

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

July 15, 2010

8:45 a.m.

Will County Office Building
Conference Room B
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Adamic called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Babich, Brooks, May, Seiler, Stewart, Traynere, Wilhelmi, Winfrey and Adamic.

Absent were: Anderson and Deutsche.

Also Present: Pam McGuire, Nick Palmer and Bruce Friefeld.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Melanie Manning.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Seiler, to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF JULY 15, 2010 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Adamic stated there is one proclamation this month recognizing the 20th anniversary of the ADA.

Ms. Winfrey indicated there will also be a special award presentation relating to the ADA.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic stated the resolution for the fair market value is done annually.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Brooks indicated the University of Illinois Extension gave an update at committee; it was a good report.

Mr. Adamic asked if there were any questions on the resolutions.

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Babich reviewed the Public Works & Transportation resolutions.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

No report.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

No report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic indicated there is a resolution opposing HB5055 on the Sheriff's foreclosures.

Ms. Traynere stated the Sheriff came to committee on this issue. He takes in over \$1 million per year on this process; it goes up depending on the number of foreclosures. It is a flat fee they get for the service; they try to work with the homeowners to make it as least painful as can be. There are some private companies that want this business. None of our representatives or our lobbyist warned us about this; there was some discussion that perhaps the language in the bill was not as clear. They are basically trying to let the private sector in to get some of this money. It is privatization of government services. It is waiting on the Governor's desk.

Mr. Adamic indicated there is a letter from Mr. Walsh opposing it. Another component of this is the private firms can affect some of the legal notices, which would have an adverse affect on small newspapers.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned what the impetus is that moved this forward so quickly.

Ms. Traynere replied everyone claimed to have no information – that there are many bills in front of them every year.

Mr. Palmer stated this slid by everyone – even Metro Counties; it is pretty much a done deal.

Mr. Wilhelmi asked who makes the determination.

Ms. Traynere answered the bank can choose who they will use – whether it is the Sheriff or a private company.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned if we are slow in the process.

Ms. Traynere replied only in Cook County – that may be the issue.

Mr. Palmer stated Sheriff Dart has exerted a little more latitude to give people a little more time. He spoke with someone in our Sheriff's Department on this; they issue the order and a resident has 30 days to vacate the premises but they do not have to execute the eviction for 90 days. Sheriff has sometimes given people more time. Theoretically, the private firm can be there on the 30th day.

Ms. Traynere indicated one of the reasons was that there were places that had been rented and people were paying their rent.

Mr. Wilhelmi commented that could have been driven by the lobbyist group for the banks.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Ms. Winfrey stated there is a resolution for the Wight feasibility study to allow them to move forward with the contract

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic stated there is a resolution to remove an election judge for voting a different party.

Mr. Palmer indicated there was much discussion at committee regarding Resolution 10-259. This is spelling out within our internal budget codes. In November of 2009 we came with a resolution with the strategy for the \$3 million and we outlined a budget that is virtually the same as what is being presented. We have been to executive committee the last 5 times. The big picture is \$1.5 million for the gas to energy plant; \$1.2 million for the retro fits that were all bid out and then the educational component. Everything that could be bid out was; everything was done above board. The professional service contracts could have just been issued but we bid those out to give a transparent process. There should not be any concerns on those. Unfortunately we still do not get as many bidders as we like. All county board members will be discussing that - reviewing the purchasing ordinance. In some instances, what we are bidding is too small of a project. Regarding the vehicle the money was moved to the "other" line item.

Mr. Adamic commented there was an article in the paper that touched on some things that were not quite factual. He talked to Mr. Bilotta about keeping politics out of the board room floor. By working together we will accomplish far more. Mr. Bilotta will mention this at his caucus as well.

Mr. Wilhelmi asked if they are reviewing the bid or changing the scope.

Mr. Olson answered we could certainly look at it again. The reason why we did it that way is we had a deadline of June 25. On March 15 we received authorization to spend the money; we did the best we could. This was a vehicle that was recommended by the DOE. We

chose this mini bus so the educator could drive it without having to hire someone else. We have had very good results from the hybrid we bought 3 to 4 years ago; we went with what we know and what we thought was the best.

Mr. Wilhelmi asked what your current direction is.

Mr. Olson answered we can look at all options if that is what the board wants. We can certainly put it back out there – is it really worth the time and effort?

Mr. Wilhelmi stated your emphasis on an educational function in the grant money should still be there.

Ms. Traynere commented the vehicle is the best option. Learning is more than a book or the internet; for many people it is hands on – this is creating a preferred future and where we need to be going.

Mr. Stewart questioned if they are happy with the workforce vehicle.

Mr. Palmer answered the idea behind the workforce vehicle and health department dental van is we have a big county and we cannot have physical locations everywhere. We hired CDM who took the ideas that were proposed; education was a big piece of the overall effort – we have an obligation to raise awareness of what services are out there.

Mr. Olson commented on the sustainability question. We hired an educator in 1997 and our recycling rate increased from 17% to 40%.

Ms. Traynere asked what can we do to bring this back to the floor.

Mr. Palmer answered there will be initial discussion; we have to decide in the time element we have.

Mr. Olson indicated we are trying to talk to the DOE about different options.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Friefeld stated there was a request by the Illinois Association of County Board Members to appoint someone to the Illinois Task Force; there will be a motion to appoint Mr. Wisniewski.

Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Winfrey, second by Ms. Seiler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.