

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

**June 11, 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 8:35 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent were Members:** Konicki and Seiler.

**Also Present:** Stewart.

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** Melanie Manning.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Riley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Proposed Ordinance Licensing Sale of Tobacco Products in Will County –**

**Remanded back to Committee @ May 14, 2009 Executive Committee**

Mr. Gould stated attached to the agenda is the proposed ordinance. We have tried to address the concerns of members who expressed reservations about this issue. This has been to 2 committees. Provisions were deleted in sections 012, 013 and 015. Some members thought the licensing fee was excessive; it was reduced down to \$25.00. Those were the concerns expressed.

A Plainfield HS student stated the licensing fee is more to help with administrative costs; compared to other municipalities the fees were between \$100 and \$200. He questioned if \$25.00 is enough to cover those costs.

Mr. Gould indicated this committee approved \$100; it went to executive committee who thought that was too much. It is hard to say if that is the right amount – it is hard to get real numbers for how many businesses this affects. If that is not enough, we can revisit it in the future.

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda establishing a proposed Ordinance for the licensing sale of tobacco products in Will County. On a roll call vote, Blackburn, Babich, May, Riley and Gould voting yes.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Proposed Ordinance Regulating Open Burning within unincorporated Will County**  
**– Remanded back to Committee @ May 21, 2009 County Board Meeting**

Mr. Gould stated he had met with Mrs. Tatroe and made changes to the ordinance. There is no burning in right of way; it allows for burning in patio wood burning units and changed them to 15 feet rather than 50 feet. We tried to address the recreation fires in fire pits. We added a provision that trash and lumber are not part of recreational fires.

Mr. Blackburn commented he knows it will never be banned – he has accepted that. His objective is to represent the people who cannot legally burn; that are in the pockets of unincorporated areas and the fire that is burning close to other houses. He wants to see a limit on the setback to the property line.

Mr. Gould indicated this board makes ordinances for all of unincorporated Will County. We all represent different constituents; Districts 1 and 6 are very rural and Districts 5 and 8 have very little rural. The cities and villages can do whatever they want – we have no say. We are only going to affect what is done in unincorporated areas, most of which is south of I-80.

Mr. Blackburn suggested 100 feet from the incorporated lot line.

Mr. Gould stated we would be transposing a city ordinance on someone who lives in the unincorporated area.

Mr. Babich asked about permits to burn.

Mr. Gould suggested we move forward with what we have today. If you strongly feel with what you want to do, you can take it to the legislative committee; that is more state-wide instead of county ordinance.

Mrs. May commented most e-mails and phone calls she receives are on this issue; the residents of District 6 do not want to be told what they can or cannot do.

Mr. Gould commented people choose to be in unincorporated for many reasons.

Mr. Babich asked if there was a statewide ban on burning.

Mr. Gould answered that would make our ordinance null.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to amend the ordinance by adding the word fences to 93.21, neighboring structures. On a roll call vote, Blackburn, Babich and Riley voting yes with May and Gould voting no. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Babich to amend the ordinance by adding wording to restrict burning during ozone days. On a roll call vote, Blackburn, Babich and Riley, voting yes; May voting no and Gould passing. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mr. Gould, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda establishing an Ordinance regulating open burning within unincorporated Will County, as amended. On a roll call vote, Blackburn, Babich, May, Riley and Gould voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Resolution Authorizing the County Executive to Execute a Disaster Community Services Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Human Services**

Mr. Damron indicated the board has actually authorized the grant agreement relative to last year's flooding. We have been pre-allocated \$260,000 but that does not mean we will get that money. We have to have eligible expenses. This will put the agreement in place; if we have expenses to apply for the grant we can do so and get money from the state.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Blackburn, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the County Executive to execute the disaster community services grant agreement with IDHS. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Other Old Business**

Mr. Babich commented on the vicious animals; a neighbor was bitten recently and a small dog was killed by a pit bull last week.

Mr. Gould indicated you are dealing with a city ordinance.

Mr. Babich stated it is getting worse.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Report Re: H1N1 Swine Flu**

Mr. Cicero indicated the Health Department has been monitoring this issue since the end of April when we became aware of it. This is totally new; no one knows the impact to humans. We do not know how serious it is. It has been relatively mild but it is still being monitored. Will County has had 101 cases as of this morning. In the 22 counties there have been 1900 cases and 5 deaths in the state. In the U.S. there have been 13,000 cases and 27 deaths. In 73 countries there were 126,000 cases and 140 deaths. Compared to the typical influenza season, this is mild; there are usually 35,000 deaths from flu so it has not been that lethal worldwide. When new cases surface early in the year in spring time, many times it reappears in the fall, which is the traditional flu season. They are working on a vaccine and there have been discussions about whether it will be available in the fall to immunize the US against this. The Health Department would be the lead agency to roll it out if they define it as a pandemic.

Mr. Babich asked what the recommendation is to stop the spreading.

Mr. Cicero answered hand washing and covering your sneezes; if you are sick stay home. We are trying to limit the spread; it is out there – you will not stop it.

Mr. Gould questioned what the IDPH is doing regarding the distribution plan.

Mr. Cicero replied they have taken receipt of Tamiflu and Relenza from the federal national stockpile. There is a distribution plan with local hospitals; we have plans on taking possession and getting it distributed. My recommendation is the Health Department not try to vaccinate the population of Will County but to allow the vaccine to go out to normal distribution sites such as doctors and pharmacies.

Mrs. Riley asked for an update on the West Nile Virus.

Mr. Cicero answered we are monitoring mosquitoes in Will County; there have been no human cases in Will County.

Mr. Gould commented on the diseased bats in New York and Virginia; there is concern it will spread to the Midwest states.

Mr. Cicero stated it does not affect the human population – only bats; they are very beneficial.

Mrs. Riley clarified the West Nile Virus is active only when the weather is dry.

Mr. Cicero indicated that is correct; the mosquito virus lives in hot dry times in stagnant water.

**State Lab Evaluation Findings of Will County Health Department**

Mr. Cicero stated the environmental lab has been evaluated by the state health department and for the last 2 consecutive years they have had a perfect score, which is pretty much unheard of. There is usually something that needs to be corrected. We are very proud of the lab.

Mr. Gould indicated this committee recognizes the good work the lab does. He has seen reports from other counties; this lab is head and shoulders above DuPage County. People are doing a tremendous job and we appreciate it.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mrs. Riley, to place the State Lab Evaluation Findings of the Will County Health Department on the Will County Board Agenda to be placed on file. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**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.

**Other Business**

Mr. Babich asked if the state obtained property on Caton Farm Road.

Mr. Damron answered the bill went through last season and it is in the Governor's Office awaiting signature. It is authorizing the state to make the sale; it is just a matter of agreeing on the value of the land – it is underway.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Babich, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.