

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**October 8, 2009**

8:30 a.m.

302 North Chicago Street  
County Board Committee Room  
Joliet IL 60432

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Gould called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were Members:** Blackburn, Babich, May, Riley, Seiler and Gould.

**Absent were Members:** Konicki.

**Also Present:** Stewart and Friefeld.

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Seiler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Gould read a letter from the Logan County Chairman of the Board expressing their appreciation for the assistance EMA provided during the recent tragedy in Beason, Illinois.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Sunny Hill Replacement Hires**

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

**Coroner's 2008 Annual Report**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Ms. Seiler, to place the Coroner's 2008 Annual Report on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Superintendent of School's 2008 Annual Report**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to place the Superintendent of School's 2008 Annual Report on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Award Contract for Sunny Hill Security Services**

Mrs. Sorbero requested the contract for security services be awarded to the current vendor, Per Mar Security Services, Westchester, Illinois, who was the low bidder.

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda awarding the contract for security services at Sunny Hill to the lowest responsible bidder, Per Mar Security Services, Westchester, Illinois for a total one-year contract of \$79,424.00. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Transfer of Funds in Sunny Hill's Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda transferring funds in the amount of \$5,800.96 within the Sunny Hill budget for the emergency purchase of a replacement oven. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Transfer Agreement between Sunny Hill and Department of Healthcare & Family Services**

Mrs. Sorbero indicated this is an intergovernmental agreement that allows nursing homes to receive additional reimbursements for each resident, which averages about \$20 per day. We are asking for authority for the County Executive to execute the contract; this is about \$1 million of extra revenue each year.

Mr. Gould commented this money comes from the federal government to the county and then the county pays the state.

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Babich, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the County Executive to execute an intergovernmental agreement between Sunny Hill Nursing Home and the Department of Healthcare & Family Services. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Nursing Services Contract at Sunny Hill**

Mrs. Sorbero stated we are taking advantage of the third year renewal of the contracts; these are the agencies we use to fill in.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mr. Babich, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda renewing the various nursing services contract at Sunny Hill. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Medical Products Contract at Sunny Hill**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Ms. Seiler, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda renewing the contracts with various vendors for medical products at Sunny Hill. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Discussion Re: Walkway between Patterson Road and Doris Avenue along Route 53**

Mrs. Brockett addressed the committee regarding the walkway along Route 53. This is a personal issue but a community issue as well. Her son was struck and killed while walking from Harrah's to Elwood along Route 53 between Patterson Road and Doris Ave. She travels through that corridor many times a week. There are many people who do not have access to a car that could be walking along that route to get to downtown Joliet. The traffic between Elwood and Joliet, especially the I-80 interchange has drastically increased; she appreciates that is part of economic development. But there is not much room under that overpass; it is very dark. The issue related to the lighting is an IDOT issue. The walkway on the east side is in the City of Joliet; on the west side it is Joliet Township. The purpose is bringing this as a big picture. You may not have direct responsibility for this but I hope you appreciate the problem of public safety and you have some awareness as I address this with Joliet, Joliet Township, Senator Wilhelmi and Rep. McGuire. Before I-80 was in place, people frequently walked those walkways to various businesses; with the addition of I-80, many businesses no longer exist, but the walkways remain as they were; people avoid them if at all possible. The reality is they do not have any good options; they are forced to walk in the street. The west side is totally impassable. My son was walking in the double yellow line between the lanes. The driver was not expecting a pedestrian being there; they had great concern there would be some legal action. The drivers are as much a victim as our family. We are asking for your awareness – your support. I hope you can empathize with both the drivers and our family. We are seeing solutions. Joliet is calling the east walkway a work platform; discouraging pedestrian traffic. They are suggesting an alternate route down Gardner St, which sounds logical, but the reality is people will come and go along Route 53, even though it is not safe.

Mr. Babich commented he has traveled that way and did not even know there was a walkway because of the overgrown brush.

Mr. Kent Irvin, family friend and neighbor addressed the committee regarding the level of concern that has been raised. It is nice to see that everyone has that concern already; he is hoping to be successful in getting all groups together to come up with a solution to avoid these tragedies. He is offering a simple solution of installing lights underneath the viaducts; even if someone is walking, they could be seen by the motorists. If the motorist could have had a few seconds, it might have saved a life. There is confusion as to who is responsible for the lighting; one side is the city and one side is the township.

Mrs. Brockett indicated she believes there are funds out there to leverage cooperatively, either federal or state; she is more than willing to be involved in any way. An individual citizen will not accomplish much; this committee would know the options for funding possibilities. She is not just presenting a problem and asking the committee to do something; she is sincere in wanting a concrete positive solution – taking something negative and turning it into a positive. Any advice as she meets with other governmental entities would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Gould thanked Mrs. Brockett for appearing today and offered his condolences on the loss of her son.

Mr. Irving stated your support will help this problem we all face.

#### **Other Business**

Mrs. Sorbero stated the Tribune had an investigative report on nursing home admissions of younger mentally ill residents and balance. Sunny Hill's policy is we do not admit anyone with any kind of criminal charge on their background check. We use the Illinois State Police and every resident goes through the check before they are admitted; if there is anything murky on their record, the Will County Sheriff's Department does a fingerprint check. We are truly a geriatric facility with the average age of 87.5 years; we do not have many younger residents. We are regulated with the state that way. There was an issue of resident assaults but we have a policy in place to do an involuntary discharge to the local hospital psych ward. We have received phone calls from citizens and from family members of our residents. The article was very negative, but very true so they are looking at the entire process.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.