

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

March 17, 2011

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: Babich, Brooks, Deutsche, May, Seiler, Stewart, Traynere, Winfrey and Adamic.

Absent were: Wilhelmi.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld, Land Use Senior Planner Eileen Franz, County Executive Chief of Staff Nick Palmer, County Engineer Bruce Gould, Circuit Court Clerk Pam McGuire and Wes Bleed of Mack Communications.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Seiler, to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2011 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Adamic stated the final session of the ethics training would be held after the County Board meeting.

DISCUSSION OF March 17, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Adamic stated Mr. Babich had Proclamations for Cantigny Post and its Ladies Auxiliary. There also was a Proclamation for Will County Save Our Kids Day and the National Exchange Club. Mr. Gould had a Proclamation for Health Care Worker Appreciation Day.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Franz stated there were four cases, two temporary permits and an extension request.

Mr. Adamic stated one involved a small wind energy system and asked about the size.

Ms. Franz answered it was approximately 155 feet. Although the department's requirements were added just a few years ago they already were outdated. A few of the permits in the office have met the department's requirements, and there have been one or two small ones.

Mr. Adamic asked if Ms. Franz had any information about the committee Resolutions.

Ms. Franz explained two were temporary permits and one was an extension request for a case approved about 18 months ago.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. May asked if there was a carryover from last year.

Mr. Friefeld stated there always was a carry over. It was necessary to pay salaries while waiting for the next tax cycle.

Ms. May asked if there is a budget and, for example, if the clerk is given a certain amount of money for supplies, is all of that money spent on supplies?

Mr. Friefeld explained most departments find a way to spend the allocated funds.

Ms. Winfrey arrived at this juncture.

PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Babich provided an overview of the Public Works and Transportation Committee's Resolutions. Resolution #11-109 authorizes an agreement between Will County and Wolverine Pipeline.

Mr. Friefeld stated Resolution #11-109 had been amended. The amended copy had been distributed to the County Board members and was on their desks.

Ms. Manning stated not only was the amount amended there also was an issue with the agreement involving a venue clause. The venue shall be Will County if there is disagreement about the contract. Wolverine has not agreed to this, and although messages have been left for

their attorney, he has not responded. The Resolution includes language specifying it is subject to the revision and approval of the State's Attorney's office.

Ms. Traynere asked about Resolutions #11-97 and #11-98 involving the demolition of two buildings – why are they being demolished and why is the price so high?

Mr. Babich explained there was asbestos inside the buildings.

Mr. Howard asked why the county was paying the expenses and then being reimbursed in Resolutions #11-107, #11-108 and #11-109.

Mr. Friefeld explained it was a faster method to get the work done.

Mr. Howard asked for an explanation of the type of project.

Mr. Friefeld indicated it was a road project.

Mr. Howard asked for an explanation of the wetland project in Resolution #11-106.

Mr. Friefeld answered wetland was banked when it was being destroyed elsewhere.

Mr. Howard asked how long it would take to receive reimbursement.

Ms. Manning stated she did not know. In Resolution #11-109, the county is paying Wolverine. The county is improving a road, and Wolverine must move a pipeline before the work can be done. Resolution #11-109 doesn't involve a reimbursement.

Mr. Gould explained the county is paying the cost for moving Wolverine's pipeline because a new road is being built.

Ms. Traynere asked who made the decision about the location of the pipeline.

Mr. Gould explained the pipeline was on private property. The road now is being realigned on private property. There is an easement for the property. During the Republican Caucus and with the assistance of Assistant State's Attorney Mary Tatroe, a decision was made regarding part nine of Resolution #11-109, the section involving the stricken venue. There will be a vote taken during the County Board meeting to include the particular section.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Stewart stated there was a sheet provided by Judicial Committee Chairman Ann Dralle listing the six candidates for the adjudication hearing officer position.

Mr. Friefeld explained there had been six interviews.

Mr. Stewart asked why Mrs. Dralle was conducting the interviews.

Mr. Friefeld explained the interviews included an Assistant State's Attorney, Director of Policy and Planning Jamy Lyne and himself.

Ms. Traynere asked if someone from human resources was present during the interviews.

Mr. Friefeld stated this was not a full-time employee and suggested Mr. Stewart ask about the issue during the next Judicial Committee meeting. Just three of the candidates have administrative adjudication experience. The committee will have to approve the candidate first, and then the full County Board must vote on the issue. The Judicial Committee also could interview the candidates.

Ms. May asked the amount of the contract.

Mr. Friefeld stated that had not been determined. Each candidate was asked to provide a proposal for payment. One proposed an hourly rate of \$75. Another proposed a rate of \$500 for the first hour and \$200 for each additional hour. One applicant wanted benefits. The interviewers were trying to determine who would be the most qualified for the job and then see if an agreement could be reached on compensation. This is just one element of the administrative adjudication process. Ordinances must be approved, for example. Ms. Lyne, Ms. Manning, Elizabeth Dunn from the Land Use Department, and Bob Contro of the Sheriff's Department have been working diligently to revise the ordinances. When it is brought to the County Board, there will be an adjudication hearing officer, ordinances, software and other related matters to consider.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Seiler indicated there was a significant discussion about the possibility of acquiring land for Will County 9-1-1 on Caton Farm Road. The members of the committee decided to have the matter sent to the Executive Committee for discussion and review.

Ms. Traynere indicated the 9-1-1 issue also had been discussed during the Capital Improvements Committee meeting. Chairman Moustis stated he did not think the money should be used that way.

Mr. Adamic commented that originally there was a fee for the usage of each land line telephone, and the money funded Will County 9-1-1. A similar fee for cell phones was established later.

Ms. Traynere asked for an explanation of why Will County 9-1-1 was allowed to build a new facility but was not allowed to buy land.

Mr. Friefeld answered that Will County 9-1-1 was not allowed to purchase land by law. Also the proposal for Will County 9-1-1 does not include consolidation. WESCOM is willing to move to the Caton Farm Road site. Some County Board members are saying that the 9-1-1 Board should determine a vision for the entire county regarding 9-1-1. When that has been determined, the 9-1-1 Board should come to the county, explain the vision and request funding.

Mr. Palmer explained that he was the representative from the County Executive's office who sits on the Will County 9-1-1 Board. Tom Weigel is the representative on the 9-1-1 Board from the County Board. Will County 9-1-1 has a long history, and that history affects the department today. John Karubas, Mr. Figved's predecessor, had a countywide plan but it did not work. There was a proposal, but it was too expensive. In short, the current proposal involves three partners: ETSB, WESCOM and the county. It has not been determined what will go in there. There has yet to be a discussion, however, about money – and money will be the driving force. There is conversation in eastern Will County about the ability to partner, and that would increase the possibility of a facility for that area. There are three Public Safety Answering Points – PSAPs -- out there: Lincolnway in Frankfort Township; EASTCOM in Crete; and Steger. If those three formed a partnership, that would be a positive development. Everyone would be under one roof, and it would arguably be more cost effective. It isn't clear yet if there could be more consolidation in the Northern part of the county, but perhaps Bolingbrook, Romeoville, WESCOM and others could form a partnership. Joliet has a large PSAP, too.

Ms. Seiler asked why there is a disconnect between the Executive's office and what Mr. Figved said during the Public Health and Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Palmer stated Mr. Figved is frustrated because the 9-1-1 Board has been in front of the County Board several times during the past few years. The County Board did pass a Resolution concurring with the ETSB Board to go forward with the Springfield legislation to acquire the land. The state has begun the process to surplus the land for a price. The legislation was for a specific purpose, however. If the county bought the land, there are only certain ways it can be used. Some of the entities, such as WESCOM, are trying to move forward. WESCOM could do that alone, but then would pay more.

Ms. Traynere asked if there still are two distinct parcels: Caton Farm Road and the property at the former Joliet Arsenal.

Mr. Palmer replied the Arsenal property is being sought through a County Board resolution and it is a priority. Acquiring the property will be difficult and it won't be a quick process.

Mr. Friefeld clarified the Arsenal property is for the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Traynere asked if the county or the state set the amount of the 9-1-1 surcharge on telephone bills.

Mr. Palmer explained the amount was set by a county referendum. Other counties also have a surcharge, but probably not every county. Will County has a very sophisticated system, and all the data is consolidated in one place.

Mr. Babich asked what will happen to the Coroner's office if a building is constructed on Caton Farm Road.

Mr. Palmer answered the Coroner's office was included with the plans for Caton Farm Road because the morgue is on that street. That might not be the ideal place for a morgue and a Coroner's office, however.

Ms. Seiler stated there are land line telephones serving 9-1-1 but many people do not have a land line telephone anymore. Sometimes it is difficult to locate the site of an emergency if a cellular telephone is used to make a 9-1-1 call. At some point the issue must be addressed.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Brooks stated there was an update on the demolition debris that now can be dumped in quarries.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic stated there would be a presentation at the County Board meeting about Wight & Company's Master Plan.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic provided an overview of the Executive Committee's resolutions.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.