

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

September 15, 2011

8:45 a.m.

Will County Office Building

302 N. Chicago Street

Conference Room B

Joliet, IL

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Adamic called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Babich, Brooks, Howard, May, Stewart, Traynere, Wilhelmi, Winfrey, Zigrossi and Adamic.

Absent were: Deutsche.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: ASA Melanie Manning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Babich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Winfrey, to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2011 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Brooks, to include the Pledge of Allegiance on the agendas for future meetings of the Democratic Caucus. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

PROCLAMATIONS

There was no discussion.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Dubois stated all of the zoning cases received recommendations of approval from the committee. There also were four resolutions, two temporary use permits and a text amendment to a zoning ordinance regarding accessory animal uses in the R1, R2 and R2A zoning districts. It involved miniature and pygmy goats, and there were a number of thresholds including limits on height and weight. There was one neighbor who had concerns regarding Temporary Use Permit 11-327, and Ms. Konicki is addressing issues in the Republican Caucus regarding set backs on the property lines. The permit applies to a property on Route 7, is related to a fall festival and involves a period of about three weeks.

Ms. Zigrossi asked if any of the other cases were controversial.

Mr. Dubois replied there are people who live near the flood plain development who have some concerns but the issues did not pertain to the Forest Preserve District's request. Case 5996-MS3V3 involved a general construction demolition debris recycling facility at an existing quarry. There was an extensive review of that case and a number of conditions applied.

Mr. Brooks asked about Case 5994 involving MorningStar Mission.

Mr. Dubois replied the mission had purchased the retail strip center on U.S. 30 across from the Target store in New Lenox. There were several compliance issues on the property that required the zoning action. There were proponents and opponents at the hearing.

Mr. Howard asked about the possible penalties if a pygmy goat grew to 24 ½ inches.

Mr. Dubois replied that the Land Use Department would not be doing inspections on the property to check a goat's weight and height. The department would follow up on complaints.

Ms. Traynere arrived at this juncture.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic noted there were four resolutions, one involved documents for the delinquent tax program and there also was a resolution to abate property taxes for Archer Wire International Corporation.

Ms. Traynere asked if the county had ever done a resolution of intent in the past.

Mr. Friefeld replied yes. Conditions must be met before the actual abatement. Then the company must come back to the County Board and ask for the abatement.

Mr. Babich asked if the property was in the Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Friefeld answered he did not believe it was.

Ms. Traynere indicated there should be a system of review.

Mr. Friefeld stated reviewing the abatements was part of the Will County Center for Economic Development's contract. The CED could provide a report.

Mr. Palmer stated he would get a report from the CED. The requests for tax abatements are generated by the office of the County Executive. The County Board passed a policy including stipulations and a description of qualifications. The CED then determines which requests meet the qualifications, so the ones that come before the County Board are legitimate requests for abatement. If the County Board would like to change the policy then there should be a discussion about it.

Ms. May stated Archer Wire would hire 200 new employees for jobs that paid \$15 an hour and also had benefits.

Ms. Traynere stated that she agreed. This abatement seemed different than some of the others.

Mr. Adamic explained Resolution 11-332 transferred funds within the Sheriff's corporate budget, and 11-333 appropriated grant funds in the Health Department.

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Babich provided a review of the resolutions included in this section of the agenda.

Mr. Howard asked about Resolution 11-345 and 11-346, both condemnation cases. Did either matter involve turning lanes or a life-safety issue?

Mr. Friefeld replied 11-346 involves an on-going road project so the property probably is needed for that purpose. The County Engineer could answer questions about 11-345.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Friefeld stated the lone resolution on the agenda involved a correction on a contract.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic noted that the September meeting was cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Traynere stated House Bill 311 was in the Rules Committee in Springfield, was related to universal health care and involved eliminating the profit factor. A group of constituents brought it forward. The issue was discussed at the Legislative & Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Adamic commended Ms. Traynere for her work.

Ms. May asked what happened at the meeting.

Ms. Traynere stated no one made a motion to have a public hearing so the issue died.

Mr. Friefeld commented there was a public hearing on video gaming because Will County had to make a decision about opting out.

Mr. Adamic stated he was going to return to another part of the agenda – Resolution 11-345 and 11-346, the condemnation cases.

Mr. Gould explained the cases would not automatically go into court when the resolutions were passed. The resolutions give the county the ability to take the matters to court if there is an impasse.

Mr. Howard asked for a description of the work.

Mr. Gould replied that 119th Street and Naperville Road currently was a two-lane intersection. The improvements would change it to five lanes with curb, gutter and traffic signals. The other project was from Route 102 to Warner Bridge Road and there is limited right-of-way. It is a rural section and the county is trying to bring it to today's standards. There were 60 parcels of right-of-way to be acquired. Some of the property owners would not return the county's telephone calls.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Brooks stated there was a vote on the Master Plan.

Mr. Friefeld commented that the plan would be placed on file.

Ms. Traynere noted that there was some discussion about reviewing an older plan for the Laraway Road property.

Mr. Adamic stated that about \$400,000 was spent on the new Master Plan. It should not sit on a shelf collecting dust. The issues should be brought forward in a timely fashion.

Mr. Wilhelmi arrived at this juncture.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic provided a review of the resolutions included in this section of the agenda.

Mr. Friefeld commented that there was an amendment on each County Board member's desk for 11-350, the ICT position.

Mr. Adamic stated that 11-352 involved payment for the Superintendent of Schools and the Deputy Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will repay the money when the state resumes paying her salary. As part of Resolution 11-363, each County Board member will find out if their district's future terms for the next 10 years are as follows: two years, four years and four years; four years, two years and four years; or four years, four years and two years.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.