

Bonnie J. Hester, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Lynn Scott Pearson, District 3
Andrew Rand, District 4
Bud Sous, District 5
G. Allen Mayer, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Michael Phelan, District 9



Thomas H. O'Neill, Chairperson
R. Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk

Stephen M. Morris, District 10
Merle Widmer, District 11
Robert Baietto, District 12
Vice Chairperson William R. Prather, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Carol Trumpe, District 15
Brad Harding, District 16
Chairperson Thomas O'Neill, District 17
Patricia Hidden, District 18

**Peoria County Board
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 13, 2009
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602
Voice: (309) 672-6056 • Fax: (309) 672-6054 • TDD: (309) 672-6073
www.peoriacounty.org/countyboard

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Baietto, Dillon, Elsasser, Hester, Hidden, Mayer, Morris, O'Neill, Pearson, Phelan, Prather, Rand, Salzer, Sous, Trumpe, Watkins and Widmer, with Harding absent.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of July 9, 2009 County Board Minutes
Approval of July 9, 2009 County Board Executive Session Minutes

Baietto moved for approval of the minutes and Watkins seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

II. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- A recognition of the *S.P.I.R.I.T "Employees of the Month"*.
- A presentation to *Timothy D. Rigenbach* for 6 1/2 years of service to Peoria County.
- A presentation of the *Digital Counties Survey Award*.

Harding entered the meeting.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

C1. The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of June 2009. Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of May 2009.



C2. A resolution (item 1-3) from your Tax/EDC Committee recommending that the Chairman of the Peoria County Board be authorized and directed to execute deeds of conveyance of the County's interest to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from August 13, 2009 and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.

C3. Appointments

C4. A resolution from your Judicial Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute Police Patrol Services / Annual Contract Renewals for Dedicated Police, Bike Police Patrol, Random Police Patrol, and Dispatch for the following:

- **"Dedicated" Police Patrol** - Consists of consecutive hours in a twenty four hour period.
- **"Bike" Police Patrol** - Consists of up to 100 hours during the contract period.
- **"Random" Police Patrol** - Consists of (*staggered*) police patrol in a (*24 hour*) period.
- **"Dispatch" Services** - Consist of the Sheriff's Office providing Law Enforcement Agency Data System (LEADS), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) services.

Dedicated

- Medina Township, Village of Princeville, Village of Bellevue, City of West Peoria (Dedicated & Bike Patrol), Special Education Association of Peoria County, Dunlap Unit School District 323

Random Police Services

- Villages of Dunlap, Hanna City, and Princeville

Dispatch Services

- City of Elmwood, Village of Glasford, Village of Norwood

Harding asked to pull the appointment of Alex Giftos to the Timber-Hollis Fire Protection District from the Consent Agenda. Mayer moved to approve the Consent Agenda without said appointment and Prather seconded. The Consent Agenda, except for the appointment of Alex Giftos, was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

APPOINTMENT OF ALEX GIFTOS

Harding stated that he was concerned with this re-appointment because Mr. Giftos' attendance was less than acceptable for this calendar year. He opposes this appointment. Harding asked if this position is not filled whether Mr. Giftos will continue in this position until filled; O'Neill replied yes. Harding moved to approve the appointment and Mayer seconded. The appointment of Alex Giftos to the Timber-Hollis Fire Protection District passed by a roll call vote of 15 ayes and 3 nays, with Elsasser, Harding and Hidden voting nay.



IV. CITIZENS' REMARKS

O'Neill noted that the total time for Citizens' Remarks is 30 minutes, and there were 12 requests to speak. He proposed giving each citizen three minutes to speak.

Elsasser moved to allow each citizen to have four minutes to speak and Morris seconded. A voice vote on the motion was inconclusive; Elsasser called for a division of the house. O'Neill clarified that a yes vote meant that citizens received four minutes; a no vote meant they received three minutes. The motion failed to pass on a tie vote of 9 ayes and 9 nays, with Baietto, Dillon, Elsasser, Harding, Hidden, Morris, Rand, Watkins and Widmer voting aye.

Brian Monge and Bill LeRoy each gave their three minutes to Del Bertschy.

Del Bertschy, 4415 Longmeadow Court, addressed the Board with regard to the Board of Review. He said that commercial properties are being assessed at 30%-50% below their actual sales price. The entire process seems to be in trouble, and the Board of Review refuses to make any changes. He suggested that the County Board appoint a team of realtors and appraisers to oversee the Board of Review and the Assessor's Office until the system is effective. Also, the County Board should take a four hour class in property assessment. Residences are over-assessed which is shown by the dramatic increase in appeals to the Board of Review.

O'Neill noted that the remaining citizens' remarks would come under Item No. 2.

V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Case 030-09-U, Rumbold & Kuhn Inc. A Special Use request as required in Section 24-6-3-D.2.a of the Zoning Ordinance for an agriculturally related business in the "A-1" Agricultural Preservation District. The parcel is located in Akron Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval with restriction and the Land Use Committee concurs.

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Elsasser seconded. Trumpe stated that this company is a third generation grain storage company. They now want to enlarge to be able to store and sell seed. They do not have a need for water, so there is no need for a well or septic system, it is simply storage. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

2. A resolution recommending approval of the Peoria County Comprehensive Land Use Plan forwarded to the County Board with "*no recommendation*" from the Land Use Committee.

Trumpe moved to approve the Plan and Hester seconded.



Rand left the meeting.

Mr. Wahl explained the difference between planning and zoning. Planning is thinking ahead and preparing for change and growth. A comprehensive plan is the community's statement of policy or intent with regard to future growth and development. It is a guideline. A zoning ordinance outlines the legal regulations to achieve the long term goals of the land use plan and is specific to each parcel. Key themes in the plan are: sustainable smart growth, conservation of natural resources and conservation of prime agricultural land. Because both the Village of Dunlap and the City of Peoria are experiencing growth in the Dunlap area, this situation was studied to achieve balanced growth in a non-confrontational manner.

Rand returned to the meeting.

Ms. Young explained the economic modeling tool which includes all 58 taxing bodies in Peoria County. With this model, the Department can assess a development and determine whether it will bring in more tax dollars than what it costs to provide services to the development. Baietto asked Mr. Wahl to explain the special use process with regard to building one house. Mr. Wahl replied that in the "A-1", Agricultural Preservation District, there is a 40 acre minimum lot area. If less land than that is split, a variance is required. In the Environmental Corridor, the minimum area is five acres. Harding asked for an explanation of the Farm Bureau's opposition to the rezoning of 900 acres in Hallock Township from agricultural to rural residential. Mr. Wahl explained that the Farm Bureau is supporting the five acre minimum in the Environmental Corridor. Trumpe noted that this property is not being rezoned; wherever people have property, they can build on it. Mr. Wahl agreed that the Plan has nothing to do with single lot development; that is addressed in the Zoning Ordinance.

Phelan and Sous left the meeting.

Mr. Wahl further stated information has been spread that people will not be able to develop their property. That is not true; owners can develop anywhere in Peoria County except in the regulatory floodway. How the property can be developed will vary, but a house can be built almost anywhere except in commercial and industrial districts.

Kevin L. Peterson, Hallock Township Supervisor, stated that Mr. Wahl's comments answered some of the residents' concerns. The Environmental Corridor is about 50% of the township, and 40% is agricultural. Based on some of the language in the Plan, there is a fear that residents will not be able to build houses. Hallock Township residents have been very good stewards of the land and have built very responsibly in the Environmental Corridor.

Harding left the meeting. Sous and Harding returned to the meeting.

Mr. Wahl stated that they want people to be able to develop their land, but the County Board has expressed over the last 20-30 years that we have to be careful how we develop in the Environmental Corridor and that development occur at a lower density scale. It does not mean that individual development on individual parcels will



be prohibited. Mr. Peterson asked for language clarifying that people with existing parcels can develop and that the Plan is subordinate to the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Wahl stated that Board Member Trumpe will be proposing such an amendment.

Phelan returned to the meeting.

Trumpe moved to amend the plan as follows and Harding seconded:

P. 115, at the end of second paragraph.

The intent of the Land Use Forms is not to supersede the adopted Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan is a guideline for future development while the Zoning Ordinance contains the permitted and special uses allowed within each zoning district. As an example, many of the Land Use Forms may include parcels which are zoned appropriately for residential dwellings such as agricultural and residential zoning districts. For instance, under current zoning ordinance requirements parcels in the Agricultural Zoning District may be divided into 25 acre parcels. A second option in the Agricultural Zoning District is to divide off 1 lot of 1-2 acres in size for each 25 contiguous acres owned. Under this option, if an individual owned 100 acres, 4 lots of 1-2 acres in size could be created.

Phelan stated that he believes ordinances should support the Comprehensive Plan and asked Trumpe to explain what this amendment does. Trumpe replied this language spells out that the Plan does not supersede the Zoning Ordinance. Elsasser said he is not comfortable voting on something that he just saw in the last ten seconds. The Board should have information like this ahead of the Board meeting. Mr. Wahl replied that this language is in the Zoning Ordinance; it is the current law.

O'Neill announced that the Board would hear Citizens' Remarks on the Plan, and that each person would have three minutes to speak.

Kevin Peterson, 21203 Blue Ridge, said that the key points in Hallock Township are to protect owners' property rights and to have the ability for residential growth. Hidden asked if his constituents would be satisfied with the proposed amendment. Peterson replied that he did not want to speak for everyone, but thought the amendment was a step in the right direction. Harding asked Peterson to explain the CRP program. Peterson explained it is a conservation reserve program; the government gives owners a subsidy for taking marginal agricultural land out of production. Sometimes it is highly erodable ground, and typically native grasses are planted to restore the natural habitat and prevent stream erosion.

Ronald Noe, 1607 E. Hallock Hollow Road, referred the Board to page 116 of the Plan, which is the flow chart for development. Most of Hallock Township is zoned A-2, which includes the Environmental Corridor. The definitions in the Plan state that agricultural land can be used for agriculture, open space and mineral extraction. Environmental Corridors can be used for agriculture, open space and conservation design.

Roger Perham, 2103 E. Oakhurst Lane, gave his three minutes to Diane Sibley.



Diane Sibley, 20619 N. Hampton Road, stated that there are serious problems with interpretations of the Plan and also ambiguities. The Plan specifies that one of the three allowed uses in the Environmental Corridor is conservation designed residential. However, in direct opposition to this statement on page 133, the Plan defines Rural Residential as being adjacent to Environmental Corridors. In fact the Plan specifies that these lots exclude the Environmental Corridor. The Plan is flawed because of the ambiguities and needs to be returned to its authors for revisions.

Stephen L. Pollack, 3600 E. Hancock Street, said that the Plan starts out sounding like a planning tool but ends up sounding like zoning. It goes beyond recommendations and defines specific allowable land uses. This is not planning language, it is zoning language. It bans by its language development in a particular area. He does not believe there was any input at the township level.

Jim Troglio, 21208 Blue Ridge, said that in 1995 there was an EPA grant for erosion control in Hallock Township, Chillicothe Township and Marshall County. Residents of these areas are stewards of the land. There are a lot of small farm ponds in Hallock Township; everyone wants to do that when they move to Hallock Township. It's the American Dream.

Frank Trotman, 502 East Lakeshore Drive, said that the Board is being asked to vote on a plan that has not been tested in the State of Illinois. Mr. Wahl and the person from Tri-County who put the plan together indicated that outside Chicago there is no plan like this in Illinois. Mr. Wahl said that this type of project has not taken place in the Midwest. It is flawed from the standpoint that there are 27 pages of zoning in the middle of it. The zoning language is more restrictive than in the 1996 Zoning Ordinance. Trumpe's amendment is a step forward. With the restrictions in the zoning and on the map, there is only 3% residential growth available.

Beverly Taylor, 9824 North Allen Road, addressed the Board as a member of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Zoning Board is the ground level for all rezonings and gives the public an opportunity to speak for or against the rezoning at the public hearing. She believes in the process because it is an opportunity for compromise and to find middle ground. She is concerned with a massive rural residential overlay because it averts the public hearing process.

Josh Joseph, 6715 North Smith Road, Peoria County Soil and Water, said that he has read the Plan and thinks it does a good job of putting a target on the horizon for the County. He feels one major misconception about the Plan is that the matrix dictates how the County will change; it is just a tool, and not site specific. He feels that the Board should approve the Plan.

Another request to speak was received after the meeting began, which is too late under the Board's rules.

The amendment passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

Elsasser stated that he cannot support the Plan because there are 900 acres designated on the land use form map as rural residential. Hypothetically, you could



put 900 houses on good agricultural farm land; that completely goes against the Board's strategic goals. Second, in the Environmental Corridor, if the plan had been in effect in 1970 or 1975, Hallock Township would not have the Woodland Heights or Santa Fe Subdivisions which are two of the nicest subdivisions in the County. Hallock Township residents are good stewards of the land, and they didn't cut down the trees. If there's no place to build, developers will go to other counties; we are already seeing that happen. Elsasser moved to refer the Comprehensive Plan back to the Planning Commission and Harding seconded.

Widmer said that most of the Board are from the city and don't fully understand Mr. Wahl's reasoning, although he thinks he's done a good job. He supports getting more input and tweaking the Plan a little so it fits a rural community. Mr. Wahl said that the Environmental Corridor policy of five acres was set by the County Board 15 years ago. If a rural land use form is established with a minimum of one acre in Hallock Township, then from a planning standpoint it has to be done throughout the County. If you go to smaller lots throughout the County, there will be a firestorm of opposition from residents throughout the County who do not want residences that close to them. Trumpe noted that people from many backgrounds worked on the Plan, but most of them were rural. She further noted that whatever the Board does for Hallock Township they must do for the rest of the County. Morris said that one of the speakers indicated that the Plan bans development in particular areas, but Mr. Wahl said that's not true. He asked if there is such a ban or whether the Plan just sets certain parameters. Mr. Wahl said that the only way to ban development is by ordinance. Mr. Atkins can disagree with him, and if he does he's right. The regulatory floodway is the only place where development is prohibited. Everywhere else can be developed so long as the property has the appropriate zoning.

Elsasser said that his goal is to get all the townships together and ask what they think is appropriate for the Environmental Corridor. Baietto said that on the basis there has been communication and changes and that the Planning Commission voted to accept this map, he was calling the question. Mr. Atkins clarified that the vote is on the motion to refer the Plan back to the Planning Commission. O'Neill clarified that a yes vote will send the Plan back to the Commission.

The motion to refer the Plan back to the Planning Commission failed by a roll call vote of 2 ayes and 16 nays, with Elsasser and Widmer voting aye. (Sous noted for the record that he meant to vote nay). The Comprehensive Plan as amended passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Elsasser voting nay. (Hidden noted for the record that she meant to vote aye).

- 3.** A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the *Central Illinois Workforce Development Board* for the Workforce Investment Area Encompassed by the City of Peoria, and the Counties of Peoria, Marshall, Stark and Woodford.

Prather moved to approve the resolution and Harding seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

Elsasser left the meeting.



4. A resolution from your Transportation Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute agreements with the *Local Agency for Federal Participation*, in anticipation of *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds (Stimulus Money)*, in the amount of \$1,186,220.00, to be received through *P.P.U.A.T.S (Peoria, Pekin, Urbanized Areas Transportation Study)* in November 2009, and authorizing the appropriations of \$400,000.00 to be utilized for projects per the attached resolution.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Salzer seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

5. A resolution from your Transportation Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute agreements for the *FY2010 (Section 5311) Non-Metro Public Transportation Capital/Operating Assistance and Downstate Urban Area Operating Assistance Grant*, on behalf of the *RPCCA (Rural Peoria County Council on Aging)* to provide public transportation and also authorize the County Administrator to issue a *Request for Proposals* for Public Transportation services under the Public Transportation Program.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Harding seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

6. An Ordinance from your Transportation Committee for the provision of *Public Transportation in Peoria County*.

Hidden moved to approve the ordinance and Salzer seconded. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

7. A resolution from your Transportation Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute the *FY2010 Annual Grant Application* from *IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation)* for acceptance of the *Special Warranty for Public Transportation* in rural areas of Peoria County provided by *RPCCA (Rural Peoria County Council on Aging)*.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Salzer seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

8. A resolution from your Transportation Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute an Annual Agreement for (PPUATS) Peoria-Pekin Urban Area, for urban areas transportation projects per the attached resolution.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Harding seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

Elsasser returned to the meeting.

9. A resolution from your Transportation Committee recommending approval of *St. Francis Anglican Church* to participate in the *Adopt-A-Highway Program* by



adopting County Highway D31 (*Wilhelm Road*) from Route 40 to Allen Road.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Harding seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 10.** A resolution from your Transportation Committee recommending approval of an appropriation from *the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund* in the amount of \$100,000.00 for engineering costs on Tuscarora Road project #94-00020-02-FP.

Hidden moved to approve the resolution and Salzer seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 11.** A resolution from your Tax EDC Committee recommending approval to receive surplus funds from the *State Board of Elections*, in the amount of \$1,918.40, and that the said funds be appropriated to line item #080-50-080-7-776-33400 for partial reimbursement of County funds for Voter Registration Software and maintenance costs.

Mayer moved to approve the resolution and Dillon seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 12.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee recommending acceptance of a grant award from the *Illinois Emergency Management Agency*, in the amount of \$37,000.000 (in pass-through funding) from the *Department of Homeland Security FY2008 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program*, for development of a *County-Wide Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan* and further recommends acceptance of the bid from *Swan & Associated, Peoria, IL.*, in the amount of \$32,640.00 for implementation of the *TICP* per the attached agreement.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Watkins seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 13.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation of a donation from *CF Industries, Inc.*, in the amount of \$1,250.00 be appropriated to line item #024-1-024-3-361-36850 and \$1,250.00 be added to line item #024-1-024-3-361-52350, to purchase a new laptop computer for the Peoria County Emergency Management Agency.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Watkins seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 14.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee recommending approval of the lowest responsible bid of *Bradford Systems, Peoria, IL*, in the amount of \$23,892.00 for 2010 court file folders for the *Circuit Clerk's and State's Attorney's Offices*.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Watkins seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.



- 15.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee recommending approval of an appropriation of \$60,000.00 to the appropriate line items in the Sheriff's Office budget for overtime expenses related to *ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System) training*.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Watkins seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 16.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee authorizing the County Administrator to execute an *Intergovernmental Agreement* with the *City of Peoria for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)* in the amount of \$79,669.00 (*County's share*) for the *Peoria County Sheriff's Department* to purchase approximately forty-six (46) portable scan equipped radio's at a cost of \$1,750.00 each for use with the public safety radio system.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 17.** An Ordinance from your Finance/Legislative Study Committee for the imposition of a *Special County Occupation Tax for Public Facilities*.

Dillon moved to approve the ordinance and Harding seconded. Hidden asked for an explanation. Mayer explained that this is to implement what the voters passed for the museum tax. In order for the Department of Revenue to collect the tax, the County has to pass an ordinance. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 18.** A resolution from your Finance/Legislative Study Committee recommending approval to waive for one year the County's policy requiring mandatory auditor rotation and direct staff to negotiate a one-year extension of the current contract with *Clifton Gunderson, LLP*.

Mayer moved to approve the resolution and Dillon seconded. Mayer stated that he was the father of this policy. However, an extension is needed because the Finance Department is in the process of moving everything in-house for the preparation of the County's financial statements, which is what the external auditor will then audit. By extending this one year and letting the Financial Department take over all of the preparation, when the County does go out for the five year contract, it will be much less expensive. For those reasons, Mayer encouraged the Board to vote for the extension because it will save the County money, but the auditor rotation policy will still be in place.

Prather stated that he will be voting against it; it's going to cost the County a lot of money for this one year. Phelan stated that he too was against it. He thinks this firm has been involved in a number of conflicts that are not excusable, and it cannot always be about the money. This is a very serious matter, and the County should be looking at a new auditor. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 2 nays, with Phelan and Prather voting nay.



- 19.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate a three to five year contract with *Consociate Dansig, Decatur, IL*, for Third Party Administrator services, for Peoria County Employee Health Coverage, estimated at a cost of \$117,360.00 annually.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. Phelan noted that he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge the monumental job that the County's employees and staff have done over the years to make such a solid health plan. Shauna Musselman did an outstanding job along with the rest of the staff, with input from the unions. Rand asked Mr. Atkins if he should abstain from voting on this item; Mr. Atkins replied that he should. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 abstention, with Rand abstaining.

- 20.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate a three to five year contract with *Methodist First Choice, Peoria, IL*, to provide Preferred Provider Organization services for the Peoria County Employee Health Plan.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded.

Mr. Atkins explained that Rand is abstaining because of his business relationship with some of the bidders. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 abstention, with Rand abstaining.

- 21.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate a three to five year contract with *MedTrak Services, Overland Park, KS*, for Pharmacy Benefit Manager services for the Peoria County Employee Health Plan.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 abstention, with Rand abstaining.

- 22.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee recommending approval to establish a 20% decrease in both the *Employer and Employee Medical Health Premiums* effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 and, also recommending approval of the new Employee Health Plan Premiums per the attached resolution.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Rand seconded. Phelan said the County is going to be trying to seek help from its employees in alleviating the budget crisis and since we have a good fund balance here, the County is able to reduce the rates and put some money back in the employees' pockets. Baietto said that a few years back he never thought he would see this reduction; this is great. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 23.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee recommending approval of the updates to the *Peoria County Employee Health Plan*.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. Phelan noted that the



updates keep the Plan in compliance with any new state and federal regulations. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 24.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee recommending approval of the *Voluntary Separation Plan (VSP)* per the attached proposal.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. Phelan said that the Management Services Committee, he believes along with the rest of the Board, has said that each and everyone of the County's employees are very important, and they want to avoid layoffs at all costs. In order to do that, other plans of attack have to be put into place, and this is one of them. A suggestion came forth that perhaps the cash incentive was weak. Phelan moved to add the following language to the Plan, and Elsasser seconded:

"Peoria County offer a \$5,000 early signing bonus to employees who sign up for the Voluntary Severance Plan within the first 30 days that it is available. For Phase I employees this period would be August 17, 2009 through September 15, 2009. This bonus would be available for all eligible employees and would be paid as part of their severance package."

Phelan noted that the sooner it is known how many employees are leaving, it will help the Board make other decisions. The amendment passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes. The resolution as amended passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Hester voting nay.

- 25.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee supporting implementation of a *Hiring Freeze* for departments that report directly to the County Administrator and that all hires made to Peoria County be reviewed by the *Management Services Committee*, and it is further recommended that *Elected Officials* of Peoria County participate in the *Hiring Freeze* as a cost reduction intervention.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. Phelan moved to amend the resolution and Mayer seconded. Mr. Urich clarified that the amendment should be to Item No. 26. The motion to amend and the second were withdrawn. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 2 nays, with Hester and Salzer voting nay.

- 26.** A resolution from your Management Services Committee recommending the following cost reduction interventions: *1) Implementation of a wage freeze effective January 1, 2010 for all "Exempt" employees in departments that report directly to the County Administrator; 2) Implementation of (3) three mandatory furlough days between September 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 for all "Exempt" employees in departments that report directly to the County Administrator; 3) Implementation of 12 mandatory furlough days between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 for all "Exempt" employees that report directly to the County Administrator; and 4) and that all Elected Officials, Boards, Agencies, and Commission are encouraged to do the same for their "Exempt" employees in their offices.*



Mr. Urich explained that there have been significant changes in revenues, including income tax, sales tax and corporate income tax, and in all of the economic based revenues whether it is in the Recorder of Deeds Office or the Planning and Zoning Department. It really hit the County when Caterpillar started its layoffs in the first quarter of this year. The revenue declines we are currently trending at are continuing at a pace of between 3.3 and 3.7 million dollars. So it's a significant decline in the County's revenue base. The County is fortunate in that it is not as dependent on sales tax as other municipalities. The County is also going to have to pay increased pension costs next year. It is critical that we tighten our belts, but as we look at 2011 and 2012, we will not be out of the woods. Right now at the state level, the county has relied on state reimbursements for probation officers, but that money has been cut by the state by \$20,000,000.00.

Phelan thanked Mr. Urich and County Administration for leading by example. Recognizing that the County operates both a jail and a nursing home, the County will have to hire people occasionally. If we do nothing, there will probably be significant layoffs. It cannot be avoided unless we all pull together. He thanked the people who will be impacted by these changes. O'Neill asked for a motion on this item so it could be discussed.

Phelan moved to approve the resolution and Mayer seconded. Trumpe said it is commendable to save money, but is unhappy that it is all on the heads of the County's exempt employees. She asked what the County can do to spread or share the pain and enlist the help of the unions. Phelan noted that the County is in the process of doing that, but we have to start somewhere, and Administration is setting the example. Salzer asked about the fund balances, what we have and how far can we dip into it. Mr. Urich replied that most of the economic based revenues are in the General Fund. It's where most of the departments are; all of the elected officials are paid from this fund. There are 60 budgetary programs across 20 different departments so it's a significant budget. All public safety except juvenile probation is in this fund. There is an \$18,000,000.00 reserve in the General Fund. The current budget spends down the General Fund by 2.6 million dollars because of completed capital improvements and issued debt. Once the estimated shortfall was identified at 3.7 million dollars, that moved the amount to be spent out of the reserves from 2.6 to 6.3 million dollars. Once carryover appropriations were added, the amount was almost 8.4 million dollars. Administration then began to look at spending to chip away at that 8.4 million dollars. Mr. Bush projects that the County will spend \$4,376,000.00 from the reserves in 2009. Of that amount, \$1,500,000.00 has been spent on capital; the remaining 2.8 million dollars is for operations, including payroll. There has been a lot of discussion at the Finance Committee about where to go with this. Taking into account what Management Services has said about not having layoffs, we cannot get into the habit of spending cash for operations. That was done in the past, and the county had to issue tax anticipation warrants to make payroll.

Prather asked if this includes the Keystone money. Mr. Urich replied that the Keystone money is grant money that can be used only for public works projects and capital developments. Widmer said that he expects a resolution in the next couple of months cutting out state travel for both Administration and the Board. There are meetings that are not mandatory, and there is teleconferencing. Mayer asked Mr.



Urich to explain the County's policies on reserves and the reserves the County needs.

Mr. Urich said the budget includes over 44 different funds; there are different policies for what reserves the County should have. The reason the County needs reserves is that in any given year there is a fluctuation in cash. For example, the property tax levy is collected in two months of the year. The policy level for this year is roughly 9.4 million dollars. The County's policy is that one time revenues should not be spent for ongoing costs. In essence that's what being done this year by spending the reserves because cash is a one time revenue; once it's spent it's gone.

Rand noted that in 2009 there has been a monstrous change in anticipated revenues. The decline from anticipated tax revenues in the months reported is 14.7 percent. The Board should be concerned whether Administration is right this time about where this is going to come up or show up the end of this year, 2011 and 2012 as Mr. Urich now says. There was debate in Committee about the definition of a rainy day. We all decided it is raining and Administration is spending down the fund balances in a programmatic and intelligent way within the Board's policy limits. Morris said he commends the Administrator for what he's doing but questions whether it's enough. It's a good start, and that is why he supports this. Long term, it is not a good idea to take money from your savings account to pay your light bill. It is a bad financial policy and asked everyone to keep that in mind.

Phelan moved to amend the resolution by adding the following language to the beginning of the "Now Therefore Be It Resolved" paragraph and Mayer seconded: "the Management Services Committee supports the management action taken by the Peoria County Administrator that"... The amendment passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes. The resolution as amended passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Hester voting nay.

27. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ***Labor Relations, Property Acquisition, and Pending Litigation***

Harding moved to go into executive session to discuss labor relations, property acquisition and pending litigation and Elsasser seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Baietto said that the Judicial Committee voted not to award safety grants because of the County's budget situation. He commended Ms. Zinkel for her Civic Leadership class and noted that one of her graduates is now on the Care and Treatment Board. He congratulated Sheriff McCoy for another successful St. Jude run, and Dillon and Coroner Ingersoll for their participation.

Prather left and returned to the meeting.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS



VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Schmidt reminded everyone that the employee lunch sponsored by all the elected officials is tomorrow on the ground floor from 11:00-1:00.

Elasser thanked everyone for their thoughts, flowers and prayers during the past few weeks, he really appreciated it.

Widmer said that one of the County's GAP loan clients is seriously delinquent and thinks there should be a report on the status. Mayer said that the Tax/EDC Committee gets a report every month.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mayer moved to adjourn and Harding seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consensus.