

Index
Wednesday, April 29, 2009

MICELLANEOUS:

Call of Special Meeting 1

Certificate of Publication 2

Notice of Special Meeting 3

An Ordinance Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish
Delayed Property Tax Due Dates 4

MADISON COUNTY BOARD

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF MADISON)

Proceedings of the County Board of Madison County, Illinois, at a Special Session of said Board held at the Administration Building in the City of Edwardsville, in the County and State aforesaid, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., and held for the transaction of County business.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009
SPECIAL SESSION

This Special Meeting was called to order by Alan J. Dunstan, Chairman of the Madison County Board.

*** * * * ***

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was said by all of the Members of the Board.

*** * * * ***

The roll was called by Mark Von Nida, County Clerk, showing the following members present:

PRESENT: Messers. Adler, Asadorian, Brazier, Burris, Fancher, Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Glasper, Hartman, Ms. Kuhn, Malone, Meyer, Minner, Ms. Myers, Ms. Novacich, Patton, Petrillo, Ms. Roosevelt, Ms. Ruppert, Semanisin, Slusser, Ms. Tracy, Trucano, Ms Voumard, Walters, and Dunstan.

ABSENT: Ms. Hawkins, Holliday, Scheibel, Schuler and Wangard.

*** * * * ***

The Clerk of the Board read the following Call:

TO: Honorable County Clerk Mark Von Nida
CC: Members of the Madison County Board
FROM: Alan J. Dunstan
 Madison County Board Chairman
DATE: April 22, 2009

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD

In accordance with 55 ILCS 5/2-1002, a special meeting of the Madison County Board is announced and will be held in the Nelson "Nellie" Hagnauer County Board Room in the Madison County Administration Building in Edwardsville, Illinois, at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

AGENDA

The following Ordinance was submitted and read:

Ordinance #2009-04

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TREASURER TO ESTABLISH
DELAYED PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES**

WHEREAS, 35 ILCS 200/21-40 grants the County Board authority to adopt an Ordinance for delayed due dates for the payment of property tax bills; and

WHEREAS, this statutory authority provides that fifty (50) percent of each installment of taxes shall not become delinquent until sixty (60) days after each installment would otherwise become delinquent under sections 21-15, 21-20, or 21-30 of the Property Tax Code; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such provision would enable the County Treasurer to put in place a system of four payments, rather than two, allowing property owners more time to pay without incurring penalty interest for late payments; and

WHEREAS, Taxpayers are struggling with the effects of escalating property tax bills and, in some cases, unemployment, as the result of the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Board and the Madison County Treasurer believes authorizing delayed property tax due dates is in the best interest of the Taxpayers and therefore recommend approval of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Madison County Board as follows:

1. **PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES.** The Madison County Treasurer is authorized to delay the required payment of real estate taxes to provide for installments as follows: Fifty (50) percent of each installment of taxes shall not become delinquent until sixty (60) days after each installment would otherwise become delinquent under Sections 21-15, 21-20, 21-25 or 21-30 of the Illinois Property Tax Code.
2. **INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES REPEALED.** All Ordinances or parts of other Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall to the extent of the conflict be, and are hereby repealed, provided that nothing herein shall in any way excuse or prevent prosecution of any previous or existing violation of any Ordinance superseded hereby.
3. **SAVINGS CLAUSE.** Nothing in this Ordinance hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any Act or Ordinance hereby repealed by this Ordinance, nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.
4. **PASSAGE AND PUBLICATION.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect as per publication by the County Clerk as provided by law and shall continue in effect and operation until lawfully terminated by the Madison County Board.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the County Board of Madison County in the State of Illinois this 29th day of April, 2009.

s/ Alan J. Dunstan _____
Alan J. Dunstan
Chairman

s/ Mark Von Nida
Mark Von Nida
County Clerk

Mr. Adler moved, seconded by Ms. Ruppert, to adopt the foregoing Ordinance.

On the question:

Ms. Novacich: I don't think anyone on this board serves the community we live in and think we want our taxpayers to suffer; we want to see people laid off. That is not the case. I live in Granite City; there are a lot of people laid off in my neighborhood that work at the steel mill. I also work for the Granite City School District, I will be real honest with you, and I am for the four payments, because that helps a lot of people, it helps me and it helps everyone in this room. But I think there is some conflicting news and I don't think everyone has got the full story and I think it would better serve everyone if Mr. Bathon had his meeting with the superintendents, so everyone could get on the same page and have the same numbers. The numbers that I heard today on the phone with my superintendent, Harry Briggs, called me and the numbers that I heard from him are completely different than the numbers that Fred is giving me. The numbers that Fred is giving me looks great and I think if Mr. Briggs saw these numbers versus the numbers he thinks it will be, I think he would be all for the idea. I don't know if any one here would want to vote against a taxpayer, but nobody wants to vote against our children and the schools either. So what I am asking for you to do is to possibly have the meeting with them and then let us come back the next day and make a vote on it.

Mr. Bathon: Excluding Mr. Hightower, I did not receive a phone call from one superintendent. Mr. Daiber has invited me to the superintendents meeting on Wednesday and I plan to attend. Tonight though, we are only voting on a four payment plan, not the dates.

Dr. Daiber: In courtesy of the superintendents, I think the reason they did not call you is for the fact that they thought they would meet with you on Wednesday of next week. I sent all of the superintendents a letter saying you would be at the meeting and I encouraged them to bring the finance officers with them with their numbers so that they could be clarified. What I learned about the meeting today, I was called by a superintendent that was unclear as to why the vote on this is taking place before they had an opportunity to meet with you one on one and clarify this. In fairness to them, they didn't call you because they thought this was going to be taken care of on Wednesday, May 6th when the meeting was held. I spoke to Ed Hightower as well and Ed changed his perspective on this, because of the 90% that is going to be up front by December 11th. I don't think any of them realized in doing their calculations because I don't think the numbers in the initial press release reflected 90% payment before the first of the year.

Mr. Bathon: Nothing has changed on those numbers.

Mr. Asadorian: There are other communities that have other obligations as well; you have Tift districts, municipal bonds that are out there and whatever other payments that needs to be made in a timely manner. They may not have the capital to make those payments and have to borrow money to make those payments. It is all according to how tight their budget is and we all know how that may affect their tax bill next year. By no means am I opposed to this payment plan, I think it is a super idea, my concern is without their up front knowledge on how they can move money around and not having enough time to analyze this. Another week or two may be the perfect time frame to give them an opportunity to be able to figure out how they can move money around to pay what is not being paid in a timely manner. This is not going to hurt anybody. I think it may for the taxpayers benefit them next year as well so that these municipalities or these taxing bodies don't have to raise their taxes next year to cover this year's loss. As

Kristen said everyone is in favor of this, but we don't want to affect what will happen next year by our actions today when maybe a couple of weeks can give them an opportunity to figure their finances out.

Mr. Bathon: We have made 400 copies of this booklet and we are sending out tomorrow morning one to every mayor, city treasurer, clerk, supervisor and one to the libraries and fire districts. It has been in the paper as well.

Ms. Voumard: I was wondering if you were going to meet with municipalities as well.

Mr. Bathon: I happy to meet with whomever. I am willing to have meetings with certain districts if we have to. We are going to send a booklet out to everyone.

Mr. Patton: Another spend that you can look at this timeliness of payments, if the economy and the jobless rate causes individuals double the delinquency we had last year, technically that money does not come into the county it does not get put back out to the school districts until potentially March at the tax sale correct? If we make a method to make the payments timelier and more affordable for people then there is a potential that we can bring in more money than if we do.

Mr. Bathon: Yes, you are correct.

Mr. Walters: How does this affect individuals that have their taxes escrowed through the bank? Do you know what percentage of people do or don't have their taxes escrowed?

Mr. Bathon: If they have enough money in the bank it will be transparent to them. It will not have any effect on them. About 50,000 of 130,000 people have their taxes escrowed.

Ms. Myers: What is it going to do to your office? To make a change like this and to implement all of these changes is the current software system that we have in place capable of handling this change.

Mr. Bathon: My office is doing a lot of the work versus the software. We need to do some modifications. With a 4 payment plan we will not be in a rush, we will have more time to deal with problems that come along the way. It will be more work, but we are accepting it.

Mr. Fancher: Will the escrow payments be made at the same time they are made this year or will that change?

Mr. Bathon: There are 2 installments dates, July and October. The bank will call and ask what are 2 installment dates are and those are the dates we are going to give them. If they ask us for the 4 pay dates we will give them those.

Mr. Fancher: I think this is a great idea; my concern is being a municipal employee and my wife who teaches in the district, how this will affect the two entities.

Mr. Bathon: The only date that is a problem would be the final date. I don't think anybody's operational is going to suffer because they have 8% less.

Ms. Kuhn: How is this going to effect other departments, for instance the Board of Review?

Mr. Bathon: The Board of Review said that this will help their department. They won't be crunched into a 30 or 60 day period, it might be a 120 or 180 day period to deal with problems.

Mr. Adler: One of the departments mentioned has been the County Clerk's Office. This plan is based on the County Clerk getting all the facts and figures done in time for the Treasurer to do this. Is that a problem Mark?

Mr. Von Nida: No. The fact of the matter is that my portion of it is that we currently do not have the state multiplier from the Department of Revenue, and we are held up until we get that. We are hopeful that it comes in quickly. Once we get the state multiplier, we will have the equalized assessed valuation, we will be sending out rate letters to all districts to verify that we got it right. We will also be communicating with the overlapping districts. The thing is we are relying on other people. You can't speed up the process because if you send out the bills and they are incorrect, if they are missing a Tift value, if they are missing an enterprise zone, then Fred will be forced to send out a second bill and you will have a true disaster because they will be paying one bill and not the correct bill and they could end up delinquent on the second bill. We are going to do everything we can to get the tax bills over to Fred by May 15th so he can send it out a month later. We are not going to short circuit the process to do so either. We are going to make sure it is right.

Ms. Kuhn: I would like to ask that we possibly table this item to the next board meeting so everyone can meet and there is more clarification on it.

Mr. Parente: What impact would that have on printing the tax bills if this decision was made?

Mr. Bathon: If you did not make a decision until May 17th the bills probably would not go out until the first week of July or middle of July.

Mr. Asadorian: The date the superintendents are supposed to meet is May 6th correct?

Dr. Daiber: Yes at 10:00 AM.

Mr. Asadorian: Fred how will this impact you if we had a special meeting on May 6th at 5:00 PM?

Mr. Bathon: It does not affect me, because I am the one setting the due dates.

Mr. Asadorian: Mark, are we in the position to where these tax bills are ready to go out without knowing what the state multiplier might be?

Mr. Von Nida: What we are currently doing is preparing as if the state multiplier will be a 1. In the history of the clerk's office over the last 30 years, it has always been a 1. We anticipate a 1. We have a jump on things, waiting for that. Even though we cannot move until the state actually does it, we are moving in a way that we will be able to get as much done as we can.

Mr. Parente: Our understanding is that we are on a day to day basis with the state; we expect to receive a phone call any day on it.

Ms. Kuhn moved, seconded by Ms. Novacich seconded, to table the motion. Motion failed.

The ayes and nays being called on the motion to adopt resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Adler, Asadorian, Brazier, Burris, Fancher, Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Glasper, Hartman, Ms. Kuhn, Malone, Meyer, Minner, Ms. Myers, Ms. Novacich, Patton, Petrillo, Ms. Roosevelt, Ms. Ruppert, Semanisin, Slusser, Ms. Tracy, Trucano, Ms. Voumard and Walters.

NAYS: None.

AYES: 24. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing Ordinance duly adopted.

* * * * *

Mark Von Nida, along with Debbie Ming Mendoza and Kerry Miller, gave a presentation of the Property Tax Appeal Process for Madison County.

* * * * *

Ms. Tracy moved, seconded by Ms Ruppert to adjourn this special session of the County Board until May 20, 2009. **MOTION CARRIED.**

* * * * *

ATTEST: Mark Von Nida
County Clerk