

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  
Stephen Morris, District 10



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

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

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## **Peoria County Board REGULAR MEETING Thursday, June 11, 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](http://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, Harding, Hester, Hidden, Mayer, O'Neill, Pearson, Phelan, Prather, Rand, Salzer, Sous, Trumpe, Watkins and Widmer.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of May 14, 2009 County Board Minutes  
Approval of May 14, 2009 County Board Executive Session Minutes

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

### **II. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- A recognition of the SPIRIT "Employees of the Month."
- A proclamation recognizing June 14, 2009 as "National Flag Day."

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of April 2009. Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of March 2009.
- C2.** Approval of Trustee's Bond for Ralph Peters, Brimfield Community Fire Protection District.



**C3. Approval of Trustee's Bond for Jerry L. Weaver, Brimfield Community Fire Protection District.**

**C4. Appointments**

Trumpe moved to approve the Consent Agenda but asked to remove the County Board appointment for separate attention and Baietto seconded. The Chairman noted that the vote would be to approve the Consent Agenda except for the County Board appointment. The Consent Agenda except for the appointment to the County Board was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

**County Board Appointment**

Trumpe noted that the Peoria County Republican Central Committee created a special committee to find the best nomination for this office. They looked at many people but think they found the top candidate in Steve Morris. Baietto stated that Morris has commitment and common sense. Widmer said that he supported Morris for the vacancy on the School Board and certainly supports him tonight. Phelan commended the County Board Chairman for the open process he used to fill this vacancy and thanked him for listening to all parties involved. He thinks that the Chairman has selected a good candidate. Stephen Morris was approved as a member of the Peoria County Board by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

Peoria County Clerk R. Steve Sonnemaker swore in Stephen Morris as a member of the Board. Morris thanked everyone for their vote and confidence in the Chairman's decision. He knows that a number of qualified candidates were interviewed, and he is humbled he was picked.

**IV. CITIZENS' REMARKS**

Widmer noted that Gene Ginoli wanted to make his comments during Item No. 8 on the agenda.

**V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. Case 018-09-Z, Jason Plumer. A Rezoning request from "I-2" Heavy Industrial to "I-1" Light Industrial for compliance with the Zoning Ordinance. The parcel is located in Limestone Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval and the Land Use Committee concurs.**

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Elsasser seconded. Trumpe noted that Mr. Plumer has operated at this location for five years, but realized that he needs "I-1" zoning for his business. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.



- 2.** Case 020-09-Z, Ferenc & Ruth Davidovics. A Rezoning request from "A-1" Agricultural Preservation to "R-2" Medium Density Residential of a prior school building to allow for a two family dwelling. The parcel is located in Logan Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval and the Land Use Committee concurs.

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Hester seconded. Trumpe noted that the Petitioners will be using the established well and septic system. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 3.** Case 023-09-S, Peoria County. An amendment to various sections of the Zoning Ordinance in relation to setbacks for wind energy conversion systems. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval and the Land Use Committee concurs.

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Harding seconded. Trumpe explained that since this ordinance was passed, there has been some rethinking about setbacks with regard to small, private energy conversion systems. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 4.** Case 014-09-U, Dean & Holly Ramseyer. A Special Use request to allow for Overnight Accommodations in the "R-2" Medium Density Residential District. The parcel is located in Medina Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval with restrictions and the Land Use Committee concurs.

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Hidden seconded. Trumpe said that the Petitioners operated a bed and breakfast at this location for years but then had a fire. They have now remodeled and need the special use. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 5.** An ordinance from your Land Use Committee recommending approval of amendments to Appendix A (Building Permit Fee Schedule) of Chapter 12, Building & Property Maintenance Code.

Trumpe moved to approve the ordinance and Widmer seconded. Trumpe explained that the amendments address a price difference for large commercial energy conversion systems and small, private systems. Phelan asked if the fees cover the County's costs. Mr. Wahl replied that the \$250 fee covers staff's plan review and inspection. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

- 6.** A resolution from your Judicial Committee recommending Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria for the American



Recovery and Reinvestment Act/Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program and that \$327,492.00 is appropriated to the appropriate line items in the Sheriff's budget.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Hidden seconded. Baietto noted that the County's portion of the grant will be used for radios. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

7. A resolution from your Judicial recommending approval of a Public Safety Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria.

Baietto moved to approve the resolution and Sous seconded. Baietto stated that this is one thing the City and County can work together on, and he thinks it's a good agreement. Rand commended Mr. Sorrel and Chris Setti at the City for getting this agreement done. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

8. A resolution from your Facilities Committee recommending approval of the County Administrator to proceed with the planning steps necessary to replace Bel-Wood Nursing Home with a new facility.

Pearson moved to approve the resolution and Salzer seconded. Gene Genoli, 210 E. Morningside Drive, addressed the Board with regard to continuing operations at Bel-Wood. There are plenty of beds for nursing home residents in Peoria County including those with special needs. Indigent people are taken care of through the State and Medicaid. Therefore, it seems to him there is no longer a need for Bel-Wood. It cannot be run efficiently if the County has to subsidize it to the tune of three million dollars and still cannot make a profit. Forty million dollars plus the money being paid right now would educate every indigent high school graduate in Peoria County.

Hidden moved to defer Item No. 8 until the new budget comes out to see exactly where the County stands financially and Widmer seconded. Widmer stated there are many reasons to ask for the deferral. In 2003, he supported the Bel-Wood referendum. The referendum clearly said the tax would be used "to maintain" Bel-Wood for the underprivileged as a safety net which has not been done. Since the referendum, \$14,500,000.00 has been collected for Bel-Wood. Four million dollars went to pay off the deficit; what happened to the other \$10,000,000.00? Why wasn't this money used to keep Bel-Wood in the same condition as the County Courthouse? The County did not do what it said it would do; it has not maintained the building.

Pearson said that the County has received report after report saying that the County needs a new building. If there is a not a new building by 2012, Bel-Wood will have to be closed. All this resolution means is that the County wants a new building rather than a renovated one. Hidden noted that she has been a big advocate for Bel-Wood. She recognized that the building is kind of dilapidated, but she cannot with a clear conscience vote to build a new



nursing home because it will put the County \$50,000,000.00 in debt.

Widmer noted that he is not against nursing homes, but that more dialogue on this issue is needed. Mayer urged the Board to vote no on the deferral and to vote yes on the underlying resolution. The audited financial statements show that Bel-Wood does turn a profit before the six cent property tax is factored in; the tax cannot be used for the General Fund. The tax can only be used for Bel-Wood, so it cannot be used to fix the rest of the budget. The question is whether the County stays in the nursing home business, and he knows that the public is behind this. Phelan said that he agreed with Mayer. He thought that the Board had already established unanimously that it wanted the County to be in the nursing home business. That being the case, the County should provide a safe environment. He appreciates Widmer's concern about spending, but does not agree with the deferral. Hidden clarified that she did not mean she thinks the County should get out of the nursing home business. The motion to defer failed to pass by a roll call vote of 16 nays and 2 ayes, with Hidden and Widmer voting aye.

The original motion to approve the resolution on Item 8 passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and two nays, with Hidden and Widmer voting nay. (Hidden noted for the record that she meant to vote nay).

- 9.** A resolution from your Transportation Committee recommending approval of Jurisdictional Transfer of portions of Rohmann Avenue and Swords Avenue to the City of West Peoria.

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

- 10.** A resolution from your Transportation Committee recommending approval of a Local Agency Agreement for Federal participation to replace structure #072-3063, on McCullough Road at a total cost of \$400,000.00 of which the County's share is \$80,000.00.

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 Transportation Committee recommending approval of a Local Agency Agreement for Federal participation to replace structure #072-3048, on Todd School Road, at a total cost of \$500,000.00 of which the County's share is \$100,000.00.

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



- 12.** A resolution from your Executive Committee Chairman and the County Administrator recommending approval of Peoria County 2009-2025 Strategic Plan, Vision Statement, Long Range Goals, and 2009 Policy Targets. *(Poll Vote per Rules of Order, Article V, Sec. 18C)*

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

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Hidden noted that the date of the Transportation Committee meeting might have to be changed; members will be notified.

Baietto noted that the June 15th Judicial Committee meeting has been cancelled and has been moved to July 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Trumpe said that there is a new business in Brimfield, Kleine Equipment. Also, the Planning Commission meets on June 24th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 402.

Sous recognized the City of Peoria Fire Chief at the meeting; he appreciates his attendance.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements were taken under Miscellaneous.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chairman asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Watkins so moved and Prather seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Widmer left the meeting.

Prather moved to adjourn and Pearson seconded. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous voice vote.