May 23 at the new facility in Cary. Like the Regional Training Center, we opened last November, this range for our sheriff's deputies and county law enforcement personnel is yet another feather in our cap for projects we needed done and made happen.

Several weeks ago, Kane County officials joined Algonquin Village President Debby Sosine in taking down the toll signs for the Longmeadow Parkway Fox River Bridge. The elimination of the toll for the bridge that will be opened later this year was made possible in part by a \$1 million Advance McHenry County allocation the County Board approved in December, which will save commuters between \$200 and \$300 a year in tolls. Once again, it's inspiring to see the Advance McHenry County program continue to bear fruit and create tangible benefits.

Two meetings are taking place later today that are of interest to County Board members and the McHenry County community.

This evening, our Regional Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing to solicit comments on the draft 2050 Comprehensive Plan prior to its submission to the County Board. The hearing starts at 6 p.m., right next door in Conference Room A. After an overview presentation of the plan, attendees will be able to offer verbal comments to the commission.

This afternoon, the R1 Regional Planning Commission will be holding a workshop in Woodstock to collect feedback on a future update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that helps guide future economic growth for the three-county region of McHenry, Boone and Winnebago counties. The workshop takes place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. today at Woodstock Public Library, 414 W. Judd St. If you can't make it, they will be meeting from 4 to 5:30 next Tuesday, prior to our monthly voting meeting, at the Community Building Complex of Boone County, in Belvidere.

And finally this morning, I'll wrap up my remarks with another local agency soliciting feedback on an important planning document. The McHenry County Division of Transportation is seeking public input on the McHenry County Moves 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The draft plan and executive summary are available on the DOT website, and comments, questions and feedback can be emailed to Assistant Director of Transportation Scott Hennings through May 28. Thank you.

5. MEMBERS' COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:08:09

Carl Kamienski wanted to give thanks to the Johnsburg Business Association which held an expo on May 3. He stated he approached them and mentioned that the County provides goods and services and suggested letting the people see that so they went forth. He also wanted to give a shout-out to the Transportation, Planning and Development, Mental Health Board, Valley Hi, Administration, the State's Attorney's departments, and the Chairman for allowing him to use the flags.

Theresa Meshes stated yesterday she drove to Springfield for the Illinois Association of County Officials Conference and noted that it was very interesting and encouraged other members to attend in the future. She stated she was there specifically for a meeting of the Illinois Association of County Board members and many of them received an email looking for input on whether or not the Illinois Association of County Board members should create a sub-committee on County-run Nursing Homes. She believes it could be a valuable partnership across counties to support each other and help make the County-run Nursing Homes successful in the State of Illinois.

Terri Greeno stated that California is doing bidirectional charging where they are taking electricity from private property, she feels that is something to look at, especially in light of the 2050 plan. She stated global warming which is relatively benign is 43% less than any forecast produced by 36 projections, it could be all-natural as there has been no causality to fossil fuel demonstrated since the research started.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:12:34

Gloria Foxman, of Eugene OR, available to answer questions if needed regarding zoning petition 2024-014

Ryan Solum, of Deerfield IL, regarding zoning petition 2024-014

Kyle Lindsey, of St. Charles IL,

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.a Mental Health Board Presentation

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:17:17

Presented by: Connee Meschini, Board President & Leonetta Rizzi, Executive Director



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At the end of the presentation, Chairman Buehler wanted an update on a question that was asked last year regarding their status for getting up and running for broadcasting their meetings. He stated the town hall would've been a perfect opportunity to be broadcast to those who could not attend and get educated on the information that was provided.

Ms. Rizzi stated they are very close to that happening, she noted that they have received an updated bid for the cameras and believes the door project is superseding the camera project but she does anticipate the cameras being installed in July.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a Review of the May 21, 2024 County Board Agenda Items

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:37:45

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.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.2 - 2024-014 TPE IL, MH637, LLC, Nunda Twp, A1-A1C (Needs majority vote of all members present.), removed for discussion by Ms. Von Bergen

10.a.5 - 2023-041 OneEnergy Development, LLC, Dorr Twp (Needs majority vote of all members.), removed for discussion by Ms. Von Bergen

10.a.6 - 2023-042 OneEnergy Development, LLC, Chemung Twp, A1-A1C (Needs majority vote of members present.), removed for discussion by Ms. Von Bergen

10.b.1 - 2024-007 Prairie Enterprises LLC, Nunda Twp. B1-B3 (Needs 3/4 vote of all members per UDO §16.20.010.D.2.b.(3). Objection recorded as document 2024R0009886), removed for discussion by Mr. Gottemoller

10.b.2 - 2024-012 Toppel, Coral Twp, A1-A2V (A 3/4 vote of all members is required.), removed for discussion by Mr. Gottemoller

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13 - Resolution Amending the Agreement Between the County of McHenry and the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation to the Economic Development Fund Budget (18), removed for discussion by Mr. Skala

REPORTS

16.a.5 - Sheriff's Report, removed for discussion by Ms. Wegener

LAW & GOVERNMENT/LIQUOR

16.b.3.1 - Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the County of McHenry and the Village of Fox River Grove for the McHenry County Narcotics Task Force (32), removed for discussion by Mr. Kearns

DISCUSSION

Mr. Kearns wanted to be registered as a no-vote on all of the solar applications, because of the State, Governor, and Legislator's disregard for the County's jurisdiction.

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.2 - 2024-014 TPE IL, MH637, LLC, Nunda Twp, A1-A1C (Needs majority vote of all members present.)

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Ms. Von Bergen wanted to discuss 10.a.2, 10.a.5, and 10.a.6 together as her concerns are the same in regard to the time limits and drainage issues. Ms. Von Bergen stated if they are conducting drainage studies they should not continue having those issues, and inquired if that is being taken into consideration. Mr. Wallen stated they will conduct an assessment on that but in terms of how that is handled, they approach them the same as they would for any development.

Ms. Von Bergen stated new legislation has been passed that if any drain tiles are hit they must repair those but stated she is not sure a time frame is attached to that. She inquired, with that legislation, if they could put a condition where they must get fixed immediately. Mr. Wallen stated when it comes in as a conditional use, he assumes the answer is no.

Chairman Buehler inquired if there is an operational approval for them to begin production. Mr. Wallen stated there are conditions that they would need to hit in order for them to issue it.

10.b.1 - 2024-007 Prairie Enterprises LLC, Nunda Twp. B1-B3 (Needs 3/4 vote of all members per UDO §16.20.010.D.2.b.(3). Objection recorded as document 2024R0009886)

Mr. Gottemoller stated 10.b.1 are his clients so he must recuse himself.

Ms. Smith stated all of the members should have received a letter from the City of Crystal Lake and the ZBA recommended approval 6-0, so he was going to ask Mr. Wallen to speak to it. Mr. Wallen stated it is a rezoning from B1-B3 and the difference between B1 and B2 is one would serve alcohol but B3 has a heavier use and intends to cater to the larger region.

10.b.2 - 2024-012 Toppel, Coral Twp, A1-A2V (A 3/4 vote of all members is required.)

Mr. Gottemoller stated the ZBA recommended approval for a B2 use as there is a house on-site that would be maintained, but the applicant requested an A2 which the ZBA denied. He stated he would overturn the ZBA's recommendation on the front and approve the A2 because he does not want to set up the applicant so they could not rebuild the property.

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13 - Resolution Amending the Agreement Between the County of McHenry and the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation to the Economic Development Fund Budget (18)

Mr. Skala stated the members had a resolution in front of them in regard to the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) and McHenry County agreement. He stated the resolution did not make the agenda but will be for Tuesday's Board meeting and he wanted to bring it forward beforehand. The MCEDC has been making a point of searching for a new Executive Director, they have an individual that they are negotiating with but a concern is the lack of benefits that the MCEDC provides to that position, which are none. With the individual having a family and benefits in their current position, so he has been working with staff on having the MCEDC employees paid by McHenry County but continues reporting to the MCEDC Board. The resolution not only provides that benefit package but in turn, makes the position more viable in the future. As well, it would be a cost-neutral contract to McHenry County. If the resolution were to go forward, they would be able to hire the new Executive Director and he could then announce who that Director is so they can make the MCEDC grow and help the County.

REPORTS

16.a.5 - Sheriff's Report

Ms. Wegener stated there is a large jump in pedestrian injuries in the report, and inquired about why the increase is so large and if there are any ways it could be reduced in the future. Ms. Salgado stated she could provide information on another day as she would need to go back and collect the data. She stated she can send out the information to the Board.

LAW & GOVERNMENT/LIQUOR

16.b.3.1 - Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the County of McHenry and the Village of Fox River Grove for the McHenry County Narcotics Task Force (32)

Mr. Kearns stated he just wanted to point out some scrivener's errors.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 01:19:24

- Update orientation program for new County Board members
- Update County Board Rules
- Continue Drain Tile mapping project
- Continue progress on GIS Consortium
- Facilitate progress toward a Regional Salt Dome
- Assist with Metra railyard site selection
- Welcome new Chief County Assessment Officer and Human Resource Directors
- Review County's role with MCEDC and develop new contract
- Work with MCEDC Board in recruiting and acclimating a new Director
- Professionalize MCEZ operations to ensure redundancy
- Advance electric vehicle infrastructure for County fleet; consider hybrid vehicles as well
- Union Contracts

- Coordinate development of a new four-year Strategic Plan
- Elevate Federal Lobbying efforts
- Improve Population Estimates
- Examine Artificial Intelligence for County Government
- Work with Mental Health Board leadership to develop new County Board communication and budgeting expectations
- Build on the municipal collaboration efforts
- Monitor Advance McHenry County allocations to ensure expenditures will occur by December 2026
- Implement the Compensation study recommendations adopted by the County Board
- Work to increase workforce housing in the County
- Work with the State of Illinois and private fiber companies to move toward county-wide access to broad band service
- Clarify and formalize the program review process to ensure the Board's goal of reviewing all programs is accomplished
- Initiate county-wide space study
- Maintain fiscal health of the County
- Prioritize the County's carbon footprint study when making County facility related decisions

10. OTHER

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

Mover: Skala Seconder: Althoff

That the Board move to Executive Session at 10:20 A.M.

Aye (15): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Greeno, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Reinert, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, Von Bergen, and Wegener

Absent (3): Hendricks, Ness, and Sager

Approved (15 to 0)

Mover: Skala Seconder: Althoff

That the Board exit Executive Session at 10:25 A.M.

Aye (15): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Greeno, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Reinert, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, Von Bergen, and Wegener

Absent (2): Hendricks, and Ness

Approved (15 to 0)

Mover: Skala Seconder: Greeno

That the Board move to Regular Session at 10:29 A.M.

Aye (15): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Greeno, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Reinert, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, Von Bergen, and Wegener

Absent (3): Hendricks, Ness, and Sager

Approved (15 to 0)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Skala Seconder: Greeno

To Adjourn at 10:30 A.M. -TCCazares

Aye (17): Althoff, Campbell, Gottemoller, Greeno, Hendricks, Kamienski, Kearns, Kunkle, Meshes, Ness, Reinert, Shorten, Skala, Smith, Van Hof, Von Bergen, and Wegener

Absent (1): Sager

Approved (17 to 0)