

WILL COUNTY BOARD
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

December 16, 2010

8:35 a.m.

Will County Office Building
Will County Board Committee Room
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bilotta called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Hart, Konicki, Maher, McPhillips, Moustis, Rozak, Singer, L. Smith, Weigel.

Absent were: Argoudelis, Blackburn and B. Smith

Also Present: Deputy Chief of Staff M. Johannsen, Chief Highway Engineer Bruce Gould

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Mary Tatroe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Hart led the caucus in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Moustis, second by Mrs. Dralle, to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Moustis, second by Mrs. Dralle, to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2010 Reorganization Caucus Meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF DECEMBER 16, 2010 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Bilotta advised that everything would be heard under the Executive Committee as all committees were cancelled due to reorganization after the election. He stated that there were three proclamations being presented.

Mr. Moustis inquired of Ms. Goodson if they change the Land Use Committee from 10 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. which means only one hour for Legislative, would that be a problem.

Ms. Goodson replied that during session we have more business to conduct which would be about 5 times a year where it would run longer than the hour.

Mr. Moustis stated that the meetings should be done in an hour. People must be prompt and be more efficient to be on time. He would like to try having Legislative from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and Land Use at 9:30 a.m. If it doesn't work then it could be changed but he would like to try it. Members need to notify either him, Mr. Bilotta, Laurie Smith or the office if you are not going to make a meeting in advance in order to make quorum. If we know ahead of time, then staff can call him to tell him that he will be needed to make a quorum.

Ms. Goodson advised that for Legislative we did expand the number of committee members so we should have less of an issue.

Mr. Moustis stated that Land Use Committee does run long due to speakers.

Ms. Rozak stated that she would have to leave Legislative to make the Land Use Committee meeting.

Ms. Goodson advised that Ms. Rozak and Ms. Deutsche were both on Legislative and Land Use.

Ms. Johannsen stated that she will republish regarding the committee times.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – No Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – No Report

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE – No Report

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE – No Report

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – No Report

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE – No Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Bilotta stated that there were resolutions and public hearings regarding billboards as well as the enterprise zone extension.

Mr. Bilotta stated that there were resolutions renewing contracts with Burke; Farnsworth and Mahar.

Ms. Goodson inquired if Mr. Moustis was going to comment at the board meeting on our meeting with Smith Dawson.

Mr. Moustis replied that he will comment here and at the Executive Committee that we will continue to talk with Smith Dawson to determine what their role will be on the federal level

and will come back with a recommendation at Executive and Legislative Committee. We need to schedule a meeting with Smith Dawson.

Mr. Moustis stated they are federal lobbyists and are not there for legislative purposes. We use NACo to carry some of the issues forward regarding counties. The federal lobbyists have been used to bring/obtain funds to the County. The question is whether there will be any funds over the next year. There is no money for earmarks and that is where the majority of our funds have come from and some federal grants they have assisted on. Smith Dawson has sent out a letter via e-mail outlining their proposal which was received yesterday. We will have that discussion at the Legislative Committee, the Executive Committee as well as the board.

Enterprise Zone

Ms. Konicki inquired how does the enterprise zone differ from a TIF.

Mr. Gould replied this is abating the state's portion of the sales tax. It is not like a TIF where there is money collected and deposited. It only has to do with buying building materials.

Mr. Moustis explained that we would still receive our portion; it only affects the state's portion. This is specifically for prior military installations and at one time was part of the Joliet Arsenal. We are expanding it and this area qualifies for it.

Mr. Singer stated that it is part of the base realignment of Joliet Arsenal and closure. It was agreed upon in the mid '90's to be applicable for enterprise zones if groups wanted to do it. As an inland port you could bypass some of the different tariffs and some of the other issues on exports if you create an enterprise zone. They are only done when there are natural resources and/or amenities on the ground to make it an enterprise zone. In this particular case it is because the Burlington Northern, Santé Fe railroads and the Union Pacific railroads cross and there happens to be I-55 and I-80 and Centerpoint invested upwards of \$5 million to create this project.

Ms. Konicki reviewed that the state loses the money not the local areas. Does the state have any sign off on whether it is an enterprise zone?

Mr. Moustis advised that the state determines whether or not it can belong in the enterprise zone.

Mr. Gould advised that Wilmington approved.

Airport

Mr. Gould advised that it appears that ALNAC is changing their strategies and is increasing pressure on the Governor.

Mr. Moustis stated that they have stepped up the effort by ALNAC. It appears that the Reverend Jackson is becoming the spokesman for ALNAC and Congressman Jackson has stepped back. They are promoting it as a job item and are not looking at it as a transportation or

viability it will have after it is built. They are pressuring the Governor and will continue to pressure him to hand it over to ALNAC.

Mr. Moustis suggested that, although he hasn't spoken with the County Executive, we should scrap everything and let the state develop the airport and then they can hand over authority later. Maybe the state should do the development, do appropriate procurement procedures and developers.

Mr. Moustis stated that we need the appropriate personnel and companies to build the runway and put together a business plan and by the time they open, they would have contracts with cargo or freight providers.

Mr. Moustis advised that he would speak with Mr. Gower and Farnsworth regarding having the state make the procurements. He suggested that everyone give this idea some thought.

Mr. Gould stated that Will County has always maintained regarding procurement that it should be an open and transparent process and not to be run by some northwest suburban community.

Other

Ms. Johannsen stated that the Auditor will be doing a power point presentation on his quarterly report at the board meeting.

APPOINTMENTS – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mrs. Dralle, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.