

Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday December 3, 2009 at 4:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Gordon, Members Ahart, Cavallini, Rankin, Segobiano and Soeldner

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present:

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Bill Wasson, Director of Administrative Services and Ms. Diana Hospelhorn Recording Secretary

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning

Others Present:

Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center,

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

Chairman Gordon presented the Minutes of the October 1, 2009 and the November 17, 2009 Land Use and Development Meeting to the Committee for approval. Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Gordon accepted and placed the minutes on file as submitted.

Chairman Gordon presented the bills from November 30, 2009 which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Land Use and Development Committee by the County Auditor. The prepaid total and fund total for November 30, 2009 is \$19,212.87. He asked for a motion to approve the bills as presented by the County Auditor.

Motion by Ahart / Rankin to recommend approval of the October 1, 2009 and the November 30, 2009 bills as presented by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon informed the Committee that the first Item for Action is a resolution from the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee requesting approval to fund \$12,500 for Electronics Recycling and Educational Exhibits. Chairman Gordon invited Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center, to address the Committee.

Mr. Brown presented the funding recommendations of the Solid Waste Technical and Policy Committee.

- Electronic Recycling and educational exhibits administered by the Town of Normal - \$12,500

Mr. Brown pointed out that the amount of electronics recycled is increasing, causing the cost to also increase.

Mr. Rankin asked if, due to the increase in cost, Mr. Brown saw a needed fund increase in the future. Mr. Brown noted that in the future this program will change significantly. A new State law, effective January 1, 2010, will require all manufacturers and retailers to help support recycling efforts. He stated that the end result will probably not totally cover the cost of electronic recycling, however this new program may help to reduce the required funding.

Ms. Ahart noted that the program is successful and effective.

Chairman Gordon asked for further comments or questions.

Motion by Cavallini / Ahart to recommend approval of the Recommendation of the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee to Fund \$12,500 for Electronics Recycling,
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon stated that the first Item for Information is the Ecology Action Center Quarterly Solid Waste Report.

Mr. Brown referred the Committee to the 2009 McLean County Solid Waste Program / Recycling Education Report. Mr. Brown reviewed the Ecology Action Center Third Quarter Solid Waste Report. He stated that the report details efforts by the Ecology Action Center to provide solid waste and waste reduction services to residents of McLean County, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. The activities include events, educational programs, public presentations, small grant programs through the Solid Waste Technical Committee, operation of the information center 40 hours a week, and promotion of recycling programs throughout the county.

Mr. Segobiano commented that the Ecology Action Center is doing a fine job. He asked about the status of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Mr. Brown pointed out that, at the current time, the State's Solid Waste Fund has been swept from the budget. There is currently no funding for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

Mr. Segobiano questioned what the three local governing entities were doing to help support the funding of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Mr. Brown responded that each year the Solid Waste Management Technical Committee receives \$12,500 to help offset the State's cost to stage the event.

Mr. Cavallini asked if the County needed the State approval to personally stage our own event. Mr. Brown noted that the approximate cost to stage an event is \$100,000.

Mr. Segobiano asked if our local Representatives in Springfield have been contacted. Mr. Brown stated that he has tried to communicate with them and at this point has not received any response. He advised that in the future they are investigating the possibility of establishing a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility. McLean County is trying to partner with other counties to establish a regional facility. There are such facilities in the Chicago area, but nothing in downstate Illinois.

Mr. Segobiano noted that the Solid Waste Management Technical Committee and the Ecology Action Center serve a great purpose in McLean County need to be continued.

Mr. Soeldner asked if there is a local or state site that collects Household Hazardous Waste that would be collected by local organizations. Mr. Brown responded that there are sites in Chicago, however transporting of the waste may not be legal. He concluded by saying that the Ecology Action Center stays in contact with the IEPA and is working very hard to find a solution, however there are no easy answers.

Ms. Ahart asked Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator, if the County has a lobbyist who could help obtain funds. Mr. Lindberg responded that the County is part of an organization called Metro Counties and the County also has its own direct lobbying consultant. He pointed out that fund sweeps are done very late in the session and the sweep is done before the details and the impact is known. He stated that the County can certainly alert Metro Counties and the lobbyist to the funding cuts of the Hazardous Household Waste Collection.

Mr. Rankin asked if there is a chance the funding will be restored in the spring. Mr. Lindberg noted that the funds are gone. An increase in State revenue would be the only chance of possibly restoring the fund.

Chairman Gordon pointed out that in the Ecology Action Center Quarterly Report, he is glad to see the Islamic Center involved. He also noted that the Household Battery recycling program recycled 4,909 pounds of batteries this quarter and the McFreecycle membership has increased.

Chairman Gordon thanked Mr. Brown.

Chairman Gordon stated that the next Land Use and Development Committee meeting will be on Thursday, January 7, 2010. Chairman Gordon asked if there were other items of information to come before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary