

WILL COUNTY BOARD
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

July 21, 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 8:46 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were: Argoudelis and Maher

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Ms. McPhillips led the caucus in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

DISCUSSION OF JULY 21, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Bilotta stated that almost everything was heard under Executive Committee due to the unique schedule of the month.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Bilotta stated that under the fee schedules, it looks like there are developments that are over 6 months old and inquired if that was the reason for the change and it will be left to the discretion of the County Board and Land Use regarding refund of fees.

Mr. Weigel replied that was correct.

There was a short discussion regarding the appraisals for the schools and reasons why they were not updated.

Mr. Moustis explained that it relates to the school impact fees because the county ordinance is not a direct contribution but is a land contribution ordinance. They give money for the purchase of land as most developments are not large enough to create a whole site so they give a portion of what it would be in a dollar contribution that would go for a purchase of property.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Bilotta advised that there were some overlays. We have an IDOT/County agreement for the Arsenal Road interchange that is moving along. We will take maintenance of the light and electricity of the signal at Base Line and Arsenal.

Mr. Moustis requested from Chief Engineer Bruce Gould to provide monthly updates from IDOT regarding major road improvement projects that are affecting our county so we are informed when our constituents contact us.

Mr. Gould replied he would provide the updates. He informed the members that the I-80 improvements is in 2 sections; the first from LaGrange Road to Route 30 is the widening for the three lanes in each direction; the second is Route 30 to Ridge Road is the overlay. The study is for that piece that is being overlaid now for the future reconstruction, the Phase I portion.

Mr. Bilotta advised that the open house is July 28th.

Mr. Moustis inquired when I-80 would be completed.

Mr. Gould stated that the overlay section should be completed this year.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dralle reported that under the Executive Committee Report, Resolution #11-248 that there will be \$40,000.00 coming from the JAG program for the administration adjudication software.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Gould stated there were a couple of bids at Sunny Hill where we took the low bidder and have a grant for the dental program. The Health Department received a grant of \$28,450.00 where they have a mobile dental van.

Mr. Moustis requested if Mr. Gould could report out regarding the completed avenues at Sunny Hill or request Karen Sorbero to report the progress.

Mr. Gould stated that the committee visited Sunny Hill last month. We are almost complete with 4th Avenue. They are probably 60% complete of the total project, there are 2 avenues to complete.

There was a discussion regarding the viability of Sunny Hill Nursing Home and the steps taken to keep it viable and becoming a self sustaining facility.

Mr. Gould inquired if anything else was being considered as a result of the operational audit.

Mr. Rafac replied that we eliminated 12 positions in housekeeping. A lot of the recommendations had to do with the union contract so we continue to push on those issues. We have been operating at 5/6^{ths} of the occupancy once we get the 6th avenue done, we will have an influx of people to spread the overhead and reduce the overall costs which will increase the revenues. Next spring we will go for another capital rate increase because we will have almost all of the avenues done. The last capital rate increase was \$10.00 per bed per Medicare person.

It was agreed that Mr. Gould and/or Mr. Moustis would inform the entire board of the updates and progress of improvements regarding Sunny Hill done by the County.

Ms. Konicki inquired if we could also receive the data to compare our costs to the costs incurred by other counties.

Mr. Gould stated that we do not have that separate tax that other counties have for nursing homes.

The funding is through general revenues as no levy was passed for the nursing home.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Goodson stated that a lawsuit has been filed against the state map. They have identified 4 points of the challenge; the length of time the map was available for the public or legislative to review it; the compactness; it violates the voter's act of 1965 because Hispanic and African American do not have districts where they can elect their own representative; and republicans are not able to have fair representation in the state legislature.

Mr. Moustis inquired if Ms. Goodson will be making any comments regarding this issue. He intends to make comments about the congressional redistricting. Will County grew by ½ million over the last 20 years. Chicago shrunk by ½ million. The whole idea of reapportionment is to be equally represented. We end up with 3 congressional districts that are Chicago based and 75% of their districts are in Chicago and Cook County. For example, for 20 years Will County has tried to support an airport that would be in Will County and the majority representation would be by Will County. Now we will have representatives who have stated they support ALNAC. In the last 10 years we have had 2 congressmen that have had a significant part of their districts in Will County and have been very responsive to us.

There was a brief discussion regarding the representation of Will County.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

TECHNOLOGY AD-HOC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Moustis stated that all highway resolutions will be coming out of the Executive Committee due to the scheduling this month.

Mr. Bilotta advised that resolution #11-249 is offering the severance and furlough plans.

Mr. Moustis stated he thought we were waiting on this resolution until we found out who was going to participate.

Mr. Rafac stated that he has commitments from everyone else but County Clerk Voots has stated no because of the election and Superintendent of Schools Jennifer Bertino.

Mr. Moustis verified that the Sheriff, the State's Attorney, all the judicial people are participating.

Mr. Rafac replied yes.

Mr. Moustis inquired of Mr. Rafac that in the past we told elected office holders that those positions would stay vacant for a period of time, correct?

Mr. Rafac replied that we were very explicit and mathematical when we offered it the first time. When we offered it the second time, we did not do that but we have made it clear that the intent is that there should be some type of savings from doing this so they can't just refill the position.

Mr. Moustis stated that it made no sense to offer something if they are going to replace it with someone. It makes sense in the Sheriff's Department with the deputies because there is a broad range of first year deputies and topped out deputies where there is a savings. The point is to reduce the workforce or hold off on it for a period of time. He is reluctant to move forward on this if they are allowed to just rehire. He suggested that each time we offer this plan we should do an analysis of what the result of the plans were.

Mr. Rafac stated regarding Sunny Hill, there were 24 people who took it that had been there for 25-30 years and it did have a substantial savings for them because we are replacing them with someone at the beginning of the tier. The same is true in Circuit Clerk's office because she still needs the clerks but she is hiring on a lower scale and is enough of a cushion for overtime, etc.

There was a discussion regarding those who took the furlough days and are still interested in taking it.

Mr. Rafac stated it was suggested that we also look at a permanent offering of furlough or vacation buyback which allows the employee to take off more time but distributes their income across the whole year so they don't have the unpaid days.

APPOINTMENTS – No Report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Moustis, second by Mrs. Dralle, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.