

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

July 21, 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, Stewart, Winfrey, Zigrossi and Adamic.

Absent were: Deutsche, May, Traynere and Wilhelmi.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2011 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF July 21, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Adamic stated there would not be any honorary resolutions but there would be a presentation on IDOT's high-speed rail project. Although there were several land use cases on the agenda, all were recommended unanimously for approval. There were several resolutions including a temporary use permit for a fund raiser, a department fee schedule and a determination of the fair market value of an improved acre within Will County's school districts, all routine items. Several committee meetings were cancelled this month because of the July Fourth holiday so most matters were considered by the Executive Committee.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Franz stated most of the cases were uncomplicated.

Mr. Smetana explained the Fee Schedule Amendment serves two functions. It states that the Will County Board is the only body that can refund or waive fees, and it establishes a process for dismissal.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Ms. Zigrossi stated there was a renewal of bids for soft goods and diabetic supplies for Sunny Hill Nursing Home. Funds also were appropriated to cover expenses.

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Adamic stated there would be a legislative update.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Howard asked about Resolution 11-241 involving a bridge on County Line Road. When the bridges are improved, the amount of property taken on each side often is an issue for property owners, particularly farmers. In that area, the property owners' land extends to the center of the road. So the owner of each parcel pays taxes on all of that land despite the fact that the roadway cannot be farmed. If, for example, 20 feet is needed for the road, that land represents a future loss of income because fewer rows of corn or beans can be planted there. The farmers often compare notes with other property owners and determine 80 feet was taken for one bridge while 120 feet was taken from their property. There should be a better line of communication between the County Engineer and the County Board Members and perhaps notification when these projects occur.

Mr. Babich asked if eminent domain would be used.

Mr. Howard replied no.

Mr. Friefeld suggested that Mr. Howard call when these types of issues emerge so a meeting could be arranged immediately with Mr. Gould.

Mr. Adamic asked if Resolution 11-236 needed explanation.

Mr. Friefeld answered it was almost unanimous. Mesirov was the first choice.

Mr. Adamic asked about Resolution 11-237, a contract for "D" Construction.

Mr. Babich asked if the contract involved grinding and repaving.

Mr. Adamic replied it was for Old Chicago Road/Strip Mine Road/Tulley Road in County Board District 6 and began reviewing the Executive Committee's Resolutions.

Ms. Zigrossi noted Resolution 11-247 was the mitigation program.

Mr. Friefeld stated appropriations had to be increased to cover the expenditures in the program.

Mr. Adamic commented Resolution 11-249 involved the Voluntary Severance Plan and Voluntary Furlough Plan and asked if it were going forward.

Mr. Friefeld answered it was on the agenda and he wanted to speak to Mr. Tidwell about the issue. In the past, if an employee opted for the Voluntary Severance Plan, the position would remain open for some time and the county would realize a savings. If someone is paid to leave and the position is filled immediately, what is the point?

Mr. Adamic stated that scenario probably costs the county. Are there any employees who are interested in the package?

Mr. Friefeld answered that had yet to be determined.

Mr. Adamic resumed his review of the Executive Committee's Resolutions.

Mr. Brooks asked about the boat that would be declared surplus property as part of Resolution 11-252.

Mr. Adamic replied the boat at one time had been used in the Sheriff's operations.

Ms. Winfrey asked if the work under Resolution 11-250 would be done in the Ridgewood neighborhood.

Mr. Friefeld answered that he would determine if that was the area.

Mr. Howard asked for a description of the Voluntary Severance and Furlough Plans.

Mr. Adamic answered it had been offered in the past and was a money-saving measure.

Mr. Howard asked if the plan allowed employees to take days off without a penalty.

Mr. Friefeld replied furlough meant that employees took days off and weren't paid for them.

Mr. Howard asked if the county told the employees to take the days off.

Mr. Friefeld answered it was voluntary.

Mr. Babich asked about the Community Development Block Grant. Did it involve Sunnyland Sanitary District?

Mr. Friefeld answered that he would check.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Winfrey, second by Mr. Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.