

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

MINUTES

December 17, 2009

8:35 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Bilotta called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY STAFF:

Present were: Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Kusta, Maher, Moustis, Rozak, Singer, L. Smith, and Weigel.

Absent were: Blackburn, Konicki, Riley, B. Smith and Wisniewski

Also Present: Assistant State's Attorney Mary Tatroe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mr. Paddock led everyone in the pledge.

Ms. Smith arrived at this juncture.

Proclamations

Mr. Bilotta advised there were two proclamations and everyone knew who was doing what. We would be having the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living and everyone is familiar with that organization.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved at the end of the meeting when quorum was established.

Land Use

Mr. Weigel stated he had 4 zoning cases, one which may be controversial.

Mr. Gould arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Weigel advised that case number 5884-V3 was regarding a swimming pool. The applicant came in April to ask for a permit for a pool in the backyard and was told it would take 4-6 months for approval. He went ahead and put it up in May. It was too

close to the house, side yard and back yard. The committee voted 2-3 not to approve, however, we did not have a full committee. If we had a full committee it may have come out otherwise.

Mr. Weigel advised that we have approved several of these in the past. Mr. Weigel stated that we have never not approved prior requests and believed we should pass it today.

Mr. Weigel advised that the owner may be here to speak at the board meeting.

ASA Tatroe advised that Mr. Dryier could not speak here because there is a public hearing during the County Board meeting which is where he should speak.

Mr. Weigel stated we have two resolutions, one is a scrivener error and the other is digital billboards. We are asking for an extension of the digital billboards because we are still working on that. We are currently working on changing the ordinance and we should be ready in the next 6 months.

Mr. Moustis stated, regarding the swimming pool issue, that we did not even have an ordinance until the late 1990's.

Mr. Radner stated there was an amendment in the 90's.

Mr. Moustis stated we did not permit pools until the last 10 years. Consequently, there were a lot of pools that did not have the appropriate setbacks when we did the ordinance. We did not go out and look for all the violations. Many were put there prior to an ordinance and we should keep that in mind. We do need to look at this ordinance again and find those that are not in compliance, those that were done prior to the ordinance should be grandfathered in and those who are not need to apply for a variance.

Mr. Moustis stated in this case, the person ignored the variances and put up the pool anyway. We need to clean this up once and for all and when these pools are replaced, they absolutely need to come into compliance.

Mr. Moustis stated that we need a plan for compliance across the board and that we should try to accomplish that.

Ms. Rozak arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Weigel advised that staff required a survey. He believed that was an unnecessary expense and thought the inspector could go out there and measure it out and draw a sketch. It is an unfair expense to put on the applicant.

Mr. Moustis having been on the board as long as he has, his district has represented more unincorporated areas and are used to dealing with the issue and drainage easements. If the pool goes into drainage easements, mostly with sheds which are easy to move. The problem with this case is it goes into a drainage easement and that is what makes this a little different. It has the potential to have an effect on many people. They should not go into impact areas and should be sensitive to going into easements, floodplain/drainage areas.

Ms. Rozak inquired of Mr. Bilotta how did the representatives of District 7 feel since this concerned their district.

Mr. Bilotta replied that all three were in favor after speaking with Mr. Dryier. The staff does not believe that it going into the drainage area is not that critical or that it would hurt anyone which is why staff is asking for additional information.

Mr. Singer arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis inquired if we could put a condition on this where if the pool is removed or the home is sold, they would have to require the pool be removed after a certain period of time.

ASA Tatroe advised that you could not condition a variance.

Mr. Moustis advised that he would vote yes but we still need to look at the ordinance. We either need to enforce or forget the ordinance requirements.

Finance Committee

Mr. Kusta advised there would be an auditor update.

Mr. Kusta stated that there was an issue with sending church property to the tax sale but that was all cleared up and we can move forward with the churches. If it needs to be amended then we will do it on the floor.

Case No: 5884-V3

Mr. Bilotta inquired of ASA Tatroe if granting variances for that pool whether he owned it or someone else wants to tear it down and put in another pool are the variances still in place?

Mr. Moustis inquired if the variance on this pool and no other pool?

ASA Tatroe replied that you could put that verbiage in the variance indicating whether it runs with the owner of the property or with the land. If there is no verbiage with the variance itself, I believe the case law states that it runs with the land.

Mr. Radner advised that the way the variance is worded right now it is for the existing swimming pool.

ASA Tatroe stated that if the variance is only given to the specific pool then it would only be for that pool and not the land. If they want to make that clearer then you could amend this on the floor that once this pool is removed, the variance expires.

Mr. Bilotta stated that is what this variance grants, only this pool

Ms. Dralle wondered about this owner trying to sell the property, a buyer sees the pool, how would you notify the buyer and we should look at longevity.

Mr. Kusta advised that it would have to be disclosed by the seller.

Public Works

Mr. Bilotta advised this was a light agenda. There were some speed limit changes on township roads, Manhattan roads; letting an annual contract for material and granting a variance off of Weber Road for right in only, off of Renwick.

Judicial Committee – No Report

Public Health & Safety Committee

Mr. Gould advised that there were 2 bids awarded for Sunny Hill.

Legislative Committee

Ms. Goodson advised that the state and federal legislative agendas drafts were being worked on and should be ready for January's meeting for approval. We have been awarded \$100,000.00 for our police generated integrated justice initiative.

Ms. Goodson introduced her guest, Matt McQuire, who is an intern in Tom Cross' office and we are trying to get him involved in every aspect of Mr. Cross's office so I brought him to County Board.

Capital Improvements – No Report

Executive Committee

Mr. Moustis advised that we have to amend three resolutions which are all on your desks:

Resolution 09-452 with changes the IEPA wanted which now reads installation of DIP water main in the Ridgewood Area of Joliet Township.

Mr. Moustis stated that Res. 09-453 would be amended in the second whereas, third line now reads construction of the sanitary sewer extension and sanitary sewer service connections.

Mr. Moustis further advised that Res. 09-448 regarding the Christopher Burke contract would be amended and adding the Scope of Service only as indicated in the strikethroughs.

Mr. Bilotta advised that the County Board authorized to go for \$100 million bond for Build Will. We are getting to that point because the rates are cheap. What we are passing today is not any terms or pay back yet. We are still in negotiation with that. This is just the start, we are taking advantage of the low rates and accelerate these road projects.

Mr. Moustis stated this is a combination of low rates and the Build America and the recovery bonds money which have to be done within the next year as there was a timeframe involved. The other requirement is that the money be spent within a 3 year period.

Mr. Moustis stated that short term money is between 2-2.5% and twenty year money, the effective rate and the Build America and recovery bonds will probably be (\$3.35 Million) 20 year money. There will be a blend, a short term component and then a longer term component to this issue. We certainly want to lock into the \$3.35 million because we know that is here today.

Mr. Maher arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Bilotta reminded everyone that they were once again taking donations for Morning Star Mission, we did this last year, and then we would turn it in from the entire board.

Ms. Johannsen advised that Beth Adams is collecting that money if anyone wanted to contribute.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mrs. Rozak, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2009. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Singer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION CARRIES