

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**September 16, 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 8:50 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were:** Babich, Brooks, Deutsche, May, Seiler, Stewart, Traynere, Wilhelm, Winfrey and Adamic.

**Absent were:** Anderson.

**Also Present:** Nick Palmer and Bruce Friefeld.

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** Phil Mock.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved later in the meeting due to lack of quorum.

**DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mr. Adamic stated there are 3 proclamations today; Take Back the Night; the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Crest Hill and JJC Culinary Arts American Culinary Federation championship.

**LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Franz stated there are only 2 items this month; one is a temporary use permit for a soccer club and the other is an extension of a SUP and variance for a zoning case.

Mr. Stewart asked what the status is on the rodeos.

Ms. Franz answered they have started a working group to look into the rodeos; no action has been taken at this point.

Ms. May indicated PZC initiated this committee made up of people from the rodeo, people against the rodeo, and also different entities; they will have some workshops and come up with recommendations to the land use committee and then the full county board.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Brooks indicated Ms. Flessner spoke at committee about the training at Workforce and the grants they have received. Ms. Hennessey provided the update on the county finances.

Mr. Adamic stated we are awarding the bid for the audit; it was awarded to the lowest overall bidder.

Ms. Seiler arrived at this juncture.

**QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.**

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Babich reviewed the Public Works & Transportation resolutions.

Mrs. Traynere arrived at this juncture.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Brooks, to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Palmer stated Resolution 10-324 originally came out of judicial committee.

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Seiler indicated there are 2 standard bid awards for Sunny Hill.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Traynere stated there was a big movement to do sole source on the lighting. The State's Attorney's office indicated we cannot do that; there was no other discussion. She brought an article from Detroit on all the LED companies in Michigan.

Mr. Palmer indicated we will not sole source this but it is not like this project is done. All of the research that has been done shows this company is cutting edge. The best effort is with the RFI – asking questions of other companies what they can do. That is probably the closest we are to a formal bid. The issue is not dead.

Mr. Adamic stated the main question is what else is out there. We need to make sure we are getting the best product.

Mr. Friefeld arrived at this juncture.

Mrs. May commented there was discussion at the meeting about extra points for going out for local companies. She expressed concern about letting a bid out on a project but talking about one particular company; if someone was an outsider, one would think that it is not that open.

Mr. Adamic stated it needs to be an open process. Everyone should have a shot at it; may the best product win.

Mr. Palmer stated this is just like the bus that was discussed for Waste Services. There are some companies that are leading the curve; this company has a proven record. There are concerns if there is someone else. You do your due diligence – as far as we can find they are the only one. All the other options would reduce our goal. LED lighting is getting more successful.

Ms. May asked what the dollar amount is for this project.

Mr. Palmer answered we will decide how much we want to spend.

Ms. Deutsche arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Friefeld indicated the county board will have to settle on what standard of light bulb you want; that is a policy decision. There is a lot of work to be done.

Mr. Babich questioned if we will use the same process as we did when Waste Management was selected.

Mr. Friefeld replied that is the right direction. We have to request information; someone may think they have the technology.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Adamic indicated there is a replacement hire for the Supervisor of Assessments office.

Ms. Winfrey arrived at this juncture.

Mrs. Novak stated this position was in last year's budget. Mapping is down because of the economy so we have reworked the mapping position and will use this position to reach out to seniors and spend time educating them. This person will be going out to municipalities, libraries, park districts – making sure people understand how their assessments work

Ms. Seiler questioned if this is regarding Resolution 10-313.

Mrs. Novak replied this would be for the senior freeze – those seniors making less than \$55,000; there are 14,000 people in Will County. Resolution 10-313 is for the senior homestead exemption; there are 40,000 of those in Will County. They currently do not have to renew each year. There was a new public act; this resolution is cleaning up, making sure we comply with

that new act. We do not feel the need to have 40,000 seniors try to send in their paperwork. This is what we have always done.

Mr. Babich commented his aunt received a letter from Plainfield indicating she has to make an appointment to see them.

Mrs. Novak indicated that is a different program; those seniors who qualify for the senior freeze, Plainfield will give them some type of assistance with their water bill.

Mr. Wilhelmi commented there will be a tremendous amount of anxiety when the tax bills go out; your office will be overwhelmed. It is very important to explain this.

Mrs. Novak stated this is an enhancement. We have been doing this reach out for the past 7 years but the need is increasing. The taxpayers look for that to help them understand how it works.

Mrs. May questioned how do you know there are 14,000.

Mrs. Novak replied that is 14,000 existing; but it increases every year. We are always reaching out to let people know about this. This is an existing position in the budget. We have reworked the description for what is a very important need.

Mr. Adamic asked if people receive a notice of this when they turn 65.

Mrs. Novak answered she is required to put all the information on the back of the tax bills. We have brochures we put out so people know what we have to offer.

Mr. Adamic indicated there are a number of bid awards on the agenda; there is also the surplus vehicles as well as a number of recycling agreements.

Mr. Palmer stated Resolution 10-323 is an addendum to the contract; the advisory group asked for additional public meetings. Resolution 10-324 was split into 2 phases. One is the \$100,000 the County Executive and County Board will pay; the rest will be paid by the Circuit Clerk and Chief Judge automation fund. We will negotiate 2 parallel contracts.

Mr. Adamic indicated Resolution 10-325 is for the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension matching funds up to \$25,000.

Mrs. May commented she sits on the extension council. There are 3 counties that are merging – Kankakee, Grundy and Will. They are currently looking for a new building. The existing director will be leaving; there will be only one director for all 3 counties. The discussion at the meetings was the counties that have the most money will carry the big stick when it comes to what will happen – the dollars lead the talk. They expressed concern about the match.

Mr. Adamic stated Resolution 10-326 is in support of the Cancer Treatment Center at Silver Cross Hospital.

Mrs. Traynere commented that is good news about the VA facility at the Silver Cross emergency room; that is great for the veterans.

Mr. Friefeld indicated the last 2 resolutions regarding recovery zone bonds will be remanded back to the executive committee. The bakery has not decided where they will locate. Romeoville is actually looking for assignment of our cap, which is contrary to what our policy is. It does not mean we cannot do it. This may come back in October.

Mr. Palmer commented the danger is that these funds are only good until the end of the year.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Other Business**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Winfrey, second by Mr. Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.