

**Members Present**

Mr. Olthoff, Mr. Stauffenberg, Ms. Barber, Mr. Hess, Mr. James, Ms. McBride, Mr. Marcotte, Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Scholl, Mr. Tripp, Mr. Washington, and Mr. Whitten

**Members Absent**

Mr. Tholen

**In Attendance**

- **Board Members**

Mr. Bossert, Todd Arseneau, and Mr. Liehr

- **Department Heads**

Mike Van Mill, Steve McCarty, and Jamie Boyd

- **Media**

Leigh Marcotte

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Olthoff, at 9:00 a.m. Quorum present.

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2009**

A motion to approve the March 25, 2009 minutes was made by Mr. Stauffenberg and seconded by Mr. Washington. Motion carried.

**4. Building**

- **Quarterly Reports**

Don Pallissard reviewed the Quarterly Building Permit Report with the Committee. Right now we are 33 permits higher than we were last year at this time. Most of that work is in the residential sector for repairs and additions.

**5. Zoning**

- **K4 Wind Farm**

Mike Van Mill stated that there is a \$50,000 application fee for a Wind Farm Application. It also states in the ordinance that any unused funds would be reimbursed to the company. They are putting together the final numbers of the expenses and reimbursing Vision Energy. Expenses have been about \$13,000 so the reimbursement will be about \$37,000. A motion to reimburse and send it on to the County Board was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mike Van Mill passed out the last page of the resolution for the Special Use Permit that was passed by the County Board in March of this year. Item #4 on the conditions which states “the special use permit approval is contingent upon reaching a tax revenue agreement” is a provision that came up at the County Board Meeting and appeared to be a mechanism in place that assured certain revenues in lieu of taxes if that was the case. As they started evaluating whether the necessity of this was required, they came to the recommendation that they believe the State’s statutes that are in place right now is adequate enough to take care of this situation. We do not need item #4 in place because that assurance is that equity across the State will be handled through the State’s statutes and the

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indications are that the 2011 expiration will be extended. We are requesting that #4 be removed as a condition. Mr. Washington made a motion to remove #4 and Mr. James seconded it. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 0 nays.

- **ZBA Case #09-04; request for a Variance to Section 121-397 (Sign) in R1 District, on a parcel generally situated in Section 13 of Bourbonnais Township. The petitioner is Kankakee Gospel Assembly, property owner and applicant.**

Delbert Skimerhorn stated that the Gospel Assembly Church is asking for two variances for a sign on their property located on Rt. 102. It is in the exact location of a previous sign. The first variance is to be 31 sq. ft. of sign instead of the required 16 sq. ft. and the second is to be illuminated. The Zoning Board met on April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss this matter and recommend approval 6 to 0. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Mr. Washington. Motion carried by a voice vote.

- **Wind Towers in the Industrial District**

Delbert Skimerhorn stated that they have some inquires as to the ability to put individual wind towers on industrial properties to power factories and businesses; so they are starting to put an ordinance together that will allow that. Mike Van Mill stated that they are looking at the energy side of things right now. He believes that for some of the companies that are moving out at the present time, energy expenses are possibly one of the key issues. They have met with two companies that are interested in doing this. Delbert Skimerhorn stated that they are allowing for a little taller because the units they need to power these type of facilities require a little larger generator which requires a little higher height, about 175 ft. in height. They will limit them to 500 kilowatts. They will not be limited to one per property as long as they meet the setbacks from buildings and side yards. It must be used to power the factory. They can sell electricity back to ComEd but that cannot be the main purpose of the wind tower.

Mr. Scholl asked if in an agricultural district only one is allowed on a farm.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that our ordinance only allows one per property. They can ask for a variance but they are allowed one.

Mr. Scholl asked if it would be possible as they are doing this study and looking into this, to check on the feasibility of this being done when schools come on line and ask for a wind tower to be put up to power the schools so we are ready for it.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that once they are through the industrial side of things they will go back and start looking at residential and public uses.

## 6. Subdivision

- **Minnie Monesse Estates Subdivision, 1<sup>st</sup> Addition – Variance and Preliminary Plat**

Delbert Skimerhorn stated that Minnie Monesse Estates 1<sup>st</sup> Addition is asking for preliminary plat approval on 33 lots. The subdivision has previously been approved for two variances. They are now asking for an additional variance to allow a k value on a vertical curve to be less than the ordinances value of 37. Their engineer explained the details of this to the Committee.

Mr. James made a motion to approve the variance and Mr. Hess seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote. Mr. Scholl was opposed.

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## 7. Transportation

- **MPO Agreement FY 2010**

Mr. Lammey stated that in the Committee's packet there is a copy of the contract between the Illinois Public Transportation and Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission for fiscal year 2010. We have done this every year since 1983. Mr. Lammey wanted to make the Committee aware of three things that they are responsible for delivery.

1. FY2010 and FY2011 Unified Work Programs (UWP) Document
2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LPTP) Document
3. FY2010 and FY2011 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) Document

They received \$195,979 from the federal government through the State for this service which they match with \$48,995.

A motion to approve the agreement was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. Tripp. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 0 nays.

- **Rural Transit Service Provider**

Mike Lammey stated that there is a letter in the packet that went out to about 20 different organizations in the local area asking if any one had interest in being our service provider. They received one response which was from our current service provider, SHOW BUS. This year they are requiring people who want to be their service provider to fill out a survey that requires them to give us some information well above what they usually have asked for. SHOW BUS has been doing this since 1988 and they have more experience at it than almost anyone in the State and we are happy that they are still interested in being our provider. There are three documents that come out of this that he will be giving to the State's Attorney's office for review and coming back to this Committee in May. One is a purchase service agreement which is between us and SHOW BUS for our service that is operating in FY2010. The second one is a vehicle lease that we sign with our provider to make sure that they have legal right to have the buses in their possession in the year of service and third one is the application for the 2010 Federal and Downstate Operation Assistance Program.

- **Kankakee Area Transportation Study for The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects**

Mike Lammey reviewed the upcoming Transit Projects, Local Agency Highway Projects, and the State Agency Highway Projects. The total amount of construction this summer in the economic stimulus package for our area is \$11,990,000.

## 8. Planning

- **Resignation of Richard Simms Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission**

A motion to accept the resignation was made by Mr. Stauffenberg and seconded by Mr. Washington. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **One Opening on the Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission**
- **One Opening on the Kankakee County Zoning Board of Appeals**
- **Proclamation – May is Historic Preservation Month**

A motion to proclaim May as Historic Preservation Month was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Elizabeth Dunbar, who is the chairwoman of the Historical Preservation Commission, stated that she feels that the proclamation which was prepared by the National Trust for Historic Preservation declaring May National Preservation Month will prove invaluable to the County's effort to work toward preservation. She appreciates the County's support.

## 9. Economic Alliance

### • Activity Update

Mike Van Mill stated that one of our major employers, American Spring and Wire, is closing their doors. He has had a considerable amount of interaction with Spring Wire and he thought there was going to be some good things that were going to happen, but they have decided to take their process to Ohio. He spoke with representatives from there on Monday and he is hoping to have a meeting with them to find out where this announcement originated from and to see if there is anyway to reverse this decision. If there isn't, his goal is to do a number of things. One is to do an exit interview to determine why they wanted to leave here. We need to understand our local economy in terms of why the decision was not to expand in this community and to close their doors. The second one is that we have to make sure we work with Elizabeth making sure the people that are going to be laid off there get training for future jobs in the community. Thirdly, we will need to see what is going to be the best use of that property in the future. Those are some of the rapid response type of things that doing the Economic Development Program affords us the ability to do. They are also assisting Pembroke Township with their incubators and they have been working very close with Vulcan Materials who announced a major expansion at their plant in Manteno.

Mr. Olthoff asked if it would be wise, after the exit interviews are done, to send a letter to the Governor and our representatives in the general assembly telling them why the business climate is not favorable for a company like this to stay here.

Mr. Van Mill stated that if that is what the exit interviews show, we should notify them.

Mr. Washington stated that he started working there when American Spring Wire came here and worked there for six years. They are an eastern based company which came out of Ohio and from that time on they have expanded and grew but in his mind he thinks they wanted to move back to Ohio all along. He doubts it is because of employees.

## 10. Other

Steve McGruder, President of Kankakee Building Construction Trades Council, stated that he wanted to bring an issue to light concerning the Natural Gas Pipeline expansion on the west side of the County. Even though they say the bid process was fair he really feels that they were eliminated from the process early on. Now the project is getting ready to start and they are utilizing contractors from outside of the State as well as workers to come in from outside the State while in the building trades we have about a 25% unemployment rate. He thinks it is a real disservice to this community and the County to bring in workers from outside the area when we have plenty of skilled workers right here available to do that. They have applied for permits to start the construction of that project and he would like for the appropriate body to fully investigate into the permit process of allowing them to proceed with construction. He has reason to believe at this time that the companies that they have listed as coming in are not registered to do work in the State of Illinois nor do they carry worker's compensation in the State of Illinois, which is required. If they are allowed to start and they do find out that the companies do

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not have it they will pursue it with the Attorney General. He has already checked with the Attorney General's office and it is a class 4 felony. He knows that there is a permit process that they go through and he lauds the County for the way they handle that process. He thinks some research into all the criteria that is submitted needs to have the utmost clarification to make sure that it is all in place before permits are granted.

Mr. Scholl questioned whether we check out whether a company is certified to function within the State.

Mr. Van Mill stated that we have our local registration requirements that we must adhere to but we do not the authority to regulate any State requirements.

Mr. Scholl asked if there was any way to encourage companies to hire local if possible.

Mr. Van Mill stated not that he did not know of any.

Mr. Whitten stated that we are not doing a good recycling program in Kankakee County. In the Finance meeting, the Sheriff was upset because of the budget and he said that he was going to endorse the landfill. Why can't we let waste management come back and continue on what they started before? What do we have to do to let waste management come back?

Mr. Boyd stated that waste management is like any other entity out there. If they wish to expand their existing landfill or if they wish to build another landfill, they would have to apply for a siting process. He guesses that they would not do that unless they were fairly well assured that whatever entity they were siding with was going to approve them. It would be up to the full board whether or not to approve the siting.

Mr. Whitten asked if waste management purchased property to enlarge.

Mr. Boyd stated that he did not know.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she thinks the ball is in our court in regards to what we want to do with our waste management with our solid waste issues. We don't have solid waste plan right now. We need to come up with a new plan and then move forward on it.

Mr. Boyd stated that we do have a solid waste plan. The solid waste plan that was last passed remains in effect until it is amended. Amendments have been prepared and he has contacted a couple board members more than a year ago asking for their input and he has not received their input. There are no major changes in the plan. Ms. Schmidt is correct in assessing that if we want to have a plan we need to prepare and change our solid waste plan. He would love to see a county wide waste plan involving all municipalities and all unincorporated areas so that we have consistency in the cost of waste removal, waste disposal, and recycling.

Mr. Scholl stated that the main thing is that waste management can bring it back but the Board has asserted itself and said no. He is adamantly opposed to a dump and he will vote against it again. With the economic downturn that we are experiencing, we should be very supportive of trying to get businesses to stay in the area. The role of the Economic Alliance is only going to increase in

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importance. We have to be careful of what cuts we make in areas that are vital to the County. He thinks that is where the Sheriff was coming from the other day. He is worried about losing deputies which is understandable because his task is to provide for the protection of the County. He doesn't believe he was saying that he was totally in favor of the dump but that was one potential source of revenue that he saw that we lost and he does not want to see protection of the County diminished.

Mr. Liehr stated that one challenge that will face the Board in regards to waste management is that at this present time the requirements for this kind of business to be profitable requires a volume from a population that exceeds K3 County. We would have to reach out beyond the County in order to get the kind of volume that would make a business of this nature profitable.

Mr. Whitten stated that Mr. Scholl is in favor of economic development but he is against the dump and the dump creates lots of jobs.

Mr. Scholl stated that you have to be alive and healthy to enjoy economic development and he doesn't think the dump will do that. The threat to our water supply would be astronomical.

Mr. Washington stated that he finds it rather amusing that after the County voted in support of the solid waste site it reversed itself and voted against it and now we get references to bringing back waste management again. He sat through many hearings concerning the waste site and he saw nothing that was detrimental to the environment for long range or short range terms. We need to make a final discussion on what we want to do. There is still no proven plan that can handle the volumes of garbage and the cost and the profit better than a solid waste site.

## **11. Old/New Business**

## **12. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Marcotte.  
Motion carried.

Bill Olthoff, Chairman  
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator