

WILL COUNTY BOARD
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

March 18, 2010

8:35 a.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moustis called the meeting to order at 8:49 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Konicki, McPhillips, Moustis, Singer, B. Smith, L. Smith and Weigel.

Absent were: Bilotta, Blackburn, Kusta, Maher, Rozak and Wisniewski

Also Present: Co Board Chief of Staff B. Friefeld, Deputy Chief of Staff M. Johannsen,

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mrs. Dralle led the caucus in the pledge of allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Moustis stated that Frank Stewart will be reading something for the Census.

Mr. Moustis advised the Census 2010 was arriving in the mail and encouraged everyone to fill it out.

Mrs. Dralle stated that the Prison Policy Initiative that talks about the census and that their suggestion was we take out the prison population. This is also a subject with the Governmental League.

Ms. Goodson advised that the legislation is being monitored and the Governmental League is actively opposing it. She stated it would be detrimental to Crest Hill and Will County.

Mrs. Dralle provided Ms. Goodson with the information from the Prison Policy Initiative and suggested that the Legislative Committee may want to look at it.

Mr. Moustis agreed.

Mr. Gould reviewed that the issue is if the prison population are counted here or where they come from.

Mrs. Dralle advised that currently they are counted here but the suggestion is that we do not include them within our population.

Mr. Gould stated or not be included for reapportionment because it throws off the numbers. They are trying to do this all over the country.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved later in the meeting when quorum was established

DISCUSSION OF FEBRUARY 18, 2010 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Ms. Konicki arrived at this juncture.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Weigel asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Johannsen advised that there is only one resolution for Finance. It is the second round of cleanups for the '09 budget.

Mr. Moustis advised that Mr. Kusta was ill. He will do the report at County Board if Mr. Maher is not present.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Singer asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were asked

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dralle stated she had no report but added that there was a flyer on everyone's desk regarding the MEN WHO COOK, a fundraiser for the Will County Advocacy Center. She encouraged everyone to attend if possible.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Gould stated he would be happy to answer any questions if anyone has any. None were presented.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Goodson stated she has put together a report of the legislation affecting the county and the copies are on everyone's desk in the board room. There is HB 4877 regarding zoning for telecommunications. It has to do with the cell service towers and we have actively tried to acquire a little more oversight and more authority over the sighting of these towers. This legislation, although it is not our initiative, would give the county almost complete control over the sighting of these towers. Representative Osmond had a meeting in Springfield where she brought together people from telecommunications, such as Verizon, AT&T, and Lake County and Will County Land Use representatives. The bill is in second reading in the house. There is a better understanding on both parts that some sort of a compromise could be worked out.

Ms. Goodson advised that the construction and demolition debris legislation has taken on a new life. It has progressed significantly. We are not comfortable with the draft legislation language that is circulating. It does not accommodate the need of oversight and protection of our water. We are preparing letters to go out this morning from Chairman Moustis, County Executive Larry Walsh and myself directed to Speaker Madigan, Attorney General Madigan, Leader Cross and Doug Scott, the Director of the EPA advising them of our dissatisfaction with this draft legislation and requesting a sit down with all of the stakeholders. Kip Kolkeimer who represents Metro Counties as well as Lake County have also been doing the same thing. Also, a letter will be going out from the Forest Preserve. We are making sure that our voices are heard, that they are aware that we are strongly opposed to this and requesting some input.

Mr. Singer inquired if the Forest Preserve had ever passed a resolution opposing this legislation.

Ms. Goodson replied no, they have not.

Mr. Singer stated that he would work on getting that on the Forest Preserve agenda.

Ms. Goodson advised that she will be doing an overview of the meetings that were held in Washington with board members present for the NACo conference. It was a worthwhile trip.

Ms. Goodson stated that Brett Gerrison has advised that HR 2847 proceeded to a final vote. This is the hire act which includes funding for the SAFETEA-LU extension and is going to the President for signature. The bill extends the current SAFETEA-LU program not the reauthorization which is to take place in 2010 or 2011. This extends the current SAFETEA-LU program through December 2010 and transfers \$19.5 billion to that fund. Hopefully, that will provide additional dollars for our projects.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE - None

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Moustis advised that there are the salary resolutions for the elected officials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Mr. Weigel, to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Moustis brought up an issue regarding honoring Glen Warning. There was no date on his information sheet.

Ms. Smith stated there is an effort to raise funds for a statute in Frankfort in honor of Glen Warning.

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Gould, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.