

WILL COUNTY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

July 9, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Will County Office Building
County Board Committee Room
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moustis called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Bilotta, Adamic, Kusta, Stewart, Dralle, Goodson, Maher, Seiler, Singer, Weigel and Moustis.

Absent were Members: Gould and Wilhelmi

Present from State's Attorney's Office: K. Grey, M. Tatroe, and M. Manning.

Also Present: Friefeld.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Weigel led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Resolution Directing PBC to Bid Out Remainder of Sunny Hill

Renovation Project & Stage Final Project on Funding

Ms. Sorbero stated we have finished 3 residential units of 46 beds each as well as the lobby and the emergency generator; that leaves 3 units to be completed along with the common area and the kitchen. We have created a timeline for the phasing process; we are following the

results of the operational audit. We are asking to direct the PBC to continue the renovation project.

Mr. Moustis commented when he was first on the County Board he was not very supportive of Sunny Hill. We started down this road a few years back to have a more modern facility; we have made good progress. This request would give the PBC the ability to do some additional planning and come back with a new number for us to consider. He would like to see us complete Sunny Hill - to be a more viable facility. Even though we are in tough times, some capital projects have to go forward.

Mr. Adamic agreed; this facility was in desperate need of updating – this is something for our residents.

Mr. Stewart also agreed. Ms. Sorbero has done a fantastic job; it was in disrepair when she took over.

Ms. Sorbero commented she has had tremendous support from the County Board and the County Executive's Office.

Mr. Maher stated he did not support going forward with making Sunny Hill its own taxing body. He does support making sure we provide quality service. He requested Sunny Hill be on the list for a tour by the capital improvements committee.

Ms. Sorbero indicated we have the highest census in probably 7 years. We do have a waiting list for residents coming in even though it is not substantial. We are making progress where our revenues have increased.

Mr. Friefeld stated funding will not be identified until spring. This is really a planning document; we assume PBC will not go out for bid for construction until we are closer to funding.

Mr. Moustis commented we are asking them to continue the plan for Sunny Hill. Do they have the funds to do this?

Mr. Rafac answered we need to identify funding, which may be a smaller amount; there are different options we are looking at. We are talking about a price tag of \$17 million; we have enough money to pay for the planning phase – the architects drawings and approval of drawings. We have spent \$11 million to date in hard and soft costs to 3 avenues and the common areas.

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Adamic, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda directing the PBC to bid out the remainder of the renovations for Sunny Hill and to stage the final project based on funding. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Resolution Allocating the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing HPRP Grant Funds to Sub-Recipient Agencies

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Mr. Adamic, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda allocating the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing HPRP Grant Funds to Sub-Recipient Agencies. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Resolution Adopting the Will County Action Plan for the CDBG and Home Investment Partnership Grant Programs for the 2009 Program Year

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda adopting the Will County Action Plan for the CDBG and Home Investment Partnership Grant Programs for the 2009 Program Year. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Replacement Hires for Sunny Hill Nursing Home

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Stewart, to place the replacement hires for Sunny Hill on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Replacement Hires for EMA

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Kusta, to place the replacement hires for EMA on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mr. Stewart, to place the appointments by the County Executive on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Proclamations

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Mr. Bilotta, to place the proclamations on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Resolution Increase the Number of Assistant State's Attorneys

Mrs. Dralle stated this issue was heard at judicial committee and failed to come out of committee. This is a request to increase the number of ASA's from 61 to 66. They have individuals who are looking to volunteer to work with no pay or benefits. The committee's comments were at this point in time we do not believe the intent of the statute to use volunteers or temporaries a rational to increase the number of ASA's. We encouraged the State's Attorney's Office to look for a policy and procedure that would allow for volunteers for internships.

Mr. Moustis indicated part of what we are seeing here is whether by statute the State's Attorney's office can bring on volunteers without increasing the number of ASA's. We would

look to the State's Attorney to give us a clear understanding; we want them to have the ability to have people volunteer their time and expertise. On the other hand, we are always very cautious about raising the levels of employees that require our approval; in part because experience has been it leads into justification for additional funding – you approve them and now you have to fund them. If the State's Attorney can give us a proposal that clearly shows this is volunteer program and the intent; we will approve 65 but will only fund 61 so there is clear understanding that the rest are on a volunteer program that has been developed by the State's Attorney. I think the committee would be more comfortable with that.

Mr. Grey stated Mr. Glasgow is fine with that concept; the number is set at 61. We appreciate the thoughts of the board.

Mrs. Dralle indicated the committee did ask if they looked into a policy for internship; we would like something in writing and we hope there was no misunderstanding that we do not want volunteers.

Mr. Grey stated we will give you that information.

Mr. Adamic commented he does not have any problem with adding 5 additional ASA's as volunteers as long as this is not a back door way that costs us more money. He would like to see it go forward; he does not want to turn down help.

Mr. Grey indicated they are right now in intern capacity.

Mr. Moustis suggested this go back to judicial committee.

Mrs. Dralle stated she definitely thinks it should come back to committee. She requested written clarification on how the state statute is written.

No action was taken on this issue.

Request to Execute Professional Services Contract with Robert E. Hamilton

Consulting Engineers

Mr. Paddock stated this deals with an alternate way of funding the position of chief subdivision engineer; the ordinance had prohibited hiring a consultant in this position and a revision in the ordinance removed that prohibition. We are suggesting for the balance of the fiscal year that Mr. Hamilton be termed as a part time employee and engaged as a consultant; all costs of chief subdivision engineer would be reduced. We are currently allotted \$165,000 and we expect no more than \$130,000.

Mr. Maher questioned if there is any conflict of interest.

Mr. Paddock replied the same set of concerns has been with us in the present situation as an employee; we are following the guidelines with the ethics rule and have not found that

many times where it would be an appearance of conflict of interest. He has recused himself when there was a conflict of interest.

Mr. Bilotta commented Mr. Hamilton has done a good job. He suggested going out to see if we could hire someone; it should be someone that works for the county instead of a consultant. He suggested posting this job.

Mrs. Tatroe indicated when Mr. Hamilton was brought in as a replacement they did research and the state statute required the position to be an employee. She would like to review that statute.

Mr. Moustis agreed with Mr. Bilotta. Conditions do change and certainly the job market has changed considerably over the last 12 months. We should at least take a look at bringing someone on.

Mr. Ryan indicated there is no problem with looking into it. Having to be an engineer ultimately goes to a certain pay level and the added cost of benefits that we do not have to pay for a consultant. It will be difficult to have a scope of service but it would not be for less than \$130,000.

Mr. Moustis suggested continuing with Mr. Hamilton as a part time employee; right now the committee is not comfortable with making him a contract vendor. We ask that you continue but also look into what current market is available for a full time employee and that Mrs. Tatroe provide an opinion as to whether we can have a consultant as subdivision engineer.

Mr. Ryan stated we will come back next month. Mr. Hamilton is out of hours – he is over the 600 hours.

Mr. Moustis recommended changing to 1000 hours.

Mr. Singer encouraged the committee and the full board in good faith to try to retain Mr. Hamilton in this position. It is a value to have someone who has been an engineer in the county as long as he has.

Mr. Paddock indicated some good suggestions have been made; we need to look at them and discuss them with Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Bilotta commented this is a 4 month contract here; he would like to go out for a full time person.

Mr. Moustis indicated he would prefer to extend his hours rather than get into the whole gray area of a contract. If the County Executive office wants to recommend going out and if the State's Attorney gives the opinion subdivision engineer can be done by contract.

Request for Approval of Ad Hoc Technology Committee Purpose

Ms. Smith stated they had met with the elected officials who have been very receptive; the committee assured them we would not get involved with day to day purchases. We want to put together an RFP for consultant; we need to identify the most important needs for the future for some pressing issues with some technology in the county such as the New World system and the tax cycle. The next meeting is on August 6th – hopefully we will be directing staff to put together the RFP for a consultant to evaluate everything we have.

Mr. Moustis commented these cannot be done without outside consultants but we do not have anything in the budget in 2009.

Mr. Rafac indicated the current plan is to still move forward with the IT needs assessment and plan and we would use contingency funds out of the 2009 budget.

Mr. Moustis questioned if you will provide for funding in the 2010 budget.

Mr. Rafac replied if this project continues in 2010 we should be able to finish it. The more striking issue is how we come up with the millions of dollars for the IT needs.

Mr. Moustis stated a large amount of consultant dollars is coming out of 2010 budget. We want to make it clear that County Board is not putting anything in their budget – we are cutting it completely.

Mr. Rafac commented the same thing will be happening on the County Executive side.

Ms. Seiler left at this juncture.

Request for Resolution Re: Medical/Vision and Dental Contributions of Retirees under 65 and Spouses and Medicare-Eligible Retirees and Spouses effective August 1, 2009

No action was taken on this issue.

Mr. Maher left at this juncture.

Request for Resolution Authorizing the County Executive to Execute Documents Necessary to Transfer the Calumet Gardens Property (a treatment plant and related fixtures the county acquired when the owner failed to pay taxes)

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Adamic, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the County Executive to execute documents for the transfer of the Calumet Gardens Property. All in favor, with Bilotta abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.

Other Business

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use & Development – T. Weigel

Mr. Weigel indicated he has 3 zoning cases and 3 resolutions this month.

Finance – E. Kusta

Mr. Kusta stated we are all aware of the current state of our economy at both the state and federal level. Revenue is low and expenses are high; there is a substantial gap in our budget. This will be a challenge in front of us; we are facing a difficult financial challenge through no fault of county leaders. We must close the gap; we have been extremely fiscally conservative but it may not be enough – revenues are going down and we need to act. He urged the committee to support a finance resolution authorizing the County Executive to develop a strong contingency plan to get us through next year and the years after.

Mr. Rafac indicated the text of the finance committee was sent to elected officials and department heads. The \$15 million we are talking about is best case scenario; the foreclosure rate is up again. The problems we are looking at are not short term problems but problems that will change the face of government entities and the economy for several years going forward. This is a good opportunity to make adjustments necessary to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible in government. We still need to move forward with any plans and figure out how to fund those things. We are in much better shape than many governmental entities.

Mr. Moustis stated Mr. Kusta had spoke to him earlier about looking at our expenditures across the county and having everyone start to look at those things they may be able to do without; we have to get down to the hard core necessary services. Over the last 10 years we have enjoyed substantial revenue growth and now the curve is going the other way. As we allowed for spending during those years, we will have to contract back as we did in tougher years; hopefully it will be done on a volunteer basis. But if need be, the County Board and County Executive are prepared; if we have to make the tough decisions for others we will do that. We are asking elected officials and department heads to please take a hard look at their budgets. We have \$58 million in cash reserves but that is money to get us from one tax cycle to another. From 1988 to 1995 we were doing tax anticipation warrants – we will avoid that at all costs.

Public Works & Transportation – J. Bilotta

Mr. Bilotta asked if there were any questions.

Judicial – A. Dralle

Public Health & Safety – D. Gould

Legislative & Policy – L. Goodson

Mrs. Goodson stated Representative Cross has been at a number of meetings going on with leadership in Chicago. He seemed very positive and hopeful the capital bill will be signed next week. Last night we had a special meeting that was fairly well attended; we heard many comments on SB1607. The most positive thing that came out is what we hoped for – we got the attention of the IEPA. We believe that before any language they will definitely take a look at doing something more proactive to protect any environmental issues regarding the debris sites. We opened the lines of communication with the Attorney General's office; our regular meeting will be next Tuesday and we will discuss the CN issue again.

Capital Improvements – C. Maher

Executive – J. Moustis

Other New Business

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 16, 2009 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Bilotta, to approve the July 16, 2009 County Board Agenda, as amended. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Kusta to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.