

Proceedings of the Ogle County Board Meeting
September 16, 2008

State of Illinois)
County of Ogle) ss
City of Oregon)

Call to Order

Chairman Rice calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll call shows all members are present. This is followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Rice asks for a motion to approve the August 19, 2008 Ogle County Board meeting minutes. Kenney moves to approve the August 19, 2008 Ogle County Board meeting minutes. Horner seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.

Chairman Rice asks for a motion to approve the August 26, 2008 Special Ogle County Board meeting minutes. Swanson moves to approve the August 26, 2008 Special Ogle County Board meeting minutes. Nye seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Approval of Reports

Chairman Rice asks for a motion to accept the reports of the Ogle County/Recorder and Treasurer. Huntley moves to accept the reports as filed, Colbert seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Presentation – Partners for Employment - Workforce Investment Program – Cindy Kulas

Cindy Kulas presents Angela Garcia who is here to receive the Ogle County Education Achievement Award. Ms. Kulas reads a prepared statement as to why Ms. Garcia was chosen to receive this award. Ms. Kulas and Chairman Rice present the award to Angela Garcia for her accomplishments.

Introduction – Chairman Rice introduces Dennis Berg from the City Council of Rochelle who is here this evening and thanks Dennis for coming to the meeting.

Resolution – 2008-9003 – Mental Health “708” Board Resignation

Chairman Rice presents the resignation resolution of Clifford Knapp from the Mental Health “708” Board. Bauer moves to approve Resolution 2008-9003, Messer seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Resolution – 2008-9009 – County Administrator Resignation

Chairman Rice presents the resignation resolution of County Administrator Jim Mielke which states his last day will be September 19, 2008. Swanson makes the motion to approve Resolution 2008-9009, Huntley seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Vacancies –

Chairman Rice announces the following vacancies -

- Board of Health – 2 vacancies – 1 applicant is required to be a Dentist
- Ogle County Housing Authority – 1 vacancy
- Mental Health “708” Board – 1 vacancy
- Forreston Fire Protection District – 1 vacancy

Application deadline for vacancies will be Friday, October 3, 2008 at
4:30 p.m. in the Ogle County Clerk’s Office

Vacancies – (continued)

- Board of Health – 3 vacancies
- Mental Health “708” Board – 1 vacancy

Application deadline for vacancies will be Friday, October 31, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. in the Ogle County Clerk’s Office

Road & Bridge – Resolution 2008-9004 County Road Construction – 07-00210-01-WR

Huntley moves to approve County Road Construction - Section 07-00210-01-WR – IL Route 251 & Flagg Road Intersection – appropriate \$100,000.00 from Motor Fuel Tax fund & \$600,000.00 from Federal Aid Matching fund (R-2008-9004) and Messer seconds. County Engineer Cook states the construction could begin in 30 – 45 days. The motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Road & Bridge – Resolution 2008-9001 County Road Construction – 2008-2009 Ice Abrasives

Huntley moves to approve 2008 – 2009 Ice Abrasives - Award and Appropriation \$23,670.00 from County Highway Fund (R-2008-9001). Messer seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Road & Bridge – Resolution 2008-9002 Vacation of Nashua St - Oregon-Nashua Township

Huntley moves to approve Vacation of Nashua St - Honey Creek, Oregon-Nashua Township (R-2008-9002). Messer seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Road & Bridge – Resolution 2008-9005 Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement – Scott Road Bridge – Scott Township

Huntley moves to approve the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement – Scott Road Bridge – Scott Township – not to exceed \$21,500.00 (R-2008-9005). Bowers seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Road & Bridge – Resolution 2008-9006 – Intergovernmental Agreement – City of Rochelle and the County of Ogle – 07-00210-01-WR

Huntley moves to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with the City Rochelle – 07-00210-01-WR - IL Route 251 & Flagg Road Intersection (R-2008-9006). Colbert seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Ogle County Claims – Clerk reads the claims:

- Payments in Vacation – August 2008 - \$104,422.31
- County Board Payments - September 2008 - \$91,048.56
- County Highway Fund – \$11,062.73

Colson moves to approve the claims as read, Bowers seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following committee minutes have been placed on exhibit: 911 ETS Board, Blackhawk Hills RC&D, Executive and State’s Attorney, Finance and Insurance, GIS Committee, HEW & Solid Waste, Ill Assoc of Co Bd Members, Juvenile & Probation/Judiciary & Circuit Clerk, LRP- Courthouse Renovations, Regional Planning Commission, Personnel & Salary - County Clerk, Planning & Zoning – Supervisor of Assessments, Road & Bridge and Sheriff & Coroner/Buildings & Grounds/IT Committee.

The following committees had no minutes to file: Board of Health, Byron Dragway, Land-Use Task Force, LRP –Emergency Operations Center, Liquor Commission, Mental Health Board, Safety Committee, UCCI/ICRMT and Tri-County Opportunities.

Executive Committee Minutes Placed on Exhibit

Resolution 2008-9007 Chairman Rice presents Resolution 2008-9007 authorizing payment of \$41,582.39 for the Courthouse Remodeling Project. Nye makes the motion to approve Resolution 2008-9007 as presented, Stahl seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Ogle County Board Meeting

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Chairman Rice presents Resolution 2008-9010 Authorizing the Executive Committee to Coordinate the Hiring of a County Administrator and is read as follows:

WHEREAS, County Administrator James E. Mielke has resigned as County Administrator with his last day of employment being September 19, 2008 and,

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee met on September 10, 2008 and is unanimous in their desire to begin a search for a new County Administrator and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogle County Board concurs with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and charges the Committee with the responsibility of coordinating the search for a new administrator. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Executive Committee desires to retain the services of a consultant to assist with the recruitment the recommendation and proposed consultant contract would be brought before the full County Board for approval.

Hopkins moves to approve the resolution as presented and Messer seconds. Boes asks if there should be a dollar figure included in with this resolution. Chairman Rice states each consultant firm has a different dollar amount – we can negotiate some of the prices for things we do ourselves. Once a firm has been chosen it will be brought back to the full County Board. Colson states the last time around – a committee went through the process of hiring a County Administrator, why do we want to spend money using consultants. Chairman Rice stated it took the committee over a year to hire an Administrator and we do not need to reinvent the wheel. These consultants can save a lot of time and bring the people to us quickly. Chairman Rice states the consultant will hold meetings with the final applicants, interview the staff and County Board. The County Board will meet with the final applicants in a social atmosphere and get to know the person before the final decision is made. Gouker asks if the County could look through the UCCI and see if they can provide this service for the County. Heuer states UCCI would make a referral they do not produce the service themselves. Williams thought maybe we would entertain more discussion of the benefits of the County Administrator. Williams would like to see exactly what the benefits of this position are on paper. Chairman Rice states he has presented information to Boes which was received on Monday afternoon. Chairman Rice is willing to share this information with all members of the board. Huntley comments the budget process has run much smoother this year – with the coordination of the offices and the process has been simplified greatly. Hopkins states he was not in favor of this position originally but now after having the Administrator - he thinks the County has received the best return on our money. Nye states there is no member here with a Masters in Business Administration and the county will be a tremendous step backwards if this position is not filled. Kenney says he talked to every Department Head about this position of County Administrator and they were all supportive of the position. They thought the position brought unity, clarity and continuity to running County business. Gouker would like to discuss if the position of the County Administrator saved the County any money. Brooks states the County Administrator pulled the County Board together and did all he can do to increase the creditability of the Board in the community. He also pulled the Department Heads together and the employees have a better feeling towards the County Board. He recommends we try to find someone as good as Mielke. Messer calls for the question.

A Roll Call vote is called:

YES: Bauer, Bowers, Brooks, Colbert, Diehl, Gronewold, Heuer, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Messer, Nye, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, White and Rice

NO: Barnes, Boes, Colson, Gouker, Kilker and Williams

ABSENT: None

The motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file)

Resolution 2008-9014

Chairman Rice presents the Resolution regarding the closing of 11 State Parks in the State of Illinois including the Lowden State Park and Castle Rock State Park in Ogle County. Colson moves to approve Resolution 2008-9014 and Bowers seconds. Gouker asks to have the word “respectively” changed to “respectfully” for the record. Heuer states the Governor has released information that the State Parks will not close until November 30, 2008 due to State Layoff Policies and Union Contracts. The motion carries on a voice vote.(Placed on file and forwarded to the Governor’s Office)

Personnel & Salary

Minutes placed on exhibit

Resolution 2008-9008

Kenney presents and makes the motion to approve Resolution 2008-9008 to Amend the Ogle County Personnel Policies and Benefit Manual to Designate Retiree Health Insurance Coverage for Non-Represented Employees. The Resolution verbiage is as follows:

Effective December 1, 2008, the County shall begin to contribute fifty (50%) of the cost of single health insurance coverage through the County policy when the non-represented employee retires after at least meeting the minimum age and time statutory requirements of the IMRF pension fund. This contribution shall continue until the non-represented employee reaches the age at which Medicare coverage begins. This contribution is effective for non-represented employees who retire after December 1, 2008.

Kenney states this is a parity item for the non-representative employees. Kenney states all three units of the Sheriff’s Department have this in their contracts. Chairman Rice says this item was made part of the Union Contracts since we lost arbitration. Chairman Rice states other Unions may negotiate this item when their contracts are up. Gouker asks if this item can be re-negotiated – he doesn’t think it is right for the tax payers to pay this for public employees. Messer says the State of Illinois pays for the entire cost of insurance for their retired employees. Chairman Rice states once an item is in a contract it doesn’t go anywhere – it may cost the County more money to get rid of it than what we want to pay. Bauer has voiced his concern about this to the Executive Committee - as the retirement age increases from 70 years of age to 75 years of age. Boes says sooner or later we as a county are going to have draw a line in the sand as to how much money we are willing to pay out. We are here to represent the taxpayers and we are not benefiting the taxpayers. Messer seconds. A roll call vote is called:

YES: Bowers, Brooks, Colbert, Diehl, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Messer, Nye, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, and Rice

NO: Bauer, Boes, Colson, Gouker, Gronewold, Heuer, Kilker, White, Williams and Barnes

ABSENT: None

The motion carries on a roll call vote.(Placed on file)

2010 Holidays

Kenney says he has met with Chief Judge Mallon regarding the modification of the 2010 Ogle County Holiday Schedule. Judge Mallon was willing to entertain the idea of giving up one holiday to allow for ½ holiday prior to Christmas and ½ holiday prior to New Year's. Kenney thanks Mielke for his help with item.

**Long Range Planning
Courthouse Remodeling**

Minutes placed on exhibit

Update

Stahl says the last meeting was very informative. Williams presented about 55 items brought to the Committee and they answered each one of them. The Committee is still looking into windows and the modular unit pricing. Stahl says she and Chairman Rice will keep the communication open.

Finance

Minutes placed on exhibit

Resolution 2008-9011

Bauer moves to approve Resolution 2008-9011 regarding the Trustee Tax Sale on property 22-05-477-004 – White seconds and a roll call vote is taken:

YES: Boes, Bowers, Brooks, Colbert, Colson, Diehl, Gouker, Gronewold, Heuer, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Kilker, Messer, Nye, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, White, Williams, Barnes, Bauer and Rice

NO: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carries on a roll call vote.(Placed on file)

Resolution 2008-9012

Bowers moves to approve Resolution 2008-9012 regarding the Trustee Tax Sale in property 25-23-276-015 – Diehl seconds and a roll call vote is taken:

YES: Bowers, Brooks, Colbert, Colson, Diehl, Gouker, Gronewold, Heuer, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Kilker, Messer, Nye, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, White, Williams, Barnes, Bauer, Boes and Rice

NO: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carries on a roll call vote.(Placed on file)

Resolution 2008-9013

Colson moves to approve Resolution 2008-9013 regarding the Trustee Tax Sale in property 25-23-254-017 – Bowers seconds and a roll call vote is taken:

YES: Brooks, Colbert, Colson, Diehl, Gouker, Gronewold, Heuer, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Kilker, Messer, Nye, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, White, Williams, Barnes, Bauer, Boes, Brooks and Rice

NO: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carries on a roll call vote.(Placed on file)

Chairman's Comments -

Chairman Rice reminds the Finance Committee of the Special Meeting to be held tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. to work on the budget.

Chairman Rice informs the board of some disappointing news – Ogle County was denied the EOC Grant from Homeland Security. We are encouraged to reapply next year and we intend to do this. We also will contact our politicians to get more support in Washington. We are currently looking for more support from Exelon and Union Pacific Railroad for this project.

Chairman Rice asks Heuer to update the board on upcoming events sponsored by UCCI.

Chairman Rice updates the board on the Steward Road Overpass – Ogle County and the City of Rochelle received a \$2.987 million grant towards the construction of this overpass. Chairman Rice thanks County Engineer Curtis Cook for his effort towards this project.

Chairman Rice states there were about 7 County Board Members in attendance at the City of Polo Council Meeting – many of the HEW Committee was there to support the presentation for Brownfield Grants for the City of Polo. Chairman Rice and Stahl also gave information and updates regarding the Courthouse Remodeling Project. They also informed the Council of the Economic Development Website which Chairman Rice wants to setup on the Ogle County Webpage. Other municipalities are also invited to have their Economic Development information posted to this site as well.

Chairman Rice states the Tire Recycling Event was held and Steve Rypkema reported it was a successful event.

Chairman Rice says Thanks to Jim Mielke for his work the last two years – he has brought a sense of cohesiveness to the board – always been willing to take a stand and willing to mediate and help solve problems. He has made the job as Chairman a much easier job. Chairman Rice says thanks and Good Luck in his new job. Chairman Rice introduces Claudia Mielke to the board and thanks for sharing Jim with us.

Administrator Comments -

Mielke thanks Chairman Rice and Vice-Chairman Hopkins as well as the members of the Board for their support during his time here in Ogle County. He says it was fun and a learning experience for everyone in the last two years. Mielke says Ogle County will always be a special place to him for the opportunity he spent here and the people he has come to know. Mielke also thanks the Department Heads for their support, confidence and trust during his time here. There are a lot of dedicated hard working employees in the County and he will miss a lot of the people here. Mielke also thanks County Clerk Huntley and her staff for their support and patience of the past two years. He also thanks the County Clerk and her staff for coordinating the reception this evening. Mielke wishes the best to the Board, the employees and the Citizens of Ogle County in the future. He will definitely be back around – there is plenty of train activity in Ogle County and he hopes to be invited back for the Opening of the Courthouse Remodeling. Mielke states Chairman Rice has asked he take the Green Bay Packer flag with him – Mielke has made arrangements for Coroner Lou Finch to take over the duties of the Packer flag.

Closed Session -

Chairman Rice states we are to go into Closed Session at this time – Sheriff Beitel states Treasurer Coffman and State's Attorney Roe are still in the meeting and asked to report at a later time during the meeting.

Comment from Member Barnes – Barnes asks if Chairman Rice plans to present information regarding the Renovations of the Courthouse to all City Councils and is Polo the first one he has done. Chairman Rice says if he is invited – the information he presented was the information from the last Press Release. Barnes asks if Chairman Rice asked to be put on the Agenda. Chairman Rice asked to be on the Agenda for the Brownfield and the Courthouse Renovation.

Public Comments –

Nye announces a Pancake Breakfast before their Car Show at Focus House on Sunday.

Dennis Schumacher presents information to the Board regarding Re-Districting the County Board Districts to reduce the size of the County Board and add more districts. He presents the information for the County Board to be split into 6 or 8 districts and 2 representatives from each district; this would be a smaller and more efficient County Board and reduce expenses to the tax payers of Ogle County. Schumacher also suggests the County Board Chairman and Administrator positions be combined into one position and proposes it become a Full-Time position.

Unfinished Business –

New Business –

Williams asks about the collection of outstanding Ogle County Warrants and dollar amount listed in the Sheriff & Coroner’s Committee meeting minutes. Williams thought the amount announced a few years ago was at about \$3 million, is that correct. Sheriff Beitel says the figure used a few years ago was outstanding uncollected fines - warrants include bonds. There is a warrant on an individual and the bond is set at \$500,000 and is included in the amount. The outstanding figure for contempt of court and attachments is approximately \$1.9 million. Williams states he is curious as to how we can collect on these fines. Sheriff Beitel says we are going make a pointed effort to try and serve more of these and work with the Judges to make people more accountable. These are people who have been to court – have been found guilty and they are not paying their fines. Messer comments on the process of arresting someone with a warrant in Ogle County and out of the County. He also talks about the costs involved with holding this person until they appear before a Judge. Sheriff Beitel says there are about 600 active warrants in Winnebago County.

Closed Session –

At 6:36 p.m., Chairman Rice states the County Board will enter into Closed Session to Discuss Imminent or Probable Litigation of Byron Station Nuclear Power Plant Assessment (5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11). Kenney moves to approve and go into Closed Session, Horner seconds and a roll call vote is taken:

YES: Colbert, Colson, Diehl, Gouker, Gronewold, Heuer, Hopkins, Horner, Huntley, Kenney, Kilker, Messer, Scholl, Stahl, Swanson, White, Williams, Barnes, Bauer, Boes, Bowers, Brooks and Rice

NO: None

ABSENT: Nye

The motion carries on a roll call vote.

Motion to Adjourn

At 6:51 p.m., Kenney made the motion to adjourn the September Ogle County Board meeting until October 21, 2008. Stahl seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.

W. Ed Rice
Chairman - Ogle County Board

Attest: Rebecca Huntley, Ogle County Clerk &
Ex-officio Clerk of the Ogle County Board