

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet, IL

MINUTES

July 16, 2009

8:35 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Bilotta called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY STAFF:

Present were: Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Konicki, Moustis, Riley, Rozak, Singer, B. Smith, L. Smith, Weigel and Wisniewski.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at 8:50 a.m.; Mrs. Rozak arrived at 9:05 a.m.; Mr. Wisniewski arrived at 9:15 a.m.; Mr. Singer arrived at 9:25 a.m.

Absent were: Blackburn, Kusta and Maher

Also Present: Assistant State's Attorney Mary Tatroe; County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Gould, second by Ms. Goodson to approve the minutes of June 18, 2009. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

Land Use

Case #5793-S

Mr. Weigel stated Case #5793-S would be amended on the floor because there were a couple of minor errors in the document that was distributed to the County Board. It doesn't change any substance.

Finance Committee

Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen advised that Mr. Kusta was not here due to a court case he had and Mr. Maher was out of town. She inquired who would be doing the Finance Committee report.

Mrs. Johannsen stated that Resolution #09-200 would have to be amended on the floor. Mrs. Johannsen advised that the amended resolution would be on everyone's desk and that there is a paragraph that needs to be inserted.

Mr. Gould stated that Resolution #09-200 would be placed on the floor and then amended.

Mrs. Johannsen advised that there are also items to be placed on file and that she would get the folder for Mr. Gould so he could place these items on file.

Public Works

Assistant State's Attorney Tatroe requested additional language be placed in the resolution as the County Board cannot increase funding unless there is an emergency need. The additional language would clarify this issue.

Judicial Committee

Mrs. Dralle advised that there are two resolutions. The first is for GPS electronic monitoring system. This is an unfunded mandate by the State of Illinois. Part of the problem is that they are unsure as to how many individuals they will be ankle braceleting at this time.

Ms. Goodson stated that she was a test candidate for the cell phone coverage and using her office as the test site, both times it failed.

Mrs. Dralle advised that the difficulty with this is that people have a false sense of security; that they are truly protected and that there is an order of protection that the judge decides that it is necessary.

Mrs. Dralle stated this is an unfunded mandate and we anticipate that there will be individuals who cannot afford the equipment and that we will have to pick up the costs which may be up to \$150,000.00. Again, this is a trial, we are moving forward.

Ms. Goodson advised that there are not any top companies producing this equipment. Even when you pick up the message, it is an automated message that is unclear and you can't understand.

Mrs. Dralle advised that almost all of the collar counties because of the new law there is DuPage, Kendall, Will, and I believe Cook and McHenry Counties who will be utilizing the same vendor so I think the kinks will be worked out. I believe the positive thing that Will County has been extremely proactive about is they put together an advisory group that will work with the women or individuals who are looking to get this order of protection to give them some realistic expectations as to what this equipment can and cannot do so they don't have a false sense of protection.

Ms. Konicki stated she was concerned that this provided a false sense of protection but felt this was a step in the right direction.

Ms. Konicki further stated that as the technology improves, the costs may come down.

JAG Resolution

Mrs. Dralle stated the second resolution is for the JAG program. It is \$111,862.00 was awarded to the City of Joliet and Will County. We are splitting the funds with the County receiving \$55,931.00 which will be used for cameras and videos in the patrol cars.

Assistant State's Attorneys

Mrs. Dralle advised that the Judicial Committee had denied the State's Attorney's request for an increase in Assistant State's Attorneys. At Executive Committee there was additional discussion and we will continue to look into this issue. Hopefully, we can come to some resolution.

Mrs. Dralle explained that the County Board by statute sets the number of assistant state's attorneys. There are, because of the economy, a number of individuals who have approached the State's Attorney's office who are looking to volunteer to get some time in and build up their resumes. She stated this is a great opportunity for the State's Attorney's office to work with these volunteers or interns. She did not believe that the County or the County Board members would dissuade anybody from volunteering but the issue is how to get them on board. We will be discussing this more at committee.

Mrs. Dralle advised there is an Open House for the Northeastern Crime Lab in Vernon Hills on July 30th and if anyone was interested in touring they should let the County

Board staff know. We used to have the state police crime lab because DNA took 6 to 9 months to be processed by the state. This is the lab the County we are now utilizing. If it is a homicide, we can get it back within 5 days.

Mr. Gould asked if there was a lab across from the old prison in Joliet.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis stated he thought it was the FBI lab.

Mr. Gould stated if we could arrange a tour of that one it would be more convenient.

Mrs. Dralle asked Ms. Johannsen to check on this for them.

Mrs. Dralle stated that this is the lab we use.

Mrs. Johannsen explained this is for their clients and potential clients and they are opening it up to elected officials.

Mrs. Dralle advised that transportation will be provided if there are enough interested officials. The tour is 9 to 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Johannsen advised that Denise Winfrey was interested in attending.

Ms. Konicki stated she would also be interested in attending.

It was confirmed that this is a structured tour and you would have to allow for this timeframe.

Public Health & Safety Committee

Mr. Gould advised there was one resolution awarding the bid for Sunny Hill soft goods and it is being awarded to the low bidder.

Legislative Committee

Ms. Goodson stated that there were no resolutions but advised that the state has passed a budget last night with no tax increase. The Human Resources Programs will be funded between 84-88%. There is \$2.2 billion for human services grants; \$1.23 billion for operations so that is a total of \$3.5 billion for community based services.

Ms. Goodson advised that the state will do a short term borrowing plan for pension obligation for 2010. That is also what is providing the funds for the human service grants. Finally, they passed the implementation bill which basically allows the appropriations to be made.

Ms. Goodson stated that the governor will have to make cuts, not the Legislature.

Ms. Goodson advised that other than knowing that human services will be funded up to approximately 84-88% which is good news to us because it means that our Health Department will be able to provide most of the services and health services to most of the clients that they already are. It sounds horrible, the 14% cut in their budget but it is not 50% of their budget.

Ms. Goodson indicated that the governor signed the \$31 million capital bill and a summary provided by the Springfield staff explaining what it will fund will be provided to all the board members.

Senate Bill 1607

Ms. Goodson advised that the workshop went well and that we had both the pros and cons of this issue. We have had communications from the EPA, the Attorney General office. We have had representatives from different areas; Greg Wilcox who was representing the quarries; the CARE Group, Waste Management, Dean Olson from our staff at Waste Services. We will be working with the EPA regarding quarries. There are no additional constraints on quarry sites; the County will have to drive the legislation.

Ms. Dralle stated that currently there is a delegation agreement with the EPA for Waste Management to view and monitor landfills but that delegation agreement does not allow us the authority to do the CDC's sects and maybe that is something we should push for so that the County should have the ability.

Mr. Bilotta stated that the oversight authority is the number one priority through inspections, zoning, special use permit or something that gives us some authority.

Ms. Goodson advised that this is very close to being approved in Springfield. We will have no authority.

Mr. Moustis stated that the EPA says that anyone can move clean dirt, however, some may not be putting in clean dirt. They say there are contaminants in all soils. We need to be looking at everything should stay within their county. We need to make sure that it is not contaminated.

Mrs. Rozak arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Konicki inquired for those who were unable to make the workshop could the staff prepare a fairly detailed minute report of that testimony.

Mrs. Johannsen advised that we have a video.

Mr. Bilotta advised that we can get copies of that video for all that would like one.

Committee of Whole presentation

Mr. Gould asked if there was a video on the Committee of the Whole also.

Mr. Bilotta stated this was a power point presentation and requested that all members interested in this receive a copy.

Ms. Goodson advised that the perception out there is that SB1607 is dead.

Mr. Bilotta stated that when we are preparing our comments we need to indicate the concern regarding the contamination and the water table. We need to have someone look into all of this.

Ms. Goodson stated that there was a presentation and booklet by the residents of Pine Crest subdivision which is across from the Joliet Lewis Mall regarding the CN railroad who asked us to continue to pursue the issues with Canadian National. They are concerned about the hazardous materials moving near their homes every day. There are 20-25 trains per day blowing their whistle.

Ms. Goodson stated that we will try to work closely with our Federal officials. We need to get those rules changed that the STB operates by and that we need to figure out a way to get these hazardous materials out of these delicate areas of our county.

Mr. Wisniewski arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Bilotta stated that we need to give this to the Federal legislature also and get them to push this.

Ms. Goodson stated that we should contact Mr. Gower to provide us with an update. We can either do a conference phone conversation or the next time he will be in town we can schedule a meeting for him to provide us with an update.

Mrs. Rozak inquired what was happening regarding the monitoring for order of protection issue as she arrived late. Is this an unfunded mandate?

Mrs. Dralle advised that this is an unfunded mandate; they have awarded the contract. We are hoping to move forward and that it will probably cost the county approximately \$150,000.00 depending on usage. The positive aspect is that we have an advisory group who will work with the individuals who have initiated the orders so that they don't

have a false hope. The Probation Department is very aware that this could lead to individual's belief that they are secure in the home or their safe zones.

Mr. Weigel stated that the governor cut the budget and inquired if that means he can shut Statesville down.

Ms. Goodson advised that is on the chopping list right now and there is a concerted effort by our local legislators, specifically Representative Cross and Senator Wilhelmi are going to be meeting with the governor to try and get that taken off the table.

Capital Improvements – No Report

Executive Committee

Mr. Moustis stated that this is not on the agenda but brought up the issue of the 2010 budget. The County Board budget is cutting significantly and will probably be cutting a bigger percentage than anyone else.

Mr. Moustis stated we would be cutting consulting services, probably by 80-90%. He also stated that Comcast no longer records or broadcasts the County Board meetings. The County Board purchased equipment and pay the Sheriff's Department to record the meeting.

Mr. Moustis advised that we currently pay \$40,000.00 per year for this service and was advised by Pat Barry that he would not be able to do it for \$20,000.00.

Mr. Moustis suggested that we cut that out of the budget, run the camera ourselves in a stationary position or hire a student. We should have some type of record of our meeting.

Mr. Singer arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Konicki stated that Grant Spooner, who records the Land Use Meetings, would probably be interested in doing this for the \$20,000.00. Could Mr. Spooner talk with someone?

Mr. Moustis stated that he would be willing to discuss it with Mr. Spooner as well as look at alternatives. Mr. Spooner should talk with Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld.

Mr. Moustis advised that it would still be up on the website.

Mr. Gould inquired regarding Resolution #09-200 according to the language in the resolution, are we endorsing the Recovery Act as it indicates in the amended language.

Ms. Johannsen stated that ASA Tatroe e-mailed yesterday indicating that the resolution was inadequate and gave me this language to insert.

ASA Tatroe stated that under the State's Attorney provisions you cannot amend your budget to increase the overall appropriation unless there is an immediate emergency. She suggested that verbiage be added to the resolution that make an affirmative finding that there is an immediate emergency due to the downturn in the economy and as evidenced by the Federal legislation, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Mr. Moustis asked if we can change it to read the United States declares it an emergency and Will County concurs.

ASA Tatroe stated that would be fine.

Mr. Bilotta suggested that we have a Committee of the Whole to include the lobbyist to update us regarding the legislation.

Ms. Goodson advised that it is scheduled for September 9th after the Forest Preserve Meeting. She stated she would ask elected officials and lobbyist to attend.

Mr. Weigel stated that there was a question regarding a Land Use item, where Monee Fire Department wants to build in the footprint of the airport. Ms. L. Smith inquired about the Monee Fire District being built within the airport boundaries.

Mr. Friefeld replied that he wasn't present at committee and has not been in communication with either the Monee Fire Department or IDOT but IDOT has sent a letter recommending that we do not do this. This is not in the initial footprint, it is in the northern most end of the runway, within the ultimate footprint.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Ms. Goodson to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES