

WILL COUNTY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

December 8, 2011

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 10:13 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Bilotta, Adamic, Dralle, Goodson, Gould, Maher, May, Singer, Weigel, Zigrossi and Moustis.

Absent were Members: Kusta and Wilhelmi.

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

Also Present: B. Friefeld and M. Johannsen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

Request for Funding for University of Illinois Extension

Mr. Moustis stated the County has supported the University of Illinois Extension for many years; we should continue at a level of funding. The request is \$25,000 which is a reasonable request.

Ms. Beth LaPlante, County Extension Director, advised the committee that reorganization took effect in July; there are 4 educators for the 3 counties of Grundy, Will and Kankakee. We were able to hire a part time person for the 4H program; we have down sized the office and we are living within our means. It is very important for your contribution because we still are in the state budget at a 65% match so anything we raise locally we are eligible for a 65% match.

Mr. Adamic indicated he would support this as well and asked our members to do the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mrs. May to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for funding for the University of Illinois Extension in the amount of \$25,000. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Support for County Seat University of St. Francis Art Gallery

Mr. Moustis stated we have taken on different initiatives that are more of a cultural nature. The last one was Rialto, with a \$50,000 contribution towards their restoration. We have not done anything since. The University of St. Francis is a very important educational institution and has given a lot back to the communities. They are looking to make an investment in downtown Joliet and make an investment in the arts. It is hard to quantify what it brings to the community. We have talked with USF on how we can partner with them on projects. This would be a one-time contribution.

President Vinciguerra stated we are committed to the County and Joliet. We have affected two ways – one is the quality of life with the service we give to the community and also the financial stability and fiscal health. We have already made an investment to the City of Joliet by bringing our visual arts program; there is already a return on the investment to what we have made. Many of you had the opportunity to visit the visual arts program; we believe you saw the enthusiasm the students and the faculty have. We have taken space at Scott and VanBuren and our vision is to bring in local artists as well as noted artists to bring people to the city. Our goal is the desire to see those people who are less exposed to the arts to be exposed to them - specifically children. We have already made the investment in the gallery; we have started the process of the initial rehab. We are committed to bringing in the director to run the gallery. We are asking for your consideration for a \$50,000 contribution towards that. This is a one-time request we are making to move the program on to the final construction phase.

Mr. Moustis noted we would be using dollars that we get from Waste Management as part of our land fill agreement. We get \$100,000 for 5 years; with a balance of \$200,000. The Illinois Extension dollars would also come from that. If approved, the contribution for the art gallery would come from that fund. We do not use tax dollars.

Mr. Maher commented he would like to be able to support this. At some point Joliet needs to have a full revitalization especially if we build our judicial center; this is an appropriate use of those dollars.

Mrs. Zigrossi indicated she had an opportunity to attend the open house and was extremely impressed with what is going on. She would support this contribution as well.

Mrs. May commented she thinks of this one time contribution as coming from garbage and making art; she likes the idea of bringing people downtown.

A motion was made by Mrs. Zigrossi, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for funding for the University of St. Francis Art Gallery in the amount of \$50,000. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Wight & Company's Physical Inspection Proposal for Pioneer Building

Mr. Moustis stated this will give us a temporary solution.

Mr. Friefeld indicated this is a not to exceed amount of \$10,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Kusta, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an agreement with Wight & Company for a physical building assessment of the Pioneer Building. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Singer arrived at this juncture.

Renewal of Annual Memberships & Consulting Services Contract

Associations/Memberships:

Mr. Moustis stated we will look at the cost of all memberships and the related costs of participation.

NACo – National Association of Counties

Annual Member ship \$9,500

Related Travel Expenses \$22,100

Mr. Moustis stated we have a number of members on committees who travel about twice a year; we do not go to all the meetings. He believes it is beneficial; we have made some good contacts; it has been a good networking opportunity throughout the country. It is a worthwhile association.

Mr. Maher noted those members who go to the conventions should bring back information of the outcome.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Adamic agreed; they should bring back information so the rest of us can benefit; there should be some sort of report.

Mr. Moustis suggested the committee members come to the executive committee and give a 5 minute presentation.

Mrs. Dralle strongly recommended having a 1 to 2 minute presentation at the County Board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mr. Bilotta, to continue with the membership for NACo. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Illinois Association of Counties

Annual Membership \$2,400

Related Travel Expenses \$47

Mr. Moustis indicated it is a nominal amount for the annual membership. They are recognized by NACo as our state association.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mr. Gould to continue with the membership for Illinois Association of Counties. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Metro Counties

Annual Membership \$15,750

Related Travel Expenses Unknown – County Executive

Mr. Moustis indicated the County Executive is our representative. When Metro Counties started out, the concept was the collar counties and it is everything but the collar counties now. Any member, regardless of the size, if they do not have 100% agreement – they go to a neutral position. He does not see where they have helped Will County in recent years. Cook County is also a member.

Ms. Goodson stated she has more questions than answers at this point. The lobbyist that we have had for many years and the director both have made the decision to retire. They do limit their membership; it was discussed that there is no interest in expanding the membership. Currently there are about 18 counties; these are the larger counties of the 102 in the state. We have had a couple differences over the last couple of years about where we stand on particular issues to other counties. There are 5 counties including Will County that pay the maximum dues charged to any county, because it is based on population. They recently hired a new director; we do not know what the plan is for the future. There was discussion of possibly increasing the dues. If the new director is not serving as a lobbyist, then we need to make a decision about a lobbyist. We relied heavily on the previous lobbyist's reports.

Mr. Palmer indicated he would be happy to investigate. The County Executive is serving as president. There are 14 counties in this; it is the collar counties plus the outer ring counties plus the major counties outside of Chicagoland – around the St. Louis area. The County Executive looks at this as a statewide organization that when they do agree they bring a consensus and it is a vehicle to get support for legislation that is agreed upon.

Mr. Moustis noted it was never intended to be a state-wide organization; it was intended to be a local organization.

Mr. Bilotta agreed with Mr. Moustis. Metro Counties was originally intended for collar counties. We are subsidizing the rest of the counties; there are four paying the max but they all have equal say so. There have been discussions about the true collar counties forming their own; that is something we need to investigate over the next year or change the by-laws. He does not like Cook County in it – that is not metro and we have different issues than they have. We need to look at what benefits Will County has being in Metro Counties.

Mr. Gould commented regarding all these memberships; this is an odd time to discuss this. You are halfway through a legislative session. Will County has a state and federal agenda. To withdraw from any of these at this point would not make sense; you want to see how you will fare with the legislative agenda.

Mr. Moustis indicated he does not recommend that we abruptly leave but he does see the need to revisit the bylaws and how they are structured. If they are not willing to restructure to make it more beneficial for the collar counties, then we can tell them we will withdraw from this association. It was formed to talk about metropolitan issues. He suggested sending a letter that we would like to see further discussion.

Ms. Goodson noted the discussion came up that the future goal is to become even more visible and flex more muscle in Springfield. The membership that is in Metro Counties basically represents about 2/3 of the population; they want to raise the profile of the organization and make the legislators understand we represent the majority of the state.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mr. Bilotta, to continue with the membership for Metro Counties. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Will County Governmental League

Annual Membership \$23,500

Related Travel Expenses Unknown – County Executive

Mr. Bilotta commented we received \$1.2 million in funding; the only reason we received it is because of being in the WCGL.

Mr. Bruce Gould indicated the only way the county is eligible for STP funds is through the WCGL. We received \$4 million for 2 projects last year; that is money well spent.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Maher, to continue with the membership for Will County Governmental League. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Consulting Services Contracts:

CED – Center for Economic Development – Annual Contract \$100,000

Mr. Moustis stated the CED has been extremely beneficial to the county; and has been a good relationship. The CED assists us on economic development and certainly takes on special issues for us. They have done a good job reaching out to the entire county.

Mr. Grueling distributed 3 pieces of information to the committee members. He reviewed the 2011 Report of Activities, the Annual Report to Investors and this year's roster of projects. Our mission statement has not changed in 30 years. He reviewed the core program areas, the abatement programs; community outreach efforts. We have expanded our website and have a lot of information for businesses. This is what we have done and will continue to do in the future.

Mrs. May noted for \$100,000; you brought back more than that in taxes and jobs. If we had to hire one person, they could not do all that.

Mr. Maher requested a report at the end of the year with the number of jobs, the demographics of jobs; that would help us get a good picture.

Mr. Grueling indicated we can provide a spreadsheet.

Mr. Bilotta questioned their operating budget and number of employees.

Mr. Grueling replied our revenues this year will be at \$1.2 million; we have 6 full time employees for CED.

Mr. Adamic noted CED has been a good ambassador for Will County; they have proven their worth with the jobs that were brought to the county. Thank you for the job you are doing.

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Weigel, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an agreement with the CED. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Mack Communications – County Board Public Relations Firm – Annual Contract
Not to Exceed \$45,000**

Mr. Moustis stated their contract was \$120,000 and they took a 60% cut a couple of years ago. He does think a public information officer for the county board is necessary that works with staff and county board members. He believes we should have a public information officer for the entire county that elected officials feed into; that is not the case here.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Gould, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an agreement with Mack Communications. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Kusta left at this juncture.

Smith Dawson & Andrews – County Federal Lobbyist – Annual Contract Not to Exceed \$96,000

Mr. Moustis indicated they have done a pretty good job bringing dollars back – it is a quantified return that we can look at. He does not see any reason to move from them. If you think you want to do an RFQ the following year, we should have that discussion sooner rather than later. The contract was for \$96,000 in the 2011 budget, which was cut the prior year from \$120,000; it would continue at \$96,000 for 2012.

Mr. Maher commented he is very happy with the work they have done. It would be prudent to put out an RFQ just to review for all consultants; maybe put that on a 3-year cycle.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodson, second by Mr. Adamic, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an agreement with Smith Dawson & Andrews. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

William F. Mahar – County Board State Lobbyist – Annual Contract Not to Exceed \$48,600

Mr. Moustis stated Mr. Mahar talked to me earlier in the year that he is not going to continue more than another year; he would be cutting his workload going into 2013. We should be looking at a new state lobbyist so we will go out for RFQ. Mr. Friefeld has a sample RFQ that can go out tomorrow. We would have to come up with a committee for interviews. He suggested committee chairs with 2 people from the legislative committee. We gave them 3 weeks to reply so we can set up interviews and approve it at the February county board meeting. There is not much going on in the meantime. If the thought is you would like to put out an RFQ for the federal lobbyist, we can do it at the same time. We would have to start on the 2013 agenda by mid 2012.

Mr. Friefeld recommended getting the state RFQ out now; then we will do the federal.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Maher, to release the RFQ for state lobbyist. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Lois Mayer – County Executive Grant Coordinator – Annual Contract Not to Exceed \$50,000

Mr. Moustis indicated Ms. Mayer works on grants for the county and also helps in managing them.

Mrs. Dralle asked if there are monthly reports submitted.

Mr. Palmer answered the County Executive receives regular reports from Ms. Mayer.

Mrs. Dralle stated she would like to see the total dollars brought in.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Mr. Adamic, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the agreement with Lois Mayer – County Executive Grant Coordinator. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Ordinance Approving the Joliet Arsenal Enterprise Zone Expansion

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mrs. Zigrossi, to place an ordinance on the County Board Agenda approving the expansion of the Joliet Arsenal Enterprise Zone. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Resolution Authorizing the Will County Executive to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Elwood

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Bilotta, to remove this item from the agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Resolution Authorizing the Will County Executive to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Joliet

A motion was made by Mrs. May, second by Mr. Bilotta, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Joliet. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Support for County Seat University of St. Francis Art Gallery

This item was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Request for Funding for University of Illinois Extension

This item was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Request for Award of Contract to Accept Credit Card, Debit Card and ACH Payments for Real Estate Property Taxes by the Treasurer's Office

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Weigel, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for award of contract to accept credit card, debit card and ACH payments by the Treasurer's office. All in favor, with Mr. Gould abstaining. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Presentation Re: RTA Grant at County Board Meeting

Mr. Palmer stated we applied previously for a grant and committed to a match of 20% for a mobility manager. At the November County Board meeting Mr. Ross announced the grant is moving forward; it is an \$892,000 total project but it is only a grant of \$506,000, which is the

federal share. The local match for Will County for 2 years is \$40,000 that pays for the mobility manager. There is a second bucket of money for operational dollars, which is being matched by the local townships. We will come back in January to ask for a resolution to collect and pay it out. Currently we are getting letters of commitment from townships to show that there is a local match; these letters are necessary for the RTA. The mobility manager will be paid for 2 years and their responsibility is outreach and to also develop a sustainability plan so there is funding beyond the grant.

Mr. Moustis noted a transportation manager will be hired at some point.

Mr. Singer left at this juncture.

Request for Approval to Conduct Maximus Fee Studies

Mr. Rafac indicated there is one component that we want to remove from this study.

Mr. Moustis asked Mr. Rafac to make sure the State's Attorney's Office and Mr. Friefeld have looked at it.

Mrs. Dralle asked if some departments are requesting additional fees; is Maximus looking at that.

Mr. Rafac answered that was not included in this.

Mrs. Dralle questioned if it could be included.

Mr. Moustis replied we could approve and give authority for the County Executive.

Mrs. Tatroe noted if you include that provision in the resolution.

Mr. Moustis commented when we are negotiating fees, we may want to consider including that it is always subject to the State's Attorney's approval.

Mr. Rafac indicated this is traditionally funded out of contingency.

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda approving the Maximus Fee study. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Award Bid for Sale of Surplus Seized Vehicles

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda awarding the bid for the sale of the surplus seized vehicles. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Approval of Resolutions Re: Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Adamic, to place resolutions on the County Board Agenda regarding the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Renewal of Professional Services Contract for Scott McKibbin Group, Inc.

Mr. Adamic asked if AON is doing the same work.

Mr. Moustis answered they reviewed and gave suggestions on the plan design; that certainly gets incorporated in this and Mr. McKibbin helped with some of that. Primarily he works with us on negotiating on health care side.

Mr. Adamic questioned if this was duplicate work.

Mr. Moustis replied no; he has a history with AFSCME; he has a good relationship with them.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Weigel, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the contract for Scott McKibbin Group. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Discuss Prairie View Gas to Energy Plant Project

No report.

Appointments by the County Executive

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mrs. Zigrossi, to place the Appointments by the County Executive on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Sunny Hill Replacement Hires

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

Highway Department and County Executive Maintenance Replacement Hires

(Tabled at Previous Meeting)

Mr. Maher noted that part of what we need to take a look at is where we are duplicating services throughout the county.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Maher, to table this issue. On a roll call vote, Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Maher and Singer voting yes and Adamic, Gould, May, Weigel, Zigrossi and Moustis voting no. MOTION FAILS.

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mrs. Zigrossi, to place the Highway Department and County Executive Maintenance replacement hires on the County Board Agenda. On a roll call vote, Adamic, Gould, May, Weigel, Zigrossi voting yes and Bilotta, Dralle, Goodson, Maher, Singer and Moustis voting no. MOTION FAILS.

Proclamation(s)

Other New Business

Mr. Moustis stated they will be putting out an RFQ for a consultant for the electrical aggregation program and will bring it back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use & Development

Mr. Weigel stated there are 4 zoning cases and 2 resolutions this month.

Finance

Mr. Maher asked if there were any questions.

Public Works & Transportation

Mr. Bilotta asked if there were any questions.

Judicial

No report.

Public Health & Safety

No report.

Legislative & Policy

No report.

Capital Improvements

Mr. Maher stated there will be a tour of the Pioneer Building immediately following this meeting.

Executive Committee

Mr. Moustis asked if there were any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2011 COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Gould, to approve the December 15, 2011 County Board Agenda, as amended. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Adamic, to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.