

WILL COUNTY BOARD
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

September 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 8:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Argoudelis, Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Hart, Konicki, McPhillips, Moustis, B. Smith and Weigel.

Absent were: Singer and L. Smith

Also Present: Deputy Chief of Staff M. Johannsen, Chief Highway Engineer Bruce Gould and David DuBois, Brian Radner and Tom Carroll from Land Use.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Weigel led the caucus in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mrs. Dralle, to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2011 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Bilotta reviewed that Mrs. Dralle would be doing the "Take Back the Night" proclamation at the podium and Mrs. Traynere would be reading the National Addiction Professional's Day proclamation from her desk.

Mr. Bilotta stated that Senator Wilhelmi would present a proclamation for Will County's 175th Anniversary.

Staff advised that it would be done right after the County Executive's State of the County address.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Weigel advised there were 9 zoning cases and 4 resolutions. Case #5996-MS3V3 would have to be amended conditions at land use so he will mention those. It passed at committee. This is regarding the quarry in Wheatland Township.

Mr. Weigel stated that there are 4 resolutions, Resolution #11-328 is regarding the pygmy goat was approved at committee and is moving forward to the County Board.

There is a temporary use for hayride in Lockport Township. They are not in compliance right now with our land use regulations so we won't issue the permit until they come into compliance. There was an e-mail sent to Mr. Paddock stating they didn't receive notice and because it is temporary use there is no need for notice. This is only for a 3 week period, over the Halloween holiday and the committee approved it.

Ms. Konicki stated she visited site and this is all hand drawn site plan which is not well done. The parcel is rectangular with the narrow part at the street and then goes back a long way. As the drawing is right now, he has strobe lights, music etc. going to 11 p.m. right off the corner which is residential. This is up against and just east of the DiNolfo's. The applicant will be present and for her support they will have to move everything of that nature further off that residential property line, otherwise get it away from the back of the lot.

Mr. Weigel stated committee approved subject to obtaining approval by the county for the other improvements they need to make.

Mr. Moustis arrived at this juncture.

The condition that Ms. Konicki brought up was not part of what was passed at the land use committee meeting.

Eileen Franz from Land Use advised that this condition would have to be added today. She believed there are 6 or 7 conditions already in there. The applicant is willing to relocate that stuff and should be here this morning.

It was agreed that it would be amended on the floor as long as the applicant was agreeable.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kusta stated there was an abatement which passed unanimously at committee. The County Executive's budget would be distributed at the board meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - None

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dralle reported there was 1 item; the corrected escrow account agreement is coming forward regarding the source code because the agreement passed last month was not the correct agreement.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE - None

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Goodson stated that the governor has made massive layoffs. The house passed another extension on the transportation bill. This is another short term fix for our transportation projects. The current bill expires September 31st and the new extension will begin on October 1, 2011.

Mr. Bilotta requested that if anyone or anything presented to committees should first be approved by the County Board chair and the committee chair.

Ms. Goodson explained what happened at the last Legislative Committee meeting regarding the health insurance bill, HB311, which was requested by Ms. Traynere be placed on her committee. Mr. Adamic telephoned her asking if Ms. Traynere could have a few speakers attend. There were 5 speakers present but we also had our own insurance consultant who had background information on the legislation. HB311 is a massive overhaul and basically would be an Illinois Health Care Act where 60% funded by the state; 20% funded by business and 20% by individuals. It would also be illegal to have private insurance.

A discussion was held regarding this bill and the board's responsibility regarding public hearings.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Maher advised that the board had 4 weeks to review the Wight Master Plan for Will County and that he would be placing it on file with the County Clerk this morning at the board meeting.

TECHNOLOGY AD-HOC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Resolution #11-350

Mr. Moustis stated that Resolution #11-350 regarding the ICT new hire attachment would be amended as the first person offered the job refused so the second person was offered the position and his name is being submitted. Copies of the changed attachment are on the board members desk.

Resolution #11-352

Mr. Smith inquired about Resolution #11-352 regarding the Superintendent of Schools and her deputy compensation and why we were passing it.

Mr. Bilotta explained that the funds are with the Regional Office of Education's budget and they would pay back the funds once the state reinstates the funding. There is no obligation to the county to fund that position. The funds are also limited to 2 quarters.

Mr. Smith understood but stated that we should be pressuring the governor to reinstate the funds and to stop these unfunded mandates.

Mr. Moustis stated that it is \$2,000.00 per month, \$500.00 each twice a month and would cover the current quarter as well as the next quarter. After the first of the year, if the funding is not restored, then the county would not continue with the compensation.

Ms. Goodson advised that the governor took away the salary for these positions but the state continues to pay their benefits.

There was a discussion regarding what the Regional Superintendent of Schools office is required to do.

Mr. Argoudelis arrived at this juncture.

Resolution #11-367

Mrs. Dralle clarified that this resolution is not for a women's recovery home. We will purchase this new house, relocate the men from the current home into the new one and place women in the current home. All funds come from fees collected and are self-sustaining. The individuals from recovery also pay rent.

Mr. Gould inquired if the homes are tax exempt.

Mrs. Dralle replied they would be as the county owns the property.

Mr. Moustis stated that the purchase of the recovery home is contingent upon receiving a special use permit from the City of Joliet.

Master Plan Placement

Mr. Argoudelis inquired if by placing the master plan on file would that mean that it is the Will County's official plan.

Mr. Bilotta explained that we are not voting on the plan, we would just be placing it on file with the County Clerk as a reference point.

There was a brief discussion regarding contact by constituents having concerns regarding the plan and the county spending money it does not have. It was determined that the plan was a reference point and that having a long term plan would affect our bond rating.

APPOINTMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Bilotta advised that Lee Ann Goodson has accepted the position as the new Majority Whip.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Ms. McPhillips, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.