

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

MINUTES
September 17, 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, Blackburn, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Konicki, Kusta, Moustis, Rozak, B. Smith, L. Smith and Weigel.

Mr. Moustis arrived at 8:50 a.m.; Ms. Konicki arrived at 8:45 a.m. and Mr. Blackburn arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Absent were: Maher, Riley, Singer and Wisniewski

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ASA Tatroe led everyone in the pledge.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Kusta, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2009. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mrs. Dralle, to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

Proclamations

Mr. Bilotta reviewed the proclamations being presented stating that the Take Back the Night proclamation would be read by Mrs. Dralle.

Mr. Bilotta advised there would be a short presentation of the Chaddick Award to the Land Use Department and Mr. Weigel would be going to the podium.

The second proclamation on the National Job Corps Day would be read into the record by Mr. Adamic.

Mr. Bilotta stated there was also the State of the County today by the County Executive.

Land Use

Mr. Weigel stated he would have to amend the first case, Case Number 5840-SV. We want to add a condition where you cannot store cargo containers on a floodplain but it is vague on the resolution so I want to add an additional condition. The developer has agreed to that.

Mr. Weigel stated there is also condition #6 which limits the special use to McDowell Acquisitions LLC. They are planning to change the name of their LLC. We could eliminate the condition or add the new name.

Mr. Weigel recommended removing the condition and asked if anyone had a problem with that.

Mr. Bilotta stated that Mr. Weigel would amend on the floor.

Mrs. Rozak stated that Ms. Konicki felt the variance was too close to the floodplain.

Mr. Weigel advised that it is usually 1, 000 feet and we are giving them a variance right up to the edge of the plain but not on the floodplain.

Mrs. Rozak stated that this is an industrial park and is right up against the railroad and in the existing ordinance this is where we told them to put these.

Mr. Weigel clarified that it is an existing truck terminal.

Ms. Konicki arrived at this juncture

Mr. Bilotta advised Ms. Konicki that we would clarify the condition of staying out of the floodplain and adding a condition regarding the name change.

Ordinances

Mr. Weigel advised there were two ordinances;

09-258 Ordinance amending 14.8-5 is an administrative ordinance and currently it allows them to extend one additional administrative variance but due to the economy we are allowing them another 6 months of administrative variances.

09-259 Ordinance is to allow internet auto sales in an industrial zoning district

Mrs. Dralle stated that she has received a letter from the Village of Romeoville regarding the SUP which she passed onto Mr. Weigel. She requested that they review this letter from the village and address their concerns when it comes up in committee.

Finance Committee

Mr. Kusta advised there were transfer resolutions; \$2,700.00 for the Public Defender web site; two for the Health Department and a resolution for the tax sale documents. There is no new money, all the funds are within their budget.

Public Works

Mr. Bilotta advised that Resolutions 09-264 and 09-266 would be remanded back to committee. He stated for Res. 09-264 there is an issue regarding where we were trying to work with the developer for access to Bell Road, we agreed to a temporary access permit; they would have to bond for the whole improvement and once they got a tenant in there they would do those improvements. Now they are saying they are having difficulties getting a bond so we will just remand it back to committee because we are not going to waive that part of it.

Mr. Bilotta stated for Res. 09-266 at 116th and Laraway Road, Frankfort is going to do some improvements, pedestrian crossings, etc at their cost. Since our committee meeting they want more permanent signals on Laraway Road. They have agreed to pay \$50,000.00 and take over ownership of those lights so we need to revise the agreement and bring it back next month.

Laurie Smith inquired about the speed limit on Laraway.

Mr. Bilotta advised that this will be discussed during the first Public Works meeting in October. We have done a speed study on the whole road and we will go back to what the speed study dictates. The speed study is on the safest flow of traffic and follows IDOT's standards.

Mr. Kusta inquired how the right of way issue was progressing.

Mr. Bilotta advised that it is moving ahead. We discuss this during Executive Session at Public Works meetings but the staff can provide updates for Mr. Kusta or anyone else interested.

Judicial Committee

Mrs. Dralle advised that there is a resolution for a recovery home purchase. It is being purchased for \$140,000.00. There may be some renovations. The State's Attorney's office has reviewed the contract that is in the packet and we are moving forward with it.

Public Health & Safety Committee

Mr. Gould stated that Ordinance 09-290 was creating a swimming and beach ordinance. Mr. Moustis arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Gould advised that Resolution 09-292 on the overlap of services for the Will County Health Center would be remanded back to committee. Leadership has had a meeting and they want to see the results of the market analysis that is being undertaken for that area.

Mr. Gould advised that the Health Board signed a letter opposing the overlap of services of Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Aunt Martha's is interested through Silver Cross in establishing a facility at Silver Cross Hospital which is only 3 miles next to the center the Health Department runs. It was discovered that 64% of the people live in those zip codes that we currently serve so there is an overlap. This would be too close and would overlap the services. We are opposing this in general terms. There will more discussions.

Mr. Moustis stated that this becomes more complex and they need to look at those studies.

Ms. Goodson inquired what does it do to the FQHC.

Mr. Gould replied that it would be competing for those funds.

Mr. Moustis stated that would be if they are taking 100% of the people. We don't do mental health, Aunt Martha's does mental health. Silver Cross is mandated to provide this service and have talked with our Health Department and our Health Care Center. They need further discussions.

Mr. Moustis stated this is about serving the people and the health care.

Mr. Gould stated that 64% of the public is already being serviced by the Health Department.

Mr. Moustis stated that a complete study should be done to see if demands are being met. The Health Department will start that study in October. Aunt Martha's has already done a study. By sending this back to committee it will allow the Health Department Board and the Health Center Board time to determine what the needs are and if services need to be expanded.

Mr. Gould wanted Silver Cross to indicate where they stand on this issue so the Health Center knows.

Mr. Moustis advised that Silver Cross is trying to meet the State's requirements. The funds are for a building because Silver Cross has already given the land. The Community Health Center and County Executive are still sending letters stressing concern.

Mrs. Dralle inquired if providing mental health care was discussed. She had heard that the Will County Health Department only sees people who have received psychiatric care or have been hospitalized for mental health services. She did not know if this is true.

Mr. Moustis stated that Aunt Martha's does the mental health care the best and John Cicero indicated that if Aunt Martha wanted to do only mental health services, he would support that. We are out of mental health services because of budget cuts.

Mrs. Dralle stated she will contact John Cicero at the Health Department for the answers.

Legislative Committee

Ms. Goodson advised that there was one resolution reaffirming our support of HR3410 regarding Canadian National and the community impact concerns.

Ms. Goodson stated the veto session begins on October 14th.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Dralle advised that Wight & Company met with the elected officials and gone through most of the buildings. We are moving forward on the facilities needs analysis. She stated they also did tours of Sunny Hill and the Health Department.

Executive Committee

Mr. Moustis stated there were three appointments for Workforce Investment Board that needed their terms corrected. The three appointments are RJ D'Orazio; Louis Hamer and Barb Ladner. The terms should be 2011 and they currently read 2012. He will make the amendment on the floor.

Mr. Moustis stated that under the Finance Committee, the County Executive will present his budget. The budget is still a work in progress and we will be more involved at this time than we normally are.

Mr. Moustis advised that the Probation budget was cut; we were going to use parking lot funds to fill the gap but the Chief Judge states that we can't touch it. He will probably be asking the State's Attorney's Office for an opinion on how that money can be used. There is a decree out there but he has not seen it and inquired if ASA Tatroe had seen. ASA Tatroe replied that she had seen it.

Mr. Moustis stated that the decree was entered in 1960, the parking lot was not there in 1960 in its current state. Who did the decree?

ASA Tatroe replied Judge Barclay.

Mr. Moustis stated he thought the money should be used for the courthouse use and he will be asking the State's Attorney for an opinion regarding that. He felt it should be used for maintenance and operation of the building.

ASA Tatroe advised that the decree was a result of litigation.

Laurie Smith stated that the parking lot funds were not always under the Chief Judge.

Mr. Moustis stated that we will get this resolved but the funding for Probation and Detention are being cut from the state.

Mrs. Dralle advised that the Bischof law, an unfunded mandate by the state, where we have to start a monitoring program for orders of protection, is putting an additional hardship on the Probation Department whose budget has already been cut. It could cost the county \$150,000.00 to buy the technology and pay for those who do not have the money to pay.

There was a short discussion regarding what happens if we don't have the funds to implement this mandate of the monitors.

Mr. Blackburn arrived at this juncture.

Mrs. Dralle inquired what our liability would be at the County.

Ms. Goodson stated that the counties have been having quarterly implementation meetings to work together and talk how implementation has been going across the state. There is a meeting tomorrow that she will be attending.

There was additional discussion regarding mandates.

Ms. Konicki clarified Mrs. Dralle's question was what is the liability to the County if we fail to provide it and someone gets hurt.

ASA Tatroe advised that the county could face significant liability if we do not provide the service but it is mandated and something horrible happens.

Mr. Moustis stated that if we have to fund probation, as an example, fund these programs which we don't have money in these budgets then we have to take out what we feel is unnecessary. There are a lot of things that will have to be eliminated as unnecessary such as some public relations from the budget and other expenditures so we can fund these mandates. This county should have one public information office and everything gets filtered through that office. That is what we will be faced with in this particular budget.

Mr. Kusta inquired if we should do budget workshops.

Mr. Moustis replied we should have this go through the Finance Committee and staff. We will schedule additional time to go through it and bring in chairs of committees. We need to do these quickly in order to pass the budget by November.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Weigel to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES