

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

**July 6, 2010**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Kusta called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent were Members:** Gould.

**Also Present:** Moustis, Bilotta and Friefeld.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Maher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mrs. Dralle, to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Brooks, to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Request for Budget Amendments in CDBG Funds**

Mr. Pullman stated there are four resolutions and each is a separate issue. There are some housekeeping issues and one is a budget increase. When the 2010 budget was done we were requested to bring back a budget that was projected and recommended by the County Executive. This was discussed with the Finance Department before the resolutions were prepared and they are in agreement with this.

Mr. Moustis asked Mrs. Hennessey when the budget was done was there a reason that salaries were reduced.

Mrs. Hennessey answered Land Use Department had reduced staff and they had several variations of a personnel budget. She believes someone was moved at the last minute without considering the funds; certainly there are grant funds to cover this.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda transferring funds within the CDBG funds 290, 291, 298 and 299. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Mr. Gould, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda creating a compliance and program monitoring staff position in the NSP Program. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dralle, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the increase in fund 299. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Brooks, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda amending the budgets for CDBG, Home and NSP grant programs. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Wilhelmi, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda amending the fund 290 CDBG budget associated with the Ridgewood Sewer and Water project. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Pullman stated this resolution places the IEPA loan that was approved after last year's budget; we are putting money in so we can expend it. This was roughly \$3 million that was approved; we did not get this money into the budget in time, due to the timing of the budget. Approximately \$250,000 of the \$3 million is a grant; the rest is a 0% loan we are paying back over the next 20 years. We have been expending that money using our CDBG authority.

Mr. Moustis questioned how much have we received.

Mr. Pullman replied about 70%; we have contracted for the full amount.

Ms. McPhillips asked if the repayment of the loan is coming out of CDBG funds.

Mr. Pullman answered yes.

Mrs. Johannsen indicated the emergency loan that was done needs a confirming resolution.

Mr. Wilhelmi clarified we are creating one position.

Mr. Pullman stated yes; it is grant funded.

Mr. Maher asked when the grant goes away, so does the position.

Mr. Pullman answered yes.

Mr. Moustis commented all funds come from the federal government for CDBG.

Mr. Pullman indicated when we prepare the budget we try to anticipate how much grant money we will receive. We put in the IEPA loan money – we ran out – now we are establishing the IEPA loan – there is no general revenue at all flowing through. We have expended all money we projected coming through. The new position is 100% grant funded. When the grant is terminated – the NSP program in 4 to 5 years, that position will disappear.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Gould place a resolution on the County Board Agenda confirming the emergency increase of funds in the CDBG fund 290. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **University of IL Extension**

Mr. Doug Tweeten, Chairman of the University of Illinois, Will County Extension addressed the committee regarding their financial situation. We started off this year in the hole – our fiscal year just ended June 30, 2010. Due to some funding that did not materialize we had to lay off one secretary. We are economizing within our office and trying everything we can. We raised fees for 4-H members and increased the fees we charge residents to take our courses and workshops; we also increased the fees for master gardener training. We added something new this year and received a lot of help from county board members with our spaghetti fundraiser, which helped fill the hole. We had more people involved in activities this year than in prior years; we have over 300 members throughout Will County. We are trying to work with the townships within the county on some activities. An additional item that threw us was the state-wide reorganization plan, which combined units. Will County will join with Kankakee County and Grundy County into a single unit with one director and one primary office. This has not happened yet but the decision has been made. We will still have a presence in Will County but we do not know the details of that presence. We are getting ready for that reorganization as well as trying to solve the budget problem. We did an analysis of how effectively we use the money we get. We have been told by pooling these 3 counties we are not necessarily pooling resources; we cannot use funds from one county in another.

Ms. Diane Ross, Chair-elect, stated we have regional centers over the next two years that will be closed. We will re-define the educator positions. Our budget for next year is down \$40,000; it is not a final budget. Eventually we will have to combine it with the unit and it will all change. We will be sharing a director for three counties; currently there are 76 directors; there will be less than 30. There is a timeline for the restructuring: July 9<sup>th</sup> they will finalize the educator needs. Everyone across the state has to re-apply for a position. By September 1<sup>st</sup> we are supposed to have identified the main office for our unit as well as where the other offices will be. The selection of the unit directors and educators will take place October 15th. Our

biggest concern is whether we will have the resources. We will work to continue what we have and hopefully increase what we have.

Mr. Maher asked if they are doing anything in the northern part of the county.

Ms. Ross answered she does not know what is being done there.

Mr. Maher suggested they contact the Forest Preserve District regarding their event on August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Tweeten indicated our budget has been submitted to the County Executive's office. We are requesting a \$25,000 grant as you gave us last year. We are realistic and realize everyone is being pressed at this time. We are also planning another fund raiser probably along the lines of what we did this year. We will be visiting townships to see if they would like to take some responsibility for supporting their programs in their township. It has been suggested we might try service groups such as Rotary.

Ms. McPhillips questioned who makes the final decision for the director.

Ms. Ross answered previously the counties council made those decisions; now the university will make all the decisions on who will be hired across the state.

#### **Update on County Finances**

Mrs. Hennessey stated she will have an update at the next meeting.

#### **Discussion and Request for RFP for External Audit**

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Mr. Brooks, to issue an RFP for the external audit. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request for Transfer of Funds within Health Department Budget**

Mr. Cicero requested to transfer funds from the unspent salary line item to contractual salaries in the amount of \$800,000. We will continue to deliver medical services in the Community Health Center but have been using more contractual.

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda transferring funds in the amount of \$800,000 within the Health Department Budget. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request for Disbursal of Petan Victim Assistance Board Funds**

Mrs. Tatroe stated this fund was set up 15 years ago as a 501(c)3 but the board has not met for several years. The auditor closed the account since the funds were not being used and the funds were to be moved to corporate; however these fund could not be moved to corporate according to the bylaws. The board was reorganized and they voted to pass a resolution to disburse the funds.

Mr. Maher asked if there is a need for this type of assistance.

Mrs. Tatroe answered there is a fund set up by the Attorney General that victims can apply for; they are in a much better position.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Petan Victim Assistance Fund. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Resolution Authorizing Establishment of 2010 Budget for Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program**

Mr. Olson stated we wanted to establish a budget for the block grant; this was approved by the Department of Energy. We need to set up a firm budget to expend in the right manner.

Mr. Maher questioned the temporary salary of \$27,000 for 2010 and \$71,400 for 2011.

Mr. Olson replied it is for a grant assistant that we hired and an educator.

Mr. Kusta asked if he had discussed this budget with the Finance Department.

Mr. Olson and Mrs. Hennessey both replied yes.

Mr. Moustis questioned how much of this has already been done.

Mr. Olson replied the \$1 million to Waste Management will be paid in November; the retrofits are the contracts that have been issued in the last two months.

Mr. Moustis asked if the temporary employee is tied to the grant.

Mrs. Hennessey answered because she was covered by IMRF we cannot bring her on as a consultant while she was collecting pension.

Mr. Olson indicated she will forego collecting her pension and will also forego benefits. We need to pay her as a temporary due to an IMRF requirement.

Mr. Gould commented you are spending over 80% of the money this year. What will happen in 2011 and 2012?

Mr. Olson replied this is the launch year. We are giving a third of the money to Waste Management; the retrofits are basically another third. The extra is basically getting the word out of what we are doing here and about the gas to energy plant. We are setting it up this year, to be able to tell about the things we are doing. By the end of the third year you will see some results.

Mr. Maher asked if offering grants to small businesses could be a part of this.

Mr. Olson answered we could use the money to leverage additional money. We will have money from the gas to energy plant next year and will have to decide what to do with that money.

Mrs. Dralle questioned how are we funding the mobile unit; will we get grants?

Mr. Olson replied we will certainly try to get all the grants we can. We could use the gas to energy money.

Mr. Bilotta clarified we could come back and request the money from the gas to energy plant to put towards an education program.

Mr. Moustis stated the van will always have a use for it to get out to the communities. We did approve these consultant contracts previously for PR and a website program, which will be used to reach out to the entire county. Are these consultant contracts for one year?

Mr. Olson answered they go to the end of the grant but most will be done in the next 3 to 4 months.

Mr. Moustis requested some type of progress reports or activity reports from the consultants.

Mr. Maher stated there is a new initiative coming up through the capital improvements committee that has an impact on what is being discussed here; we may want to hold off on the long-term budget approval. We are talking about wanting to educate people; we would be doing ourselves and the community a disservice if we do not step back.

Mr. Olson indicated we need to set something up for this year to be able to do what we need to do.

Mr. Maher commented we could take the \$125,000 for the vehicle and put it to a better use such as a grant to provide money to people in communities to start making changes.

Mrs. Dralle indicated she would like to know about the vehicle; what the long term costs are for this.

Mr. Moustis stated some of this has been spent; we can approve the budget and amend it later.

Mr. Wilhelmi commented the vehicle is a separate issue on the executive committee agenda for Thursday; if you do not want to move forward with it.

A motion was made by Mr. Gould, second by Mr. Maher, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the establishment of a 2010 budget for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Gould requested a meeting on a Saturday morning with the Finance Director for the discussion of multi-year budgeting.

Mr. Kusta indicated he will check with the Finance Director and come back with some dates.

Mr. Wilhelmi commented it would be beneficial to have the first draft of the budget.

Mrs. Hennessey indicated they just finished meeting with departments.

Mr. Ryan commented on his recent health challenges and expressed sincere appreciation for the outpouring of support. Given the situation of options that were placed in front of me it appears the least aggressive regimen seems to be taking affect and because of the multitude of doctors involved. He will be back assuming more and more of his regular responsibilities. He realizes we are working very well as a team; we may have differences of opinion but we are in good shape compared to many units of government. He feels this is

completely attributable to sitting down addressing things collaboratively. He enjoys working with all of you and appreciates all of your good wishes – thank you for everything.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Maher, second by Mr. Gould, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.