

WILL COUNTY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

March 4, 2010

9:30 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 9:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Dralle.

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

Also Present: B. Friefeld.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Ms. Seiler, to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Stewart, to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Health Insurance Consultant

RFQ Health Plan Evaluation

Mr. Moustis stated we need to do this as soon as possible.

Mr. Tidwell distributed the RFP and asked the committee to review it and make any recommendations. He requested it be brought back next week so we can send it out.

Mr. Moustis asked the State's Attorney' office to review it; he would like to get this out as early as possible.

Mr. Tidwell indicated it can hit the streets next Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Moustis commented he would like to see a short list pretty quickly – get it down to 3 or 4 to interview.

Mr. Tidwell suggested an ad-hoc selection committee.

Mr. Moustis stated we will put that together with some members of this committee, someone from the Executive's office and whoever else Mr. Tidwell feels may be helpful.

Mr. Bilotta questioned how long it will take.

Mr. Tidwell replied we will probably need 30 to 45 days for responses.

Mr. Moustis indicated try to get them in 30 days; the whole process will take 60 days. We should have a discussion about putting an RFQ together to look at brokerage services; it is a good idea to go out to the market every few years. Can we put out the one we did last time? Not much has changed. Could you advise of a timetable? This is usually more lengthy.

Mr. Tidwell answered it is a complicated program that you cannot rush through. It would have to hit the streets very soon; you have to work backwards from getting it approved at the November county board meeting.

Mr. Moustis asked if this could be out in April.

Mr. Tidwell answered it could; we would need a decision by August to give the brokers time to go out to the market.

Mr. Moustis indicated this will be on the agenda in April.

No action was taken.

Regional Water Supply Planning Group

Mr. Moustis indicated the committee asked for a number of changes in the document.

Ms. Lyne stated the changes were made from recommendations from the land use committee; there were some revived language that was discussed at last months' meeting regarding the resolution. Included in your agenda is a letter from the County Executive regarding the water supply plan, his endorsement of the document, Mr. Hamilton's final memo, the resolution that was previously passed at county board as well as the revised resolution.

Mr. Weigel commented he reviewed the resolution and does not have a problem with it.

Mr. Moustis indicated the whole idea of regional planning has been difficult in Will County; on the other hand it is very difficult for us to say no. We have to continue to try to make the best of this that we can; try to influence these processes to make sure that we are keeping Will County's interests at hand. He feels this whole concept is targeted at Will County; most

other counties are not affected. We have to be a strong voice for Will County, while letting these regional planning agencies go forward – we are not able to stop them.

Ms. Lyne stated there are 10 people throughout Will County that work very frequently with CMAP; we sit on all committees. We are by far the most vocal people; we are swaying all of their documents. They have worked very well with us up to this point and we have the other counties jumping on board. We are definitely being heard and have influence on how the documents are coming out of every committee at CMAP and other agencies.

Mr. Maher commented he does not believe any group outside of Will County can make a decision for us.

Mr. Bilotta indicated he served on this committee when it was initially formed. CMAP wanted to control our growth and they wanted to do it through water. The concept of the group is good; you have done a great job to make sure our voice is heard. You have swayed this document; it was way on one side when it first one came out. With SB1607 and the potential for contaminated soil; this is something CMAP should look at – it is all about protecting the groundwater. He suggested something in writing requesting they take a look at it.

Mr. Moustis commented that legislation can affect water quality; they should make a comment.

Ms. Lyne stated we will draft a letter to the Executive Director and ask them to do that.

Mr. Singer indicated this is better – not best. The fact that it is here is still concerning. In the document, we are asking to “avoid” and the language should be stronger. He suggested replacing the word “avoid” with “oppose.” This is not trending towards more independence and opportunity for Will County. We have something that they want and this is a concession; it does not help us determine our future. At best this is neutral but it is leading towards something not healthy in Will County. Sticking our head in the sand and refusing to work with them is not a healthy policy but this is not healthy. At a minimum we should make that language stronger; that we would oppose any requirements that could impact our development.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Mr. Maher, to amend the resolution to replace “seek to limit” with “oppose” and replace “avoid” with “prohibit” throughout the resolution. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bilotta stated we have to remember the aquifers in this region are decreasing. There is an environmental concern, long term. We will plan appropriately to avoid that.

Ms. Lyne indicated we have put in our federal agenda that one of our top priorities was to do our own groundwater study; we are the only collar county that has not done their own study. We will be able to take the CMAP report and use much of it to build on our own study. If

we want to be in control of conservation that occurs in our area going forward we will have to take our study and will have to advocate conservation measure ourselves because if we do not take the steps to do this on our own, that is when we allow these other more regional agencies or the state to say if we will not do it for ourselves, then they will do it for us.

Mr. Singer stated this document was already leading to that before. To even hint that we could turn part of this over to them is irresponsible. These people are not looking out for Will County; they do not have the best intentions for us.

Mr. Maher indicated we do not want to be reactive; if we say we are going to take on this responsibility and address the issues, then we need to do that.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda approving the Regional Water Supply Planning Group, as amended. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Confirming Award of Contract let on March 3, 2010 for CH 88 (Weber Road) from the north edge of the I-55 interchange bridge to Lily Cache Lane, Section 10-00170-35-RS, County Board Dists. #3 & 4 (Public Works was advised, but award info not available in time for their 03-02-10 meeting)

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Wilhelmi, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda confirming award of contract to "D" Construction (\$1,027,308.690 for work to be done on Weber Road from I-55 interchange bridge to Lily Cache Lane. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Resolution for Improvement by County under the Illinois Highway Code for CH 88 (Weber Road) from north edge of the I-55 interchange bridge to Lily Cache Lane, Section 10-00170-35-RS, County Board Dists. #3 & 4, Using County's allotment of MFT Funds (Public Works was advised, but award info not available in time for their 03-02-10 meeting)

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Kusta, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for the improvements on Weber Road from I-55 interchange bridge to Lily Cache Lane, using County's allotment of MFT funds (\$1,100,000.00). All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Elected Officials Salaries

Mr. Moustis stated historically we have set the compensation for elected officials 6 months prior to them taking office. All current county wide elected officials are making the same with the exception of the Sheriff, who is higher and the State's Attorney, which is set by the state. We are in uncertain times; our revenue streams are being impacted and will be for a period of time – at least for the next few years. Because of that we are asking our employees to take less. The exempt people did not receive any increases. Our collective bargaining people – if they are within the step program, they received their next step. Those who are at the top of the pay scale have been frozen at this point. County Board members are currently at \$23,000 and \$1,000 additional for leadership. He suggested the elected officials be frozen as well as board of review across the board for everyone. The Sheriff is currently at \$110,923.00 and the other elected officials are at \$93,116.00; they all get some type of stipend.

Mr. Ryan commented the state has cut some of the stipends.

Mr. Moustis indicated his recommendation is to freeze salaries with no stipend from the county to any elected official.

Mr. Kusta agreed with the recommendation; at a minimum that is appropriate.

Mr. Weigel suggested setting it like Social Security does based on the consumer price index.

Ms. Seiler commented Social Security was frozen as well.

Mr. Moustis stated the CPI does not reflect the finances of the county. We are still going to be asking our employees to tighten things up with us. If we do not tighten up ourselves how can we in good conscience ask them to do the same?

Mr. Wilhelmi agreed; at least for the next 2 years we are fairly certain the revenue stream will stay flat. Will this freeze be for the whole 4-year term? Some have been frozen 3 years prior.

Mr. Moustis answered the ones that were elected in 2008 were frozen for 4 years. Salaries for county-wide elected officials have gone up almost 200% in an 18-year period. The county board members were frozen for about 6 to 8 years ; then they went from \$13,000 to \$18,000. County wide officials are making \$93,116.00, which is probably twice the average household income in this county. He believes it is enough; when you look at what is going on in Will County it is tough to give any raise.

Mr. Maher agreed; this is an elected position. Everyone has a choice to serve in this position; this is more about service than a career. It should be what the job is – what the value is to the community.

Mr. Moustis stated compensation for county wide officials went from \$65,000 to \$93,000 in a pretty short time; county board did the job in bringing those up to an executive type salary. For this county it is an appropriate salary. When times were good – everyone got a little more; when times are not good right now everyone has to do their part.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned if it has to be frozen for the whole 4 years.

Mr. Moustis replied yes; he is more concerned if we feel it is reasonable compensation.

Mr. Adamic commented in the past we voted on countywide who were coming up for election. Is this only for those 3 officials that are up for election?

Mr. Moustis answered yes; the rest were in the packet for reference.

Mr. Adamic stated all county-wide officials have worked very hard. He appreciates their service in helping us get through these tough economic times.

Mrs. Schultz Voots stated she agrees with what you are saying. She feels she deserves what she is getting. If her staff is not getting a raise she agrees with freezing her salary.

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Stewart, to place resolutions on the county board agenda setting the salaries for the following offices that are up for election in November of 2010: County Board members; County Clerk; Sheriff; Treasurer as well as the Board of Review members. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

Mr. Palmer stated an invitation will be going out for a MAPP project on March 17, 2010 at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center from 8 to 10 a.m. We are getting information on where we are at with our healthcare system, what projected needs are and what assets we have. This is an opportunity for county board members to speak to a group to gather information.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REQUESTS

1. Request to Discuss HB6204 Re: Coroner's Trauma Fund – Pat O'Neil/Mary Baudino
– Attached Legislative & Policy Committee
2. Request to Discuss Surety Bond Limits Reconsideration – Ray Semplinski/Brian
Radner - Attached - Land Use & Development Committee
3. Request for 9-1-1 Intergovernmental Agreement – Matt Ryan - Executive Committee
4. Placement of Items on Public Works & Transportation Committee Agenda - (To Be
Heard 03-02-10) – List Attached

A motion was made by Mr. Kusta, second by Mr. Gould, to place the committee assignment requests, as presented. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, seconded by Mr. Kusta, to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.