

WILL COUNTY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

September 10, 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 11:20 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Maher.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: 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

Health Plan Evaluation & RFQ

Mr. Tidwell stated the committee had requested that we to put together an RFQ for our group plans; we are still putting that together - it is not completed yet.

Mr. Moustis commented he would prefer that we do not use AON, our current consultant.

Mr. Tidwell indicated any changes have to be bargained with the union; those agreements would not be in place until we settle with the union, which will not happen by January 1st.

Mr. Bilotta commented we still want to move forward with an evaluation of what we have now.

Mr. Tidwell stated we do want to bring those recommendations to the table; we would bargain those changes. Hopefully he will have the RFQ done in a couple of weeks. If we are not looking at a January 1st change date – we will have time to bring firms in and talk to them.

Mr. Moustis commented we may want to update the ad-hoc committee to do the interviews. We also need to look at deferred comp.

Mr. Tidwell stated it is his intention for all benefit plans to be reviewed.

Mr. Wilhelmi clarified this RFQ is to bring in a consultant to review the plan.

Mr. Singer arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Tidwell indicated the consultant will review the design of the plan; there are many things in the market place that have changed.

Mr. Stewart arrived at this juncture.

Update Re: Blue Cross & Blue Shield PPO & HMO Renewals

Mr. Tidwell stated we received the renewals from BC/BS. HMO projected increase is 6.7%, which is fairly reasonable. They are projecting an 18.5% increase on the PPO. There are three new laws – 2 federal and 1 state – that are mandated in the upcoming year that will have a negative impact. The first one is the mental health parity act, which is a federal law; it requires that if we offer mental health benefits, they must be identical to any other health benefits in the plan. We were able to opt out in the past and set separate limits. This new federal law requires us to have parity in coverage – that adds significant cost. The second federal law is Michelle's Law that requires any dependent children that take a medical leave of absence from school; we have to cover for an additional year. The state law that impacts the plan significantly is the young adult dependent coverage act that says that all individual and group health insurance plans must abide by the act, which increases the dependent age coverage. Right now our plan ends at 23 - it does not matter if they are in school. This new law requires us to cover dependents up to age 26 or up to age 30 if they were honorably discharged from the military. We can pass the cost on to the employee and we will have to develop a dependent rate. It still impacts our rate. The fixed costs in the plan have not increased. They are projecting the average claim value going up because of some of these laws and the medical trend has gone up. The trend is 11.9% for medical and the prescription drug trend is about 6.9%; when they figure our projected rate, they have to trend it out 18 months.

Mr. Kusta left at this juncture.

Process Update Re: Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant

Mr. Palmer stated the county received just over \$3 million through the Recovery Act. The board previously approved Land Use to handle this. Our goal is to have the strategy for the board in November. We will send the survey to board members and municipalities to provide input. The 5 programs are 1) gas energy plant; 2) emergency improved in county buildings; 3) creation of community program to leverage additional funds; 4) recycle education program; 5) HHW

Mr. Martel (sp) with CDM indicated they are here to assist you with the energy conservation strategy, which needs to be submitted by November 20.

Mr. Moustis commented we should answer as a board. He directed staff to distribute the survey to all board members and ask them to comment – staff should also look at it as well.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Update Re: Blue Cross & Blue Shield PPO & HMO Renewals

This item was discussed under old business.

C.A.R.E. Discussion Re: Exxon Refinery

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

Request for Presentation of Chaddick Award

Mr. Paddock stated this is a request to have a presentation at the meeting for an award the Land Use Department has received - the Chaddick Award; this deals with our website and the assistance it provides to community members to understand the whole planning and zoning process.

Request for Appropriation of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Funds in Health Department Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Wilhelmi, to place a resolution on the Finance section of the County Board Agenda appropriating funds in the amount of \$52,400 from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 into the Health Department Budget. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Transfer of Funds in Health Department Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Gould, second by Mrs. Dralle, to place a resolution on the Finance section of the County Board Agenda transferring funds in the amount of \$620,000 in the Health Department Budget. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request for 2nd Year Renewal Elevator Maintenance Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Singer, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda renewing the elevator maintenance contract with Advanced Elevator Co., for the yearly amount of \$40,956.48. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for 3rd Year Renewal Cleaning Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Gould, second by Mr. Bilotta, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda renewing the cleaning contract with Alpha Building Maintenance Service for a yearly amount of \$149,031.00. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Extension of Animal Control Lease

Mr. Rafac indicated there are 2 options for the lease; the first is a 2 year lease with a 5% increase; the other is a 4 year lease with a 2.5% increase. He is recommending the 4 year option.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Goodson, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the County Executive to execute the lease renewal for Animal Control for a 4-year lease with a 2.5% increase. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Resolution Re: the County Being Assigned the Collection of Receivables Owed to Ridgewood Water Association

Mr. Pullman stated this is regarding infrastructure improvements in Ridgewood and putting Ridgewood Water Association out of business; they have money owed to it.

Mr. Moustis asked if the State's Attorney's Office has reviewed this.

Mrs. Tatroe answered she believes it has been reviewed.

Mr. Moustis commented he would like to see our ability to collect then a plan to collect. Is this time sensitive?

Mr. Pullman answered this can wait until next month.

No action taken on this item.

Replacement Hires for Sunny Hill Nursing Home

A motion was made by Mr. Gould, 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 Workforce Services

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Mrs. Dralle, to place the replacement hires for Workforce Services on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Adamic, to place the Appointments by the County Executive on the County Board Agenda. All in favor with Mr. Gould abstaining.

MOTION CARRIES.

Proclamations

Mr. Bilotta stated there is one proclamation for Take Back the Night, and the presentation of the Chaddick Award. A proclamation for National Job Corp Day was previously distributed and will be read into the record.

Other New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Wilhelmi, second by Mr. Weigel, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the County Executive to amend and negotiate the host agreement with Waste Management for the development of a renewable energy plant. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use & Development – T. Weigel

Mr. Weigel indicated he has 6 zoning case and 2 resolutions this month.

Finance – E. Kusta

Mrs. Johannsen stated there are 2 resolutions as well as the two that were approved and added today.

Public Works & Transportation – J. Bilotta

Mr. Bilotta asked if there were any questions.

Judicial – A. Dralle

Mrs. Dralle questioned if the contract has been reviewed for the drug court home.

Mrs. Tatroe replied the contract is all ready to go. She has prepared a resolution for County Board affirming and giving the County Executive authority to close on real estate. PBC will do the renovations.

Public Health & Safety – D. Gould

Mr. Gould stated Resolution 09-290 is opposing the overlap of services for the Community Health Center. Aunt Martha's is in competition for federal money - wanting to set up at Silver Cross 3 miles from our current location; we service that area. We are seeking a resolution opposing any federal agency coming into our service area.

Mrs. Dralle indicated Aunt Martha's has been very aggressive to where they could come into Will County.

Ms. Seiler commented this puts our grant dollars at risk.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated the Health Council passed a resolution opposing this and will do a letter to the federal government opposing this.

Mr. Moustis indicated we do have the ability to weigh in with the federal government which we will do.

Legislative & Policy – L. Goodson

Ms. Goodson stated she has one resolution supporting HR3410. Last year the county was successful getting legislation passed for cell phone towers. The first leg was notification requirements; this past year we had success requiring certain setbacks. On the policy side of the committee, we wanted to next look at incorporating this into our Land Use policy; that is something we should be taking that up at our next meetings.

Mr. Moustis commented we need to keep a close eye on SB1607.

Ms. Goodson indicated we should request support from the rest of the counties on SB1607.

Capital Improvements – C. Maher

Mrs. Johannsen stated the committee had recently toured Sunny Hill, TB Clinic and the Community Health Center.

Executive – J. Moustis

Other New Business

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Gould, to approve the September 17, 2009 County Board Agenda, as amended. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

C.A.R.E. Discussion Re: Exxon Refinery

Mr. Moustis stated this is an issue regarding a chemical that Exxon uses in their manufacturing process. We have many types of manufacturing and generally EMA deals with and assesses what is here. We should take very seriously any potential exposure we have. We have no real authority or jurisdiction to change the situation outside of creating a public forum.

Ms. Rendulich indicated this is a wake up call; the public needs to be aware of the type of negative affect these facilities can have when there are outbreaks. CSB will do an investigation but that will take over a year. We need someone in our area to investigate; we need to get industries to stop using this chemical – there are safer chemicals out there.

Mr. Stewart left at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis commented we only have the authority that the state gives us. He does not believe the county has the authority to create an ordinance to regulate this. EMA deals with hazardous materials that come into the county but we are limited to what we can do regarding policy except lobby with the state.

Mr. Damron stated our agency looks at all types of hazardous materials and chemicals. Most of our work is driven by federal legislation from the 1980's that governs how certain facilities handle certain chemicals and how they interact with state and local plans. We have about 340 facilities that fall under that regulation that are required to provide information on what chemicals and the quantities that are used. When these facilities have a release they are required to notify local, state and federal agencies; we receive about 200 reports each year. This particular incident was a release of HF acid at Exxon. Incidents with HF are fairly rare; there has only been one other incident in the last 19 years. The regulation requires offsite planning; they are required to submit their information to local and state EMA and local fire departments. They are also required to develop an off site response plan.

Mr. Gould left at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis asked if there are any long range plans to phase out this chemical.

Mr. Damron answered not that he is aware of; there are 50 refineries that use HF. The chemical substitution could require larger quantities – it is a trade off.

Ms. Goodson left at this juncture.

Mr. Moustis suggested asking Exxon if they have any long range plans on how to reduce or eliminate the risk in our county. We will put this on the Public Health agenda; we will talk more about the process and where we might want to see changes.

Ms. Rendulich asked if the county could conduct an investigation.

Mr. Moustis answered he does not believe we have the authority to investigate the refineries – they are state and federally regulated. We can encourage the people who regulate this to take a look at it. He suggested pursuing it through the State's Attorney's Office – they could investigate that.

Ms. Rendulich questioned having a public meeting regarding the transportation of the chemical through the county.

Mr. Moustis replied they are federally regulated by the Department of Transportation and the state; we do not regulate interstate transportation nor can we deny them access. We will talk with Mr. Gould, Mr. Damron and the County Executive on what type of forum would be helpful.

Other Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Moustis stated an executive session was necessary to discuss pending litigation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Bilotta, to go into executive session at 12:31 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. On a roll call vote, Bilotta, Adamic, Dralle, Seiler, Weigel, Wilhelmi and Moustis voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Moustis announced they were now in executive session.

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Mrs. Dralle, to come out of executive session at 12:34 p.m. On a roll call vote, Bilotta, Adamic, Dralle, Seiler, Weigel, Wilhelmi and Moustis voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Adamic, to concur with the recommendation from the State's Attorney's Office. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Bilotta, to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.