



McHenry County
County Board - Committee of the Whole
MINUTES

March 13, 2025, 9:00 AM
County Board Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Pamela Althoff (D6), Carolyn Campbell (D3), John Collins (D2), Joseph Gottemoller (D4), Eric Hendricks (D3), Carl Kamienski (D6), Jim Kearns (D9), Deena Krieger (D5), Matt Kunkle (D1), Brian Sager (D7), Mike Shorten (D4), Michael Skala (D9), Larry Smith (D8), Patrick Sullivan (D1), Paul Thomas (D7), Gloria Van Hof (D2), Chairman Mike Buehler

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Also present: Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator; Adam Wallen, Director of Planning and Development; Renee Hanlon, Deputy Director of Planning and Development; Sarah Ponitz, Community Development Administrator; Kerri Wisz, Chief Financial Officer; Alicia Schueller, Director of Public Affairs; Adam Letendre, Director of Procurement and Special Projects; Sandra Salgado, Sheriff Business Manager; Joe Korpalski, County Engineer; Darrell Kuntz, Assistant County Engineer; David Christensen, Director of EMA; Tom Sullivan, Director of Information Technology; John Bucci, Undersheriff; Adam Letendre, Director of Procurement and Special Services; Alex Wall, County Admin Intern; Norman Vinton, Chief, Civil Division; Andrew Hamilton, Assistant State's Attorney; Troy Owens, Assistant State's Attorney; Elizabeth Kessler, Executive Director MCCD.

Mover: Althoff

Seconder: Kunkle

To allow the remote attendance of Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Shorten

Aye (15): Althoff, Campbell, Collins, Gottemoller, Greeno, Kamienski, Kearns, Krieger, Kunkle, Sager, Skala, Smith, Sullivan, Thomas, and Van Hof

Abstain (2): Hendricks, and Shorten

Absent (1): Von Bergen

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joseph Gottemoller 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 00:04:23

Chairman Buehler began by stating that he had a handful of items to share before reviewing the agenda for the upcoming voting meeting.

He noted that on the weekend of March 1st, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Association of Counties legislative conference. He stated that joining him were County Administrator Peter Austin, Director of Public Affairs Alicia Schueller, Algonquin Village President Debby Sosine, and Chalen Daigle, who acted in her capacity as executive director of the McHenry County Council of Governments.

He said he was pleased to report that they met with McHenry County's entire congressional delegation: Representatives Bill Foster, Brad Schneider, Darin LaHood, and Jan Schakowsky, as well as Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. He noted that during their meetings, they shared legislative priorities and requested support for projects such as funding to relocate the Police Social Work program to a permanent home at the Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center.

He stated that these were times of major change in Washington. He noted that they left for home on the day of President Trump's joint address to Congress, and the following day, they awaited news on whether a continuing resolution would pass or if a partial government shutdown would occur. Despite the uncertainty, he said they remained optimistic about the opportunities these changes could bring. He stated that County Administration would continue to provide updates on federal and state outreach efforts.

Speaking about federal funding, he stated that residents were encouraged to complete a brief online survey to support efforts to expand fiber broadband internet across McHenry County. He noted that more than \$1 billion had been allocated to Illinois to improve internet access in underserved areas, and they aimed to secure a fair share of those funds to connect rural communities, particularly in the western and northeastern parts of the county.

He said the state was working to assess local needs, making public participation in the survey crucial. He noted that a link was placed on the rotating banner at the top of the county website at www.mchenrycountyil.gov. He stated that County Administration shared it on social media, and that the Purchasing Department, along with partners from the McHenry County Council of Governments, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, and the McHenry County Farm Bureau, helped spread the word. He noted that the deadline to complete the survey was Friday, April 4th.

He went on to say that on Tuesday, he, along with Peter Austin and Assistant Director of Transportation Scott Hennings, traveled to Chicago to testify before the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee regarding the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act and a competing bill introduced on behalf of a coalition of labor unions affected by regional transit. He stated that he appreciated Pete and Scott for their thoughtful testimony, which was well received by the committee and its minority spokesman, Senator Don DeWitte.

He concluded his remarks by stating that after reviewing Tuesday's agenda, there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and approve the closed session minutes from a prior Committee of the Whole.

5. MEMBERS' COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:07:28

Brian Sager stated that he wanted to add to the comments regarding the recent hearing before the Senate Committee on Transportation. He noted that he believed the staff did an excellent job and wanted to commend their efforts, both in drafting the statement and in its presentation. He mentioned that Chairman Kirk Dillard of the RTA Board had contacted him the day before to offer high praise for McHenry County's leadership and efforts on transit issues. He said he wanted to share that recognition with everyone.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.a Review of the March 18, 2025 County Board Agenda Items

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:08:14

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.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.4 - Z25-0020 (formerly 2024-070) Nikolic, Nunda & Algonquin Twps, A1-E5 (Requires majority vote of members present.), removed for discussion by Mr. Smith

10.a.5 - Z25-0021 (formerly 2024-071) Nikolic, Nunda & Algonquin Twps, A1-A2 (Requires majority vote of members present.), removed for discussion by Mr. Smith

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13.a - Resolution Approving Entering an Intergovernmental Agreement between McHenry County, the McHenry County Sheriff and the Village of Hebron for Policing Services (32)

13.b - Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Illinois Department of Human Services and McHenry County for the Housing of Forensic Detainees (18)

DISCUSSION

ZONING PETITIONS

10.a.4 - Z25-0020 (formerly 2024-070) Nikolic, Nunda & Algonquin Twps, A1-E5 (Requires majority vote of members present.)

10.a.5 - Z25-0021 (formerly 2024-071) Nikolic, Nunda & Algonquin Twps, A1-A2 (Requires majority vote of members present.)

Mr. Smith stated that he was seeking clarification. He noted that while he did not anticipate any issues, it involved the same petitioner and appeared to be the same property with different zoning requests. He said he would be asking for an explanation.

Ms. Hanlon explained that the situation was not very complicated. The planner working with them had advised that a residential zoning request would have been more appropriate for the parcel, rather than the A-2 zoning. However, it was the applicant's preference, and they were represented by counsel, so the request was processed as submitted. She noted that the reason for the dissenting vote from the Zoning

Board of Appeals (ZBA) on the A-2 parcel was because one board member felt that the agricultural zoning was inconsistent with the comprehensive plan, which calls for higher-density residential in the area. This was why that board member voted against it, although the recommendation was still for approval.

She confirmed that the property consists of two parcels with two different zoning requests, but they are all contiguous, totaling 11 acres. She also acknowledged that the 10-day board voted unanimously, with only one dissenting vote on the second zoning request.

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John Bucci, Undersheriff, and Sandra Salgado, Sheriff Business Manager, joined the discuss the New & Unfinished Business resolutions.

Undersheriff Bucci stated that he would allow Ms. Salgado to speak more about the issue, but he would be available to answer any questions and provide support. She greeted everyone and thanked them for allowing this matter to be brought out of order. She explained that sometimes operational issues arise that don't fit into the regular committee schedule, and this resolution concerns an agreement with the Illinois Department of Human Services to house inmates from other jurisdictions who are found unfit for trial.

She mentioned that the sheriff and undersheriff had been working on this with Illinois for some time. The initiative has already been implemented by other counties, and McHenry County learned from their experiences to make necessary adjustments. She confirmed that McHenry County was ready to move forward and had a designated area in the jail to keep these individuals separate from the general population. The contract allows for a maximum capacity of 12 inmates, which is manageable.

She explained that the Illinois Department of Human Services would contract with Thresholds to provide mental health services, while the existing contract for inmate healthcare would continue to cover medical services. She added that they hoped to begin implementation by April 1 and would work towards reaching full capacity by the end of the year. The resolution was being brought forward under new and unfinished business because they were eager to get started.

Ms. Campbell inquired whether the \$150 per day fee included all care services, to which Undersheriff Bucci confirmed it did, with Thresholds working directly with the Illinois Department of Human Services on the financial arrangements.

Mr. Skala raised two questions: first, he asked whether the costs and expenses would be segregated, similar to how they worked with Lake County. Undersheriff Bucci assured him they could add the information to the monthly reports that are reviewed by the committee and that the costs would be minimal, about \$23 to \$25 per day for each of the 12 individuals.

Mr. Skala's second question concerned what happens currently without this agreement in place. Undersheriff Bucci explained that they currently have three individuals waiting for housing. Illinois only has about 2,000 beds for these cases, so when McHenry County doesn't have space, they must wait until a bed becomes available or until they are deemed fit to stand trial. He noted that McHenry County's jail has the capacity and resources to handle these individuals better than some smaller jails in Southern Illinois. By housing these individuals, McHenry County would become a hub for them until either a state bed opens or the individual is found fit for trial. He clarified that these individuals would not be housed long-term; they would be held temporarily until something becomes available or their status changes.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 00:18:13

Mr. Austin began by referencing the Senate Transportation hearing, noting that Scott Hennings was really the leader on that effort. He mentioned that he was more of a secondary presence but was glad to have attended and learned a lot during the three and a half hours he was there. He also had the opportunity to meet the new Senator Hill, which he appreciated.

He then mentioned the written County Administrator's report, which acknowledges that the Finance Division has once again won the PAFR award. Since the report was written, they have also earned the GFOA Budget Award, which they have received several years in a row. What makes this particularly special this time is that it's still March, and they were able to complete it much earlier than in previous years. He credited Carrie and her team for prioritizing this and utilizing new software to get it done.

Mr. Austin also shared that yesterday afternoon, he, Chairman Buehler, Chair Skala, Scott Hartman, and Mark Piekos met with the city of Marengo about an upcoming agreement, which is expected to come to the board next month. The city is committing to repay a 20% match for a \$3 million project they are receiving from the CEO to extend the water and sewer lines. He said the agreement would likely be structured in such a way that it could be expanded if needed, and the terms would clearly outline the repayment process.

He emphasized that the meeting was productive, not only in discussing the agreement but also in reconnecting with the city, especially since they are undergoing administrative changes with a new mayor and an interim city administrator. The city's attorney was also present. He expressed satisfaction with the meeting and excitement about the project moving forward, noting that they had been pushing for this for a long time. He said that work would soon begin on the water and sewer extension, with a target completion date of the end of October.

10. OTHER

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

Mover: Skala

Second: Campbell

That the Board move to Executive Session at 9:18 A.M.

Aye (14): Althoff, Campbell, Collins, Gottemoller, Kamienski, Kearns, Krieger, Kunkle, Sager, Skala, Smith, Sullivan, Thomas, and Van Hof

Absent (4): Greeno, Hendricks, Shorten, and Von Bergen

Approved (14 to 0)

Mover: Gottemoller

Second: Althoff

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

Aye (14): Althoff, Campbell, Collins, Gottemoller, Kamienski, Kearns, Krieger, Kunkle, Sager, Skala, Smith, Sullivan, Thomas, and Van Hof

Absent (4): Greeno, Hendricks, Shorten, and Von Bergen

Approved (14 to 0)

Mover: Skala

Second: Gottemoller

That the Board move to Regular Session at 10:11 A.M.

Upon returning to Regular Session, the Board reached a consensus to approve the minutes from 05/16/24 and forward them to the State's Attorney's Office for review.

Aye (14): Althoff, Campbell, Collins, Gottemoller, Kamienski, Kearns, Krieger, Kunkle, Sager, Skala, Smith, Sullivan, Thomas, and Van Hof

Absent (4): Greeno, Hendricks, Shorten, and Von Bergen

Approved (14 to 0)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Skala

Second: Kunkle

To Adjourn at 10:12 A.M. -TCCazares

Aye (14): Althoff, Campbell, Collins, Gottemoller, Kamienski, Kearns, Krieger, Kunkle, Sager, Skala, Smith, Sullivan, Thomas, and Van Hof

Absent (4): Greeno, Hendricks, Shorten, and Von Bergen

Approved (14 to 0)