

WILL COUNTY BOARD
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

August 13, 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 8:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Konicki.

Also Present: Bilotta, Stewart and Friefeld.

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Blackburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. May, second by Mrs. Riley, to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance Regulating Open Burning Nuisance Fires within Unincorporated Will County (Remanded back to Committee @June 18, 2009 County Board Meeting)

Mr. Querio, a Joliet resident in Troy Township, addressed the committee regarding burning. His neighborhood is a mixed residential area; most neighbors are courteous burners. He is not a fan of burning; he would hope the county would ban all burning. He asked the

county to consider where and when you allow burning. He suggested any area designated as residential should not be allowed to burn; but farmers would be allowed burning. Your tax bill designates whether you are residential. Please put in some very strict restrictions – when – how long they can burn. Please do not allow burning on high ozone days.

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Gould commented you have a unique situation in your subdivision because part is in the city and part is unincorporated.

Ms. Seiler arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Blackburn stated District 5 has many areas of unincorporated pockets next to municipalities. He has no doubt if this went to referendum burning could be banned. He feels the board vote would be 18 in favor of burning and 9 against it totally.

Mr. Querio appreciated the committee's comments. He realizes you have to deal with this countywide and understands the county has to come up with something reasonable.

Mr. Babich commented in the city they pay for leaf pick up with trash collection; he is against burning totally.

Mrs. Riley indicated in the northern part of the county we have pockets of unincorporated areas. We tried to address ozone days but according to the State's Attorney's Office there are no ozone days. We have to legislate this for the whole county; we have to come up with some compromise. The southern end of the county is very rural.

Mr. Gould stated right now we have nothing. This is a work in progress; it is the first step towards getting something. We trying to put some distance between the structures and where burning actually occurs. This draft ordinance is from State's Attorney's Office.

Mr. Blackburn commented this is the best he could hope for. He does not agree that you can still burn grass; he would like grass to be banned completely.

Mrs. Riley asked about the ozone days.

Mr. Gould answered there are no more ozone action days; the EPA does prohibit burning at certain times. We do not know how they classify that.

Mrs. Tatroe stated we can contact the EPA to find out how they designate that. How do you hold the residents accountable?

Mr. Gould indicated what some municipalities have is the mayor would declare an ozone action day but it is not through the EPA. The County Executive could declare an ozone action day in Will County and you would not be allowed to burn on those days. He would have to

implement that through the Sheriff's Department; there would have to be some type of notice requirement. He asked Mr. Friefeld to look into that and bring it back to the next meeting.

Mr. Moustis arrived at this juncture.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mr. Babich, to place an ordinance on the County Board Agenda regarding open burning nuisance fires within unincorporated Will County with grass eliminated. On a roll call vote, Blackburn, Babich, May and Gould voting yes with Riley and Seiler voting no. MOTION CARRIES.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Update Re: H¹N¹ Epidemic

Mr. Cicero provided an update on the H1N1 epidemic. Through August 5th there were 154 cases in Will County; those have diminished substantially over the April/May period. The average age of the people were 16 years old with a median of 11 years; it has definitely impacted the younger school age children. This virus is still circulating in communities but the cases were not all that severe. What everyone expects is that it will begin to grow again once we get into the fall because of dealing with school-age population. The federal government has looked at a vaccine campaign, which would be the second – the first would be the regular seasonal flu, which we hope to receive in the next few weeks; we would like to get that vaccine done by early October so we have some lead time to plan for the H1N1 vaccine; we anticipate this as a 2-dose shot. The big push is to have as many providers in the community be vaccinators. Nationwide, the doctors in the communities are being canvassed by state health departments to see if they would be interested to receive the vaccine. There would be several sites and the Community Health Center will be one of the sites. Our patients would be able to receive the vaccine there. We are looking at staffing and manning clinics throughout the county. There are many unknowns; we do not know how much and when it would be available. A lot of it depends on how quick the vaccine rolls out and how much will be available. There are priority target groups for the vaccination; number one on the list are pregnant women. The next group are caregivers to children less than 6 months old. The next larger list are the 6 months to 24 year olds; that is the biggest population that will be reached out to, because that is what we saw in the spring. There will be money forthcoming for local health departments from the federal government through the state, but we do not know how much; we will use those funds for an education campaign. We get updates weekly from the state health department; we are moving along for a large vaccination in the fall and will run through winter.

Mr. Babich questioned the cost to individuals.

Mr. Cicero replied this will be free to all providers; they can charge an administration fee.

Ms. Seiler asked where the senior citizens and medically compromised people fall on the list.

Mr. Cicero answered the next group after 6 months to 24 year olds is 25 to 64-year olds that are compromised. Normal 65 year olds and older they saw virtually no infection at all; there may be some level of immunity for that group.

Mrs. Riley commented that through the summer we have not heard much reporting on this; now it is back in the news again.

Ms. Mansholt, Emergency Response Coordinator, stated one of the things that has affected that is since the population it most greatly affects are children, they are no longer in school; it has not stopped and the feeling is it will come back when children are back in school.

Mr. Cicero indicated the original recommendation was to close the school; now it is if the children are sick, they should stay home.

Ms. Mansholt commented they have very clear guidelines for schools.

Mr. Moustis commented years ago immunizations were done at schools. Are they looking at going back to those programs with health workers going to schools?

Mr. Cicero answered schools are a good location to hold these clinics. We are meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss that; we may look at some larger schools for clinics. Much of that will depend on how much vaccine and the interest from the parents; it is not mandatory – it is strictly volunteer.

Mr. Damron stated one of the big keys to this is the public education; encouraging the public to have good information. There are websites available out there. Our experience from last spring was that many of the emergency responders had many questions on how to respond; they have had education on that. We also looked at business continuity for operations. How do we sustain operations if we have a significant amount of people off work?

Mr. Gould questioned if we have volunteers to get the project operational.

Ms. Mansholt replied Will County has a corps of volunteers; this will be done on a regional basis coordinated with EMA. We have a good relationship with the hospitals and nursing homes; the more we can plan for these types of efforts and plan for the worst case scenario, we will be able to back off if we can plan through the fall.

Mr. Cicero stated regarding the volunteers; we have to have individuals who can administer the vaccine.

Mr. Damron commented state resources could be available regarding personnel.

Ms. May asked if there is a timeline when you will have to get the shot.

Ms. Mansholt answered we will be doing this throughout the winter season. The most important thing is good hygiene – washing your hands, covering your cough and stay home when you are sick. If your symptoms do not go away go to the doctor.

Request for Adoption of Newly Created Public Swimming Facility & Bathing Beach Ordinance

Ms. Bilotta indicated in 1975 we had an agreement with IDPH to do swimming pool and bathing beach inspections. Around 1999 we developed an internal policy for the department; we felt it was very important to consistently protect public health. In 2008 we did over 1000 inspections with numerous closures, which then we have to re-inspect. In 2009 we have already done over 800; it will increase because IDPH is coming up with a deadline on when we have to be in compliance with a new act for bather protection from the main drain. The federal government has set a standard on how the drain has to be designed. There are very few counties that have an ordinance right now; many counties rely on IDPH to do inspections. Will County has always inspected our facilities and beaches and have done so for a number of years. IDPH has also come down with requirements that we now enter all our data from the inspections into their website.

Mr. Cicero stated this now gives us the mechanism to develop an ordinance and have fees associated with all the work that goes into inspecting these facilities.

Mr. Gould commented the Board of Health passed this unanimously.

Mr. Stewart asked if this is for existing facilities.

Ms. Bilotta answered the state evaluates all new facilities and then turns them over to us.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Ms. May to hold a public hearing at the next committee meeting on September 10, 2009 for the adoption of a newly created public swimming facility & bathing beach ordinance. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request for Amendment to Water Well Permit & Water Supply Ordinance

Ms. Bilotta stated the ordinance has not changed since 1989. We have put in some new definitions based on state regulations and will incorporate the existing fees.

Mr. Cicero indicated the fees existed prior; some of the fees are being recommended for adjustment. Incorporating the fees into the resolution give us more ability to collect.

Ms. Bilotta commented that IDPH has reviewed and approved the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to hold a public hearing at the next committee meeting on September 10, 2009 for the amendments to the water well permit & water supply ordinance. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Regional Superintendent of Schools Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant – Quarterly Report

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mr. Babich, to place the Regional Superintendent of Schools' Quarterly Report on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Sunny Hill Replacement Hires

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mr. Babich, to place the Replacement Hires for Sunny Hill on the County Board Agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.