

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**August 4, 2009**

Will County Office Building  
County Board Committee Room  
302 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
10:30 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Kusta, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were Members:** Maher, Brooks Jr., Dralle, Gould, Seiler, Wilhelmi, and Kusta,  
Jr.

**Absent were Members:** None.

**Also Present:** Adamic.

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** Phil Mock.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Dralle led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Report on 2010 Budget Cost Saving Alternatives**

Mr. Rafac stated I have met with most department heads and elected officials. I am expecting department heads to submit further cuts to their operational budgets and make suggestions on savings in personnel. I am looking at sweeping all levy accounts, holding them harmless to the prior year tax level. The reduction in salaries to the 2009 level will allow me to reduce our FICA and pension levies. We will be looking at other operating expenses that we can cut and as well as other personnel savings. September 17<sup>th</sup> Mr. Walsh will present a balanced budget. That will require further reductions on the personnel side of the budget. We

have had discussions with AFSME and there will be further conversations with them. We are looking at voluntary solutions with a severance and furlough package. We will ask the Executive Committee to pass a resolution this month. This plan is for exempt non-union employees. AFSME may offer this to their employees. Furlough for a 24/7 operation and high demand departments such as the County Clerk is not a good option. It is voluntary and the County Clerk would not participate. Management would have to agree to have that person gone. The options are 6-52 furlough days. The advantage is that the insurance coverage would still stay in place at their rate. They would still be awarded their full vacation and there would be no loss of seniority. The severance plan is available to those close to retirement. The employee would determine an effective termination date in the first quarter of the year. Participants would not be able to come back to work at the County during the four years following their participation. The vacancy would remain for the remaining nine months of the year and when hiring someone they are hired at no more than 60 percent of the previous position salary and benefit costs.

Mr. Kusta, Jr. questioned when will the draft be finalized.

Mr. Rafac stated this plan is something that Mr. Tidwell has worked on. We will be before Executive this Thursday and next. We will wait until the day of the board meeting for a final version.

#### **Review of 2010 Special Funds**

Mr. Rafac stated the area we focused on are the levy generated special funds: pension, IMRF, tort immunity, worker's comp, Highway Department and Health Department. In those situations we are holding them harmless at the prior year's level of funding.

#### **Other Old Business**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Update of County Finances**

Mrs. Hennessy gave the committee an update regarding County finances.

Mr. Maher questioned can we isolate or define items purchased, those day to day things.

Mrs. Hennessy stated I have to look and see.

#### **Request for Increase in Appropriations in Sheriff's Weight Scale and Off Duty**

#### **Assignment Line Items**

Deputy Chief Romeo stated we are asking to transfer dollars from the weight scale budget and the off duty assignment budget into the weight scale vehicle and the off vehicle assignment codes. The first part of the request is to pay off a lien on a vehicle that we have seized in the amount of \$6,500. The second part is for \$48,000 to purchase a used tow truck.

Mr. Moore stated our current tow truck is 16 years old with 150,000 miles on it.

Mr. Kusta, Jr. stated the only question I have is why did this not go out to bid.

Deputy Chief Romeo stated we checked the purchasing ordinance and that was not required because it was a used vehicle. We did receive several bids for a replacement tow truck and this was the one that fit our needs the best.

Mr. Kusta, Jr. stated I am fan of competitive bidding. I asked that the State's Attorney pull up that statute. The issue is if we want to waive the competitive bid for this vehicle. The statute states we are allowed to waive if we have been presented with a good faith review of available sources and the contract is not suitable for a competitive bid. Examples are: is it the only source; is it needed for testing or training; is it the purchase of used equipment, and is it the purchase of the items in auction. What is the threshold? This committee needs to ask some questions.

Mrs. Dralle stated maybe we should look at a policy in the future for bids.

Mrs. Seiler stated I think that this is a reasonable bid.

Mr. Brooks, Jr. stated I support this and in the future we should look at a policy.

Mr. Kusta, Jr. stated this is an issue that will come back up again.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, seconded by Mrs. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for the increase of appropriations in the Sheriff's Weight Scale and Off Duty Assignment line items in the amount of \$6,500 and \$48,000 respectively. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Kusta Jr. stated I would like staff to work with the State's Attorney generating a policy regarding used purchases.

Mr. Adamic left at this juncture.

Mrs. Dralle left at this juncture.

#### **Other New Business**

Mr. McGuire gave the committee an update regarding the property tax process to date.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, seconded by Mr. Gould, to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.