

WILL COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

October 14, 2008

Will County Office Building
County Board Committee Room
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gerl called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Svava, Dralle, Brandolino, Adamic, Maher and Gerl.

Absent were Members: Piccolin.

Also Present: Moustis and McMillan.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Mary Tatroe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. Adamic, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. Adamic, to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Determination of the Estimate of the Annual Aggregate Levy

Mr. Gerl stated we are going to discuss the levy for the 2009 budget. We need to determine whether or not we need to publish the black box and if we are 5 percent or below last year's extension, we do not have to publish the black box. We also need to discuss if we want to reduce taxes or do we not want to reduce taxes.

Mr. Moustis stated before we start, let us have Mrs. Tatroe talk about the written opinion that we requested.

Mrs. Tatroe stated if the aggregate extension is less than 105 percent of the final aggregate for last year, you do not have to publish or have a public hearing. But even if you are under that 105 percent, it is good practice to publish anyway.

Mr. Gerl questioned on what date would it be published.

Mrs. Johannsen stated November 9th.

Mr. Gerl stated that is not bad advice.

Mr. Maher stated we are talking about communication with the constituents of the county.

Mr. Moustis stated I do not have a problem publishing the black box. Is there a public hearing for the black box?

Mrs. Tatroe stated there is a public hearing for the adoption of the levy.

Mr. Moustis questioned when does that take place.

Mrs. Johannsen stated at the October meeting you pass the ordinance for the aggregate levy. In November you do the public hearing for the budget and the black box publication.

Mr. Moustis stated I have no problem publishing at 105 percent, if that is our intent. Our real intent is to be at 102 percent so let's publish at 104 percent.

Mr. Rafac stated the truth in taxation legislation only talks about 105 percent extension on the aggregate levy which excludes the Public Building Commission and debt services. For the last several years our only exclusion has been the PBC. Based on that I can extend 105 percent on the aggregate levy excluding the PBC and then add the PBC to the top of that. This gives me flexibility when we get to April. If something happens with our sales tax, I would like to have the flexibility come April for supplemental sales tax. I would like to have the flexibility by extending the 5 percent on the maximum amount I can extend it to.

Mr. Moustis stated we do not have to go through the PBC levy; we can use the process that we are currently using for the ADF.

Mr. Rafac stated yes but we would still have to publish it separately.

Mr. Moustis stated I have no problem publishing but I do not want to send the wrong message with the black box. The Budget Review Committee made a recommendation that the aggregate levy would be \$103 million. This idea of cutting later for wiggle room, I do not want wiggle room. I want it clearly stated that we will not go over this dollar amount. That is my position.

Mr. Gerl stated our intention is to levy \$103 million. If we publish the \$107 million based on the truth in taxation laws we would not have to publish.

Mrs. Tatroe stated the extra \$4 million is the PBC portion. The different levies are for the different amounts.

A motion was made by Mr. Svara, seconded by Mr. Maher, to vote no on the \$107 million levy and instead have a \$103 million levy with that new money to come from new construction.

Mr. Moustis stated I think we can have a public hearing. The advantage of not publishing is that it gives up to 105 percent. If we had to go to \$3.1 million we have the flexibility to do that. My point is with five percent we have the flexibility.

Mr. Rafac stated if we not publish, we will certify that we will not exceed 105 percent.

Mr. Brandolino questioned what is the target number for the finished budget.

Mr. Gerl stated the target is \$103 million. However, we are going to use \$107.2 million for preparing numbers.

Mr. Brandolino questioned could we put more of the RTA tax into the budget.

Mr. Svara stated yes.

Mr. Brandolino questioned if we put more money in for public safety, what are the parameters. We cannot put it in for personnel.

Mrs. Tatroe stated you can but the County Board decided not to.

Mr. Brandolino stated we need to look at GPS systems in the squad cars. We talked about doing this with Public Works and it did not go anywhere.

Mr. Moustis stated that flexibility is there for other projects. Cook County has a GPS for public safety countywide. I think it is a good idea. We should look at it.

Mr. Gerl questioned 9-1-1, can they help us out.

Mr. Moustis stated that would be a legitimate expense with 9-1-1 funds.

Mr. Maher stated I agree with Mr. Brandolino, we need to take a comprehensive look at capital issues that are going on.

A motion was made by Mr. Svara to estimate the annual aggregate levy at \$105,610,218. Motion dies for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. McMillan, to estimate the annual aggregate levy at \$107,283,595. On a roll call vote: Svara, no; Dralle, yes; Brandolino, yes; Adamic, yes; Maher, yes; and Gerl, yes.

MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Brandolino questioned do we have to publish.

Mr. Gerl stated we are not required to.

Mr. Rafac stated I would agree with that.

Mr. Brandolino questioned during the public hearing for the budget in November can we make that statement.

Mr. Gerl stated absolutely.

Mr. Rafac stated we could publish the certification that we will not to go over 105 percent.

Mr. Moustis stated let's stick to the statute.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, seconded by Mrs. Dralle, to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.