

**CHAIRMAN'S ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE FORUM (CALF)**  
**McHenry County Government – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koehler at 10:50 a.m. The following members were present: Chairman Koehler; John Hammerand; Tina Hill, Vice-Chairman of the Management Services Committee; Virginia Peschke; Marc Munaretto; Dan Shea; Ann Gilman; Lyn Orphal; Perry Moy; and Mary Lou Zierer. Absent: Don Brewer and Ann Kate were absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John W. Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; Richard Klasen, County Board Member; Ruth Rooney, Auditor and members from her staff; Sheriff Keith Nygren; Phyllis Walters, Recorder; Dave Stone, Assistant State's Attorney; and the press.

Don Brewer	Ann Gilman
John Hammerand	Ann Kate
Perry Moy	Marc Munaretto
Lyn Orphal	Virginia Peschke
Dan Shea	Mary Lou Zierer
Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman	

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mr. Shea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Zierer, to approve the September 29, 2005 CALF meeting minutes. Mr. Moy asked that his name be added to the list of members. The minutes were approved as amended with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

*Discussion of the Office of County Auditor:* Mr. Austin noted that there had been some discussion regarding the possibility of changing the Auditor position from an elected one to a hired department head. If the County Board determines they wish to move forward with the change it must be done through a referendum. To accomplish this, the question must be put to the voters and would need to be presented for the ballot by January 21, 2006. Ms. Gilman stated that she had raised this idea since now seemed to be an opportune time to make a decision as to if the Auditor's office should be reorganized into a Finance Department. Ms. Zierer noted that Lake County has a Finance Department and asked if they had noticed any savings. Mr. Austin responded that Lake County dropped the Auditor's office several decades ago and has a large finance department that appears to work well for them. Ms. Zierer expressed her support for the continuation of the Auditor's Office. Mr. Moy also expressed his support for the current Auditor's Office noting that as an elected official the Auditor serves as the citizen's watch dog. Ms. Peschke asked a change would be presented as a savings issue or as a more efficient method to handle the County's financial issues. Chairman Koehler there could be some streamlining, but it would be a decision for the voters. He stated it may be difficult to "sell" this idea to the voters, but if we were going to make the change now would be the opportune time. Mr. Austin noted that a financial department may be more efficient and offer more flexibility with multi-tasking of staff. Mr. Klasen commented that he would not support a change. Chairman Koehler stated that this was just a discussion today with no action necessary.

*Legislative Policy Statement:* Mr. Austin presented the following five items for consideration of a McHenry County Legislative Policy Statement: (1) Support Legislation granting additional permissive authorities for counties; (2) Support legislation allowing counties to expand non-property tax revenue sources; (3) oppose unfunded mandates imposed by the state or federal government; (4) Oppose legislation that would reduce the existing authority of county government; and (5) oppose proposals that erode the existing county revenue base. Members reviewed the proposal and raised questions regarding addressing unfunded mandates or promises made by the state that were never carried out (failed promises – such as the Public Defenders salary); objections to rezoning and annexations and imminent domain concerns. Mr. Austin noted that the statements as presented could cover a broad range of issues. Members also suggested that a 6<sup>th</sup> item be added to address proposals concerning the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of McHenry County. Mr. Hammerand stated he could not support item 5 since he was opposed to anything that would increase taxes. Members felt the policy statement was a step in the right direction and would provide the County Board Chairman the flexibility and authority to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner. Members directed Mr. Austin to present a Resolution to the County Board on November 1, 2005 adopting the McHenry County Legislative Policy Statement as discussed.

*Developing a Federal Legislative Agenda:* Mr. Austin noted that the CALF may need to meet monthly while an agenda is being developed. He reported that our lobbyist will be here on November 14, 15 and 16 to hold one on one meetings with various departments. The members agreed to meet with the lobbyist on November 16, 2005 at 8 a.m. at the Division of Transportation building since the Transportation Committee meets that morning at 9 a.m. Mr. Austin noted that the process in developing a legislative agenda can be lengthy. The CALF should have a list of projects developed by Spring of 2006. Chairman Koehler suggested forming a Legislative sub-committee to work through the process. Virginia Peschke, Perry Moy, Ann Gilman and Lyn Orphal stated they could serve on the sub-committee. Ms. Hill also stated she would serve if Ann Kate could not.

*State Legislative Agenda:* Mr. Austin asked if the members would be interested in also developing a state legislative agenda that would focus on specific issues for our county. Chairman Koehler stated that it is important to work with Metro County on items of mutual interest and also develop our own state legislative agenda.

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*Strategic Plan Update:* Mr. Austin asked if the members would like to meet in the Spring of 2006 to update the Strategic Plan or if this should be done at some other time. After a discussion, members felt the Strategic Plan should be reviewed annually and updated as necessary during that time, they felt this could be done at a Committee of the Whole.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Orphal motioned, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

:bjt