1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INTRODUCTORY ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at: 9:00 AM by Chairman Jack D Franks.

PRESENT: Aavang, Acosta (9:00 AM - 11:42 AM), Althoff (9:00 AM - 11:51 AM), Barnes, Bates (9:00 AM - 11:48 AM), Christensen (9:00 AM - 11:53 AM), Doherty, Gottemoller (9:00 AM - 12:03 PM), Jung Jr. (9:00 AM - 11:29 AM), Kearns, McCann (9:00 AM - 11:56 AM), Ness, Nowak, Parrish, Reinert, Schofield, Skala, Thorsen, Vijuk, Wegener, Wheeler, Wilbeck, Yensen, Franks

ABSENT: Smith

Also present were: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator; Kim Kohlner, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Mary Ellen Howell, Veterinary Public Health Division Manager; Melissa Adamson, Public Health Administrator; Joe Tirio, County Clerk; Bill Prim, County Sheriff and interested staff and public

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 0:01:45

Chairman Franks reviews the rules of public comment and the following members of the public speak:

Leslie Schermerhorn regarding Regional Office of Education
Joy Sobczak, Area Agency on Aging, in support of the resolution - Hidden Hero’s County
Chris Hoffman regarding prevailing wage in regards to a current project

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 0:06:50

1. HUD Lead Grant Award

Chairman Franks introduces Joseph Galvin, HUD Midwest Regional Administrator.

Joseph Galvin gives history of grant and presents a check to McHenry County.

2. METRA

Tom Farmer, CFO gives an overview of the 2020 Metra Budget. Rick Mack is also present for questions.

3. PACE

Rocky Donahue, Executive Director and Aaron Shepley, Director gives an overview of the 2020 Pace Budget.
4. RTA

Bea Reyna-Hickey, CFO gives an overview of the 2020 RTA Budget.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 0:44:59

Chairman Franks makes opening remarks and comments regarding the advisory referendum on the Regional Office of Education.

1. Review of the November 19, 2019 County Board Agenda Items

Chairman Franks asks for any items that will be removed in order to allow all staff that is not necessary for questions to return to their departments.

ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION:

ZONING PETITIONS

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS
13.1. Resolution Placing an Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding the Office of McHenry County Regional Superintendent of Schools - removed for discussion by Mr. Skala

REPORTS
16.1.A. County Clerk - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk
16.1.E.1 Sheriff's Report - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
16.2.A.2. Resolution Adopting an Amended Personnel Policy Manual Effective January 1, 2020 - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk

FINANCE & AUDIT
16.2.B.16. Resolution Accepting the Fiscal Year 2018 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Award and Budget Adjustment to the Sheriff's Office Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk

TRANSPORTATION
16.2.F.7. Resolution Awarding a Contract for FY2020 for Emergency and On-Call Tree Maintenance and Appropriating Funds - removed for discussion by Mr. Acosta

ORDINANCES
17.1.B. Proposed Changes to Public Health Ordinance - removed for discussion by Mr. Reinert

DISCUSSION:

REPORTS
16.1.A. County Clerk - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk
Mr. Vijuk asks questions about precinct relocation for voting.
16.1.E.1 Sheriff's Report - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk
Mr. Vijuk asks about the status of ICE detainee/mortality review and Sheriff Prim responds.
Ms. Ness asks about the amount of calls we get on the Noise Ordinance and how does it gets enforced. Sheriff Prim responds. Ms. Ness asks about who makes the decision to move ICE detainees. Sheriff Prim responds.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
16.2.A.2. Resolution Adopting an Amended Personnel Policy Manual Effective January 1, 2020 - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk
Members ask questions and make comments regarding:
Tuition reimbursement
The term “adversely” in regard to employee termination
The two year requirement to stay at the county after reimbursement programs
Student loan reimbursement and where the dollars are coming from
Giving incentive to employees that are not on the County health insurance policy
Chairman Franks asks Mr. Austin to give some response on tuition reimbursement and loan forgiveness
Questions regarding the drug testing and Sheriff Prim responds
Anti Bullying terms
Mr. Austin responds to questions

FINANCE & AUDIT
16.2.B.16. Resolution Accepting the Fiscal Year 2018 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Award and Budget Adjustment to the Sheriff's Office Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget - removed for discussion by Mr. Vijuk
Mr. Vijuk had voted no in committee and after discussion will now be a yes.

TRANSPORTATION
16.2.F.7. Resolution Awarding a Contract for FY2020 for Emergency and On-Call Tree Maintenance and Appropriating Funds - removed for discussion by Mr. Acosta
Mr. Acosta asks if this function was ever a staff function. Mr. Korpalski responds.

ORDINANCES
17.1.B. Proposed Changes to Public Health Ordinance - removed for discussion by Mr. Reinert
Mr. Reinert expresses concern on adding this as this is an unfunded mandate and suggests that cats get pulled out of ordinance. Ms. McCann asks Ms. Adamson to explain the system. Ms. Adamson explains the state mandates and best practices and states this is a fee for service. Ms. Howell gives further explanation. Mr. Vijuk comments regarding the enforcement. Ms. Schofield states that we need to have the information in front of us to make the decision.
Mr. Austin states we have to do this by law and the question is are we going to charge. Some members state this is a user fee not a tax. Chairman Franks makes comments regarding the fee being $0 charge in the resolution. Mr. Gottemoller and Ms. Yensen state that dogs should not have fees either. Members continue discussions and close with it is an unfunded mandate and Mr. Reinert ask that everyone read SB131 for reference. Ms. Adamson makes further comments and responds to member comments. Mr. Austin states that the county has the responsibility for rabies not the municipalities.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS
13.1. Resolution Placing an Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding the Office of McHenry County Regional Superintendent of Schools - removed for discussion by Mr. Skala
Mr. Skala asks which of the statutory requirements does Mr. Wilbeck not agree with and Chairman Franks reviews what the statutory requirements are. Mr. Wilbeck agrees with the requirements but states this is about smaller government. Mr. Skala asks where are requirements going to be accomplished. Mr. Wilbeck states the purpose of eliminating this office would be to share services with other counties. Mr. Gottemoller states that change in government takes 3 to 5 years to change and advisory referendums gives policy makers the opinion of the voters. Mr. Gottemoller states he would agree with this if there were an amendment. Mr. Vijuk compares the qualifications to other elected offices. Ms. Parrish clarifies some of the qualifications for the office. Members continue to discuss how to move forward and how to amend the resolution and consolidate services. Chairman Franks makes closing comments.

7. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 3:00:57

Mr. Austin reviews the following:
Have hired a new Finance Director.
Amendments to the budget

8. OTHER

Full comments can be heard on the McHenry County website audio starting at 3:0253

Mr. Kearns asks about Drainage Districts. Mr. Austin responds.
Mr. Kearns asks about the overhead power poles regarding wording on the agenda with regard to be buried and not overhead. Mr. Sandquist responds.
Mr. Kearns asks about how deep the pole will be bored under the base of the stream. Mr. Sandquist responds. This is not the same solar farm application we passed and how will this affect state funding. Mr. Nowak asks if the previous solar farm exist and Mr. Sandquist responds. Ms. Kohlner gives further explanation.

Mr. Vijuk asks about a rule change about lobbying. Chairman Franks states it would be an ordinance not a rule change.

Ms. Wegener makes comments regarding ICE making some sort of report at the monthly meeting. Chairman Franks responds.

Ms. Yensen would like to know what committee would a lobbyist ordinance go through and Mr. Austin responds.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (IF NECESSARY)

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Nowak made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilbeck to adjourn at 12:19 pm. Chairman Franks declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

-BMG

Full Comments on the above agenda items are included in the audio recording of this meeting, which can be found on the McHenry County Meeting Portal.