

**REPUBLICAN CAUCUS**  
**302 North Chicago Street**  
**County Board Committee Room**  
**Joliet, IL**

**MINUTES**  
**January 21, 2010**  
**8:35 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Kusta called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY STAFF:**

**Present were:** Blackburn, Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Kusta, Moustis, Rozak, Singer, B. Smith, L. Smith, and Weigel.

**Absent were:** Maher, Riley and Wisniewski

**Also Present:** Assistant State's Attorney Mary Tatroe

**Proclamations-None**

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved at the end of the meeting when quorum was established.

**Land Use**

Mr. Weigel stated he had 2 variances which were approved by committee.

Mr. Weigel advised that there is 1 resolution regarding the historical commission, the octagon house in Wilmington.

Ms. Rozak stated that there was one member who opposed the variance regarding the fence going from 4 ft to 8 ft. We had a case a while back where they put in a lattice fence and we voted it down, he wanted to extend his height variance. It was not recommended by staff.

Ms. Rozak stated she believed one member did not want to allow this.

Ms. Rozak stated this case was different because this is an industrial area and if I was the house next door I would want it. The other case was already sited for a violation because the neighbors did complain. It may be brought up on the floor.

Mr. Weigel stated that this was discussed at their meeting and believed everyone voted yes.

Ms. Rozak stated the vote count may be wrong on this case.

### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Kusta advised the resolutions were all concerning year end cleanup.

### **Public Works**

Mr. Bruce Gould advised there were altered speed zones and were all for township roads.

### **Judicial Committee**

Mrs. Dralle advised that she had one resolution for an intergovernmental agreement between Will County and the Godley Park District for law enforcement services.

### **Public Health & Safety Committee – No Report**

### **Legislative Committee**

Ms. Goodson stated that the resolutions for the draft state and federal legislative agendas were being presented for approval.

Ms. Goodson advised that in the federal agenda there was a little bit for everyone. The County Executive is working with the Health Department for funds for mental health services and for veterans as the demand is beyond our capacity.

Ms. Goodson stated that we are continuing Phase II of the Integrated Justice Initiative and we are also looking for \$300,000.00 under Law Enforcement for cameras for an additional 65 squad cars.

Ms. Goodson reviewed that there is a request for Bell Road and 143<sup>rd</sup> Street improvements; as well as \$450,000.00 transportation multi-jurisdictional land use plan regarding the plan for footprint of the airport. We are also requesting reauthorizing

project in the two districts, \$75 million for the Weber Road and I-55 interchange and \$10 million for the Laraway Road Corridor improvement.

Ms. Goodson advised there is also a \$1 million request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the DuPage River Study regarding the increase of flooding. The last study was in 1982 and we are looking to update that and do that in cooperation with some studies that DuPage County has done and combine the information from this study to help do hydrologic and hydraulic modeling.

Ms. Goodson stated that we are requesting authorization from WRDA on projects so then we can request funding. With WRDA we first have to request authorization so that we can actually seek funding.

Ms. Goodson advised that we are seeking \$350,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for economic development plan. This will help to assist in planning for the increased truck traffic that we are going to be experiencing in Will County as we expand our intermodals.

Ms. Goodson advised that members will be going to Washington in March to meet with legislators and will be presenting the agendas and requests to them.

Ms. Goodson stated regarding the state agenda there is a white sheet on the airport and we have the support of regular business leaders, County officials and local officials for our plan for the South Suburban Airport.

Ms. Goodson reported that the Illiana Expressway project is moving forward. It will expand I-65 to I-55, a 50 mile corridor, which will help with the airport, east/west corridor and may be a public and private partnership.

Ms. Goodson stated there is also SB 1607 which passed the Senate and is in the House Rules. She recommended that we provide our own language for a bill that would make it more palatable for Will County and others who have these unlined quarries.

Mr. Gould arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Goodson stated that there is also cell tower legislation and we will request additional setback requirements.

Ms. Goodson advised that at our last legislative meeting that were informed that there is technology that if there is a problem with a cell tower there is what they call crumple technology. This would force a tower, if damaged, that would break in ½ and not hit another property.

Ms. Goodson advised there is also the issue that the state has not been funding Probation Services and are adding mandates creating hardship on counties for funds. Metro Counties is also including this item in their packet.

Ms. Konicki arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Goodson stated that pension reform is a big issue and seems to be the number one priority in the legislature. The state has not fulfilled its duty to fund these pensions and is putting the state further and further into debt.

Ms. Goodson explained that we will continue to oppose any reduction of our existing authority and that there will be a letter from Mr. Bilotta regarding the road projects.

Mrs. Dralle advised, regarding the Federal agenda, specifically the mental health issue, that the Chief Judge will be attending Judicial Committee next month to discuss a mental health court that they are looking to establish.

Mr. Moustis stated that Miami Dade County has a mental health court, which he viewed during an LUCC/NACo trip, indicating that it was pilot program that has triage with units on the street and offered to provide the contact person he spoke with as well as the Judge who runs that court. They may be resources who are willing to share their experience.

Mr. Gould stated at the recent Board of Health meeting they advised that the state still intends to close the Tinley Park facility. Elgin would be the next closest. We passed a resolution from this board urging them not to close the Tinley Park facility.

Mr. Moustis stated that the Tinley Park facility was used a great deal by Will County and initially they were a full service facility and criminally insane facility. They have now shut down to about 75%.

Mr. Moustis inquired, regarding the pension reform, are counties in the state plan. IMRF is not a state plan although it may have been state statute that allowed it. He is concerned that the state is trying to roll IMRF which really is the counties (not just us but other counties) pension program into their system.

Ms. Goodson stated she believed it was more of a budgetary standpoint.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Rozak advised that it is a two tier approach regarding the pension reform.

Ms. Goodson explained that is correct and that they can't go back and cut people's pension from those that already have pensions. It is a two tier program when new employees come in they will no longer fund the pension 100%, it will be a personal contribution.

Mr. Moustis stated the pension should be a negotiated item and not legislated. He was concerned that the state is trying to take away the negotiation aspect away from the collective bargaining units and we should not support that. The state has abused the pension programs and is now placing it on the backs of the public workers. He is ok with a cap on pensions.

Ms. Goodson advised that the legislation is looking at increases and left to the municipalities to fund it.

Ms. Rozak stated the Governmental League is behind this reform and is concerned about the police and fire pensions.

Ms. Smith stated that we saw this year how it impacted the county with IMRF. We had to pay the difference. We could not go back and ask the employees for an increase. This would allow us to get more money from the employees to put into their pension and not just paid by the employer.

Ms. Konicki advised she would prefer that we stay out of the state pension issue and stated that it is not a county issue.

Ms. Goodson stated we can remove it from the legislative agenda.

Mr. Moustis recommended that the issue be taken back to the Legislative Committee for further review and discussion.

### **Capital Improvements**

Mrs. Dralle advised that there would be an update in February.

### **Executive Committee**

Mr. Moustis advised County Board member Susan Riley has submitted her resignation.

Mr. Moustis stated that he asked the State's Attorney if we could declare the vacancy today and was advised that we could not.

Mr. Moustis replied that the County Board will have a special meeting after Forest Preserve meeting in February to declare the vacancy in District #3 and then we will

have 60 days to fill the seat. He stated he would have liked to thank Susan for all her service over the years and that the County Board will do a proclamation in February.

Ms. Dralle requested that the County Board recognize the Romeoville serviceman who recently died at the February meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

Ms. Johannsen inquired, regarding the moment of silence for the passing of former County Executive Charles Adelman, at what juncture would they like to do it.

Mr. Moustis advised that we would be asking for a moment of silence after the invocation for the passing of Charles Adelman.

Mr. Singer arrived at this juncture.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Singer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

MOTION CARRIES