

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Merle Kirby, Barb Kyes, Bob Lott and Jeff Fore were in attendance. Commissioner Ed Whitcomb was unable to attend. Various other County officials and employees were in attendance for some, if not all, of the meeting.

Chairperson Kirby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Snedeker Risk Management representatives, Alex Snedeker & Jason Boothe, were in attendance and spent time giving an overview of the HOPETrust (Health Options for Public Entities). The Board called this special meeting due to possible time constraints if they were to move to, and provide employee health insurance through the HOPETrust, by January 1, 2013. It was discussed that Menard County would, as a practical matter, have to agree to this move by approximately October 1, 2012, if interested in making the move.

It was explained that the HOPETrust has been created to provide employee health insurance to local government entities through a pool association of these local government entities. It was explained that Menard County could only move to the HOPETrust as a group, under one plan (i.e., multiple plans could not be created for one member entity). It was explained the HOPETrust was a potentially good option to keep employee health insurance more affordable by spreading the risk across more local government entities and its members who received their health insurance through this program. Some areas addressed included that Healthlink Open Access III was the in-network provider and that there was no restriction on where those providers were located; that there was currently a HOPETrust census of approximately 150; that retirees would have IMRF continuation coverage available, per State law; the contribution rates for Menard County would be set at a level that matches Menard County's expense to the trust but that any future contribution rate increase would be the same percentage for all HOPETrust members.

There was discussion about the claims appeal process. It was explained that it was unlikely a Menard County employee, who filed a claim, would have to drive any great distance to deal with an appeal and that most appeals were handled through written correspondence.

Executive Session

There was no executive session held at this meeting.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Lott moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried with four "ayes", no "nays" and one "absent".