

WILL COUNTY BOARD
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING
MINUTES

Will County Office Building
Conference Room B
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL

December 17, 2009

8:45 a.m.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Adamic called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Anderson, Deutsche, Traynere, May, Seiler, Brooks, Jr., Stewart, Winfrey, Babich, and Adamic.

Absent were: Wilhelmi.

Also Present: Pam McGuire, Matt Ryan, Nick Palmer and B. Friefeld.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Winfrey, to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2009 meeting. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Discussion of December 17, 2009 Agenda

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Adamic stated there are two proclamations this month; one is for the 20th anniversary of the Will County Center for Independent Living and the other is for JCA volleyball championship.

LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. DuBois indicated the first three zoning cases have affirmative recommendation from committee; two are map amendments and the third is a special

use permit. Case 5884-V3 is a compliance case for an existing swimming pool; PZC recommended denial and the Land Use Committee voted 2 to 3 so the recommendation from committee is for denial. This individual came in for a permit, was advised of the necessary requirements and then put it up any way without a permit.

Mr. Adamic commented this will probably be somewhat contentious; I can see both sides. How many pools in this similar situation have we approved in the past?

Mr. DuBois answered we have had some in the past where staff recommendation has been denial; there have been some that have been approved in similar subdivisions. He is in Pod 1 of Lakewood Falls subdivision and in his particular pod we have not had any zoning cases.

Mr. Adamic indicated this man bought the pool and could not take it back; he probably should have done some homework before he bought it to see if it was allowed. This has been stressful on his family.

Mr. DuBois commented he has paid \$975 total for zoning fees and violation fees. He should have obtained the permit before he put the pool up but he chose not to do so.

Ms. Seiler stated there are multiple issues. In the past people that have come through requesting variances, have gotten them. Did he act properly? No. He was told it could take up to 6 months to get permit. She is not condoning what he did. At this point in time he has paid; we have done in the past and we should allow this one. She will recommend sending this ordinance back to committee to review the timeframes.

Mr. Adamic commented there should be some sort of method to streamline the process to get it done in a month or two.

Mr. Friefeld indicated it has been waived before. My recommendation is to put a fine in that is so large and it is administrative and it hurts.

Mr. Adamic questioned if this is denied today could he come back and get it approved.

Mr. DuBois replied he would have to look at the ordinance. He was advised to apply for the zoning when he was in violation; he delayed it so long he is now in court; there is a court date scheduled for this month.

Ms. Manning referred to Ordinance 14.8-3 regarding standards when considering variance requests; PZC is directed to consider whether or not the alleged instance has been created by any person having an interest in the property.

Mrs. May stated Ms. Deutsche and I are on that committee; they always tell everyone that it might take up to 6 months. It usually does not take that long.

Mr. DuBois indicated it could be the worst case scenario is 6 months; when we have a full docket it is 2-1/2 months to get to public hearing; by the time you get through the process it could be 6 months. We do not want to provide false expectations.

Ms. Deutsche asked when he originally come in.

Mr. DuBois answered April and then he was cited in May.

Ms. Seiler stated he knows most certainly there are other pools out there and he attempted to do the right thing by coming to get the permit when he knows other pools exist.

Mr. DuBois indicated there could have been a pool put up with no variance; the size of the pool was the issue. Our staff was nothing but professional.

Ms. May commented Ms. Konicki is asking to check every pool out there if this passes.

Mr. DuBois indicated there are 22 pools in his pod according to the aerial photo.

Mr. Adamic commented you will have to vote your conscience on this; he does not want to condone what he did.

Mr. Brooks asked Ms. May and Ms. Deutsche for their opinion.

Ms. May answered she would like to know the recommendation from staff.

Mr. DuBois stated our recommendation was made to committee for denial; it is a two-prong criteria – are there unique circumstances surrounding the situation and does it alter the essential character of the locality. The planner that reviewed it did not feel that the circumstances warranted the variance.

Mr. Adamic indicated there are 2 resolutions on the agenda.

Mr. DuBois commented one is regarding a scrivener's error. The other is to extend the moratorium on the digital billboards.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Friefeld stated there are 3 resolutions abating the taxes for the bonds; these are done on an annual basis.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr. Babich reviewed the resolutions on the Public Works committee; five of them are for altered speed zones; a number of them are yearly contracts that are awarded.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Traynere provided an update on the discussions from the last committee meeting. She indicated there was to be a draft provided on the waiving and refunding of fees.

Mr. Anderson arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Ryan indicated the Land Use staff will put together that draft.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Stewart commented on the resolutions for Ms. Mayer and Smith, Dawson and Andrews.

Mr. Friefeld indicated the contract for Smith, Dawson and Andrews is not being cut. Mack Communications is a 60% decrease; Lois Mayer is not to exceed \$50,000; Christopher Burke is not to exceed \$90,000; William Maher is down to \$54,000.

Ms. May questioned what Mr. Maher brings to the county.

Mr. Adamic replied he lobbies for us in Springfield.

Mr. Friefeld indicated he keeps us informed on bills in Springfield and on airport initiatives; this is a policy decision for you to make. He provides a monthly report; some people find it informative.

Mr. Adamic stated there are some people who have a difference of opinion on many of the professional service contracts. Mack took a 60% cut but they will still provide the same services. He will support them. Mr. Maher is still down in Springfield bringing us information that is timely and useful. We do have our legislators and representatives. He is there – keeping us informed. He will support him as well. Smith, Dawson & Andrews did not take a cut but they are working for much less than many other firms; it would probably cost us more with someone else.

Mr. Anderson commented Smith, Dawson & Andrews and Lois Mayer bring in money for the county. They have brought in several times more than what they are paid.

Mr. Adamic indicated the County Executive is on board with these contracts.

Mr. Friefeld advised the caucus there is an amended scope of service on their desk for the Christopher Burke contract; some of the tasks were removed.

Mr. Adamic questioned the resolutions regarding the Ridgewood project.

Mr. Friefeld replied they will be amended due to some minor changes made by the IEPA at the last minute; these resolutions will allow us to complete this project, which is long overdue. Regarding Resolution #09-457; because interest rates right now are so

low you are moving ahead to approve the bond issue this month and get in the market place in January.

Mr. Adamic commented when we have projects that we can get done and interest rates are favorable now is the time to do it.

Mr. Babich asked how much money is allocated for the renovation of the drug court recovery home.

Mr. Friefeld answered the recovery home is self-funded.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Palmer stated the appointments for January are on your desks; there is also a list of all appointments for 2010. If there are any questions, please contact him.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, second by Ms. Seiler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.