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**VBH BOT FYI Planning**

1 message

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County to vote on paying for land-ordinance help  
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WOODSTOCK – With the 2030 Land Use Plan finished, county planners want to update and combine their land ordinances.

The McHenry County Board on Nov. 4 will vote on whether to spend up to \$248,000 for a Chicago firm to help create a unified development ordinance. The ordinance will consolidate the county's zoning, subdivision, sign and other development-related ordinances into one to make them easier to follow and enforce.

The board's Finance and Audit Committee on Tuesday voted, 6-1, to recommend hiring Camiros Ltd. to help develop the ordinance.

The opposing vote came from John Hammerand, R-Wonder Lake, who questioned the expenditure during a lean economy and asked why county planning staff could not develop the ordinance on their own. The county budgeted for developing the ordinance for the present fiscal year on the condition that the 2009 fiscal year ended with a surplus, which it did.

"We budgeted for this because it's important," committee member Tina Hill, R-Woodstock, said.

Hill, chairwoman of the Planning and Development Committee, said its members concluded that planning staff members could not develop the ordinance and tend to their regular duties.

"The expertise [Camiros] will bring in will make this as easy and as painless as we can make it," finance committee member Mary Donner, R-Crystal Lake, told Hammerand.

Creating a unified development ordinance has been on county leaders' minds since the approval of the 2030 Plan after 31/2 years of work. The plan, approved by the County Board in April, is a nonbinding template to help guide the county's growth over the next 20 years while balancing it with environmental sustainability.

Local municipalities that already have unified development ordinances include Crystal Lake, Woodstock and Richmond.

The County Board next meets at 9 a.m. Nov. 4. It pushes back its Tuesday meeting when it falls on Election Day.

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