WILL COUNTY BOARD
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

December 15, 2011
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 8:44 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Hart, Izzo, Maher, McPhillips, Moustis, Rozak, B. Smith and Weigel.

Absent were: Argoudelis, Konicki, Kusta and Singer.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld**,** Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen, County Engineer Bruce Gould and Director of Development Review Division David DuBois.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Moustis, second by Mr. Izzo, to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2011 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF DECEMBER 15, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Bilotta stated there was a proclamation for the Bolingbrook football team to be presented at the podium by Jackie Traynere. There was also a check presentation from the Elk's to Juvenile Drug Court which Mrs. Dralle would be doing. Also, he would be recognizing six businesses going green from his desk.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Weigel advised there were 4 zoning cases. One of the resolutions has to be amended for minor changes which is Ordinance #11-452 establishing regulations for plantings. He will amend that on the floor and everyone should have a copy of the amendment on their desks.

Mr. Weigel stated that regarding the zoning cases they were all unanimous except Case #6025 where there was one vote against. This was a variance increasing the structure size.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Bilotta advised that the abating taxes for debt service bonds and everything else are routine issues. The first one is a temporary loan from the County MFT to the County Highway fund. We do it every year until we receive our taxes. It covers us through the first 5 or 6 months of maintenance.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Bilotta stated there we are getting a lot of work out this year.

Chief Engineer Bruce Gould advised that the Weber Road Bridge over CN railroad is completed as of last Thursday. It is open to traffic. We have another big one today on awarding the contract for the Old Chicago Road and Wilmington/Peotone bridges on that corner. This is complete replacement of those bridges, three lanes and all four lanes at the intersection. It will be a big job. We will close one road while the other one will be used as a detour. Once we get the bridge built we will open up that road and then close the other road. We will be working on this all summer.

Mr. Maher arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Bilotta advised this is a $4 million project.

Mrs. Dralle inquired how the condemnations proceedings are moving forward.

Mr. Bilotta replied they are much better. We have privatized that whole process with the help of the State's Attorney's office. We are in constant communication and they are on top of it.

Mr. Gould replied that the filing for Renwick at Weber which was part of the quick take bill happened Tuesday and we are moving right along so we can put that out for bid. There are 10 or 11 out of 36 left out of what we started. This is a $14 million project.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE- No Report

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE- No Report

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Goodson advised that we are renewing the contract with the federal lobbyists under the Executive Committee. They are working on our federal priorities. Regarding the state lobbyist, we will be doing a RFQ to interview companies and an ad-hoc committee will be formed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE- No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Moustis advised that the County Executive hires went on late because the Executive Committee did not approve the hires. However, after his review of the state statute as it relates to the Executive Act, it is necessary to have the advice and consent of the entire board and not just the Executive Committee. They will be moving forward which is the maintenance worker and the highway department which Chief Engineer Gould does need a replacement as he is short 3 people currently.

Mr. Gould stated that he distributed the justification previously at Executive Committee for the driver that is moving forward today. However, he does have 2 open positions. One is a vacant position because the person moved to another job. The other one is on medical leave right now and it does not look like he will be coming back to the County. He is down 3 drivers. As stated in his justification, every driver does 20 lane miles of plowing every year plus all our general maintenance. Every driver we are down during a storm puts that much more burden on the other drivers. He was hoping to move forward with this one and have it approved and then post the other vacancy with the approval of the committee.

Mr. Moustis stated he may have difficulty because we need to establish some type of policy. We will be in union negotiations but you mention the person on sick leave and the inability to hire people part-time, like snow-birds. Since we don't have the ability to hire temporary people and if someone is on sick leave he would be reluctant until we absolutely know that they are not coming back to hire someone in place of that person. One more he would not have a problem with.

Mr. Gould agreed stating that he would not post the position until the person decides he is unable to return to work. This is a medical issue and not workers' compensation.

Mr. Bilotta stated that Highway has had the same number of employees since 1985.

Mr. Moustis stated we need to work to establish intergovernmental agreements with townships, etc. when we can't get out to the areas.

Mr. Gould advised that they have partnered with the City of Joliet.

Mr. Moustis stated that the maintenance person is different because he feels there should be different classification of maintenance people. There are maintenance people that do non-maintenance.

Chief Engineer Gould requested that we separate Highway hires from other department hires.

There was a short discussion regarding having separate resolutions.

Mr. Maher stated regarding the maintenance issue, we should look at skilled and non-skilled labor. He agreed that we need to take a look at seasonal workers. We also need to look at duplicating services in various departments.

Ms. McPhillips advised that they looked at this issue 9 years ago.

Mr. Moustis confirmed with ASA Tatroe his interpretation of the advice and consent was correct in that it was necessary for have the advice and consent of the entire county board. The committee can tell you their recommendation but they cannot hold it up.

ASA Tatroe replied correct.

Mrs. Rozak arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis stated he wanted to talk about the contracts. The County Executive sent out a letter in relation to McKibbin and hopefully everyone received his response to that. McKibbin is here because he has a proven track record and is respected in labor negotiations in relation to health care proposals. He assisted us in the past and is assisting us now. He assisted us with the deputies and he had to go in and help AON get things straight because they didn't have it right. He is respected globally for his abilities. He ran the state's prescription program and the formularies for a number of years. Prior to that he worked with us and was here for the last major changes in health care. He has a relationship with the benefit coordinators from the unions which is important.

Mr. Moustis said that he finally received the AON contract and their contract has ended. It was a one year contract and it was signed in June. To bring on AON you will pay them more than you will McKibbin and this is a not to exceed contract. If we do not need him, then we do not pay him.

There was a discussion regarding the contracts for consultants and having reports provided by all the consultants to the board. There was support for the McKibbin contract to be brought forward.

Mr. Moustis stated that he will go the negotiation meeting. He will represent the economics of contracts. The County Board is co-employer to all employers. The County Board is responsible for the health insurance program. The County Executive administers what we put in place.

Mr. Friefeld arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Bilotta verified that Mr. Moustis will bring Resolution #11-484 forward first and that will determine how we handle the rest.

Mrs. Dralle stated that we have failed to reach a consensus to bring our second hearing officer on board and the contract should be executed by the County Executive.

The County Executive executed the resolution but has failed to execute the contract and we will look into the legal aspect of it.

Mr. Bilotta stated we have the gas to energy program and inquired of Mr. Hoekstra of Waste Management if it is up and running.

Dale Hoekstra advised that it is and we went on line. All three engines are running and we are pulling 1470 cfm. We are still going through some of the bugs when you open a new plant like this. He thanked everyone for their support on this project.

Mr. Bilotta invited the County Board members and the County Board staff by Lee Goodson, Jim Moustis and himself for lunch at the Department. We cannot discuss county business. This will be at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Smith arrived at this juncture.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.