



McHenry County
Public Health & Community Services - Public
Meeting
MINUTES

February 27, 2025, 8:30 AM
County Board Conference Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Tracie Von Bergen, Pamela Althoff, Eric Hendricks, Deena Krieger, Mike Shorten, Patrick Sullivan, Gloria Van Hof

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 8:32 A.M.

Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Scott Harman, Deputy County Administrator; Adam Wallen, Director of Planning & Development; Sarah Ponitz, Community Development Administrator; Mike Iwanicki, Superintendent of VAC; Alex Wall, County Administration Intern.

Mover: Van Hof

Second: Hendricks

To allow the remote attendance of Mr. Shorten.

Aye (5): Von Bergen, Hendricks, Krieger, Sullivan, and Van Hof

Abstain (1): Shorten

Absent (1): Althoff

Recommended (5 to 0)

2. MINUTES APPROVAL

Mover: Van Hof

Second: Sullivan

Approve the previous minutes of the January 6, 2025, meeting.

Aye (6): Von Bergen, Hendricks, Krieger, Shorten, Sullivan, and Van Hof

Absent (1): Althoff

Recommended (6 to 0)

2.1 Public Health & Community Services - Public Meeting - Jan 6, 2025 8:30 AM

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Althoff arrives at 8:32 A.M.

Mover: Althoff

Second: Van Hof

To approve the remaining items of the routine consent agenda.

Aye (7): Von Bergen, Althoff, Hendricks, Krieger, Shorten, Sullivan, and Van Hof

Recommended (7 to 0)

6.2 Resolution Authorizing a contract with Carmichael Construction for the 2025 Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) Entry Accessibility Project (22)

Mover: Althoff

Second: Van Hof

Approve the VAC Entry Accessibility Project.

Recommended

6.1 Resolution Authorizing Position Reclassifications for the McHenry County Mental Health Board and a Budget Line-Item Transfer to the FY25 Mental Health Board Budget (18)

Pulled for discussion by Mr. Shorten

Peter Austin, County Administrator, joined the committee to discuss the resolution.

The Mental Health Board had broad autonomy over staffing decisions and budget allocations. Initially, they documented a position reclassification and salary adjustment through a memo to the HR department, requesting roster changes. However, HR required acknowledgment from the County Board before making such changes, as payroll operations fell under county administration. To ensure transparency, a resolution was proposed to formally notify the County Board, even though they lacked authority to prevent the changes. Chairman Buehler and Finance Chair Skala agreed that a resolution would provide documentation for all 24 board members.

A meeting was held with the Executive Director of MHB Leonetta Rizzi and attorneys who acknowledged the need for documentation. Since the county managed payroll, maintaining an audit trail was essential.

While the Mental Health Board had the authority to reallocate funds within its budget, the resolution ensured the County Board remained informed. Funds for the reclassification were transferred from various budget line items, including overtime, tuition, consultants, and special studies.

The resolution did not seek approval but served as a formal notification of budget reallocations affecting county payroll procedures. Board members discussed the importance of ongoing communication with the Mental Health Board to track future budget adjustments. While some expressed concerns about the board's limited oversight, they acknowledged the Mental Health Board's statutory autonomy. Moving forward, periodic budget reviews and reports were expected to improve transparency and collaboration.

Mover: Althoff

Second: Van Hof

To approve a resolution authorizing position reclassification for the McHenry County Mental Health Board and an adjustment to the FY25 Mental Health Board budget.

Aye (5): Von Bergen, Althoff, Krieger, Sullivan, and Van Hof

Nay (2): Hendricks, and Shorten

Recommended (5 to 2)

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. PRESENTATION

None.

9. REPORTS

None.

10. FUTURE TOPICS

Ms. Krieger expressed a desire to discuss mandated vaccines for County employees.

Ms. Van Hof noted that there had also been an exemption process for religious and medical reasons. She stated that under state regulations, individuals with a certified medical exemption were only required to undergo weekly testing. At the current time, the mandates are not in effect, but policies could change if COVID-19 positivity rates increase significantly.

Mr. Austin emphasized that the County Board never voted on a vaccine policy, so there was no official action to be undone.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Hendricks

Second: Sullivan

To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 A.M. -TCCazares

Aye (7): Von Bergen, Althoff, Hendricks, Krieger, Shorten, Sullivan, and Van Hof

