

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

October 21, 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: Anderson, Babich, Brooks, Deutsche, May, Seiler, Stewart, Traynere, Wilhelmi, Winfrey and Adamic.

Absent were: None.

Also Present: 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. Winfrey, to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF OCTOBER 21, 2010 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Adamic stated there will be a presentation by Metra and the RTA on their budgets.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Adamic indicated there are 2 honorary proclamations that will be placed on file.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. May stated Case 5933-S regarding the kennel passed committee. District 7 members were OK with this. The adjoining landowners did not want it. There are many conditions that were put in place. This is a rescue shelter.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Seiler stated there was a discussion on the aggregate levy. Another resolution is for a transfer of funds within the Recorder of Deeds' budget to purchase a new microfilm machine.

Mr. Friefeld advised the members by law you have to establish the estimate of the aggregate levy. It is not binding; it is a work in process. The resolution keeps the levy at the same level as last year. If you intend to raise 105% over last year then you have to publish the black box; there will be no publication this year.

Mr. Adamic commented we still have long term implications for the 2011 budget; there are many factors that go into the tax bill.

Ms. Traynere indicated she had forwarded an e-mail on to everyone with information about another community in Illinois. They realize they have things that have to be fixed. One of the comments made is that we need to set an example – we are the least taxing body on the average person's property tax – we can set all the examples we want – all we will do is put ourselves into a hole. The taxing bodies that really take a chunk out of the residents are the schools; we have no control over that. Schools take 10 times what the county gets.

Ms. May clarified we are looking at the total amount of the levy and how much they want to give each department.

Mr. Adamic indicated we will not micro-manage department heads; that is the job of the elected officials.

Mr. Palmer stated many people thought we were setting the levy and it was set. We have actually until next month. There is flexibility with the levy; before we get to November we have the public coming in. We will have a real understanding what we set the levy at and the implications of that. We understand no one wants to pay more taxes; there is infrastructure we have worked towards to get us to solid ground.

Ms. Traynere commented there is a push by the majority leadership to switch to new lights. We do not know what it will cost; in the long term we could be spending more on electric.

Mr. Palmer indicated we do not have any problems answering questions about the budget. Mr. Walsh's concern is that we will have a public comment on the budget; hopefully we will have the same discussion on whatever revisions you as a board make. It is your document to mold and send back to him

Mr. Adamic stated this is still a work in process; let us hope that it is something responsible and that the budget is funded so we do not short change anything down the road. We need to be responsible.

Mr. Friefeld indicated this estimate does not include new property. There were conversations with Mr. Rafac on how much that would increase if included; the estimate was \$1.4 million.

Mr. Adamic stated he has asked Mr. Moustis and Mr. Bilotta that we need to have a leadership meeting; we should have had something by now. He asked Mr. Friefeld to pass that request along.

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Babich reviewed the Public Works & Transportation resolutions.

Mr. Wilhelmi arrived at this juncture.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

No report.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. May indicated these are routine resolutions, awarding bid and appropriating grant funds.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Brooks indicated Mr. Gower provided an update on the CN Railroad issue.

Ms. Traynere commented on the cell tower issue in New Lenox. It is hard to tell from the pictures how close it is to the houses. Has anyone actually been there?

Mr. Friefeld answered he was there yesterday; from one perspective it does not look like it is a major problem. There is a house to the west of the tower where it is a problem; the houses to the east; there is a gully in between. There is nothing the county could do about this. The county representative met with the residents who are very angry. We ought to be saying to the people they need to talk to their Congressmen and U.S. Senators. That is where this law can be changed.

Ms. Deutsche arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Traynere commented there are electric power lines running through Bolingbrook. She has a bigger concern about those lines.

Mr. Friefeld stated there was no doubt they want it relocated; they want it further north.

Mr. Wilhelmi indicated we will keep working with the legislators on this issue.

Mr. Friefeld commented it needs to take place at the federal level.

Ms. Traynere questioned if it will be part of our federal agenda.

Mr. Friefeld replied that will be on the agenda next month; this should be one of the items discussed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Ms. Traynere stated they had received the survey results from Mr. Palmer from the companies regarding the LED lighting. They picked 3 companies and will be setting up an opportunity for all 3 presentations. She spoke with someone from the south suburbs that had Borealis in to talk to them but they did not buy the product; they mentioned different lighting all together that they are more interested in.

Mr. Adamic commented if there is a superior product let us hear about it.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Friefeld stated Resolution 10-327 will be removed from the agenda. Resolution 10-354 regarding the bond allocation is amended and on your desk. We do have another entity D & W Electric so the balance of allocation that will be unused is \$17 million; that is the amount that will be sent back to IFA. Resolution 10-358 regarding the office cleaning contract; this is not the lowest bidder. We have had issues with the other bidders; this is the current cleaning contract.

Mr. Anderson arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Wilhelmi commented all the insurance renewals came in favorably; the health increase is approximately 8%.

APPOINTMENTS

Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Ms. Winfrey, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.