

WILL COUNTY BOARD
HEALTH, AGING AND EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

November 13, 2008

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, Stewart, Babich, Baltz and Gould.

Absent were Members: None.

Also Present: Friefeld.

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Baltz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Baltz, to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Update Re: Possible City of Joliet Electronic Recycling

Ms. Keane stated she did not get a return phone call from Joliet. She put together a packet for Joliet and several other locations they have been talking to: Frankfort Township; Manhattan Township; New Lenox Township; Reed Custer High School is proposing a site in cooperation with Reed Township. Five packets have been sent out for new sites.

Sunny Hill Operational Audit – Tabled at October Health Aging & Ed Committee Meeting

Mr. Gould asked if the County Executive's Office has had a chance to review the audit.

Ms. Sorbero stated we have taken the entire audit report and broken it down into 4 parts; the last 3 all hinge on an agreement to the size of the facility. As we went through the report management and staff are in agreement and recommend licensing for 238 beds. We looked at everything historically. Our average number is 205 per month; with the opening of Third Avenue the average is about 220 per month. The average age of our residents is 87.3 years. We are positioned very well to meet the needs of the elders in our community.

Mr. Baltz questioned would the license for 300 be with double beds.

Ms. Sorbero replied we have always had a capacity for 300; the license is for a 300-bed facility, with one unit being closed for most of the last 4 to 5 years due to renovations

Mr. Rafac stated the remodel is designed at 238 beds, which allows for many of the rooms still to be built as double occupancy. That gives us the maximum amount of flexibility. The census numbers for October average 224. Financially, the \$3.8 million potential net benefit from the remodel is the one that puts us in the strongest financial condition. It is the best way to move forward. Once the renovation is completed then we can go to the state to reduce our license.

Ms. Sorbero commented if we come to a point where we need additional bed capacity we could add rooms and petition the state for a license increase.

Mr. Gould asked for comments with respect to the recommendations and if you intend to implement them or where we stand today.

Ms. Sorbero answered we intend to continue to review all the recommendations. There are some that are long term in affect; most are pretty much on the mark.

Mr. Rafac indicated there are no identified funds in the short term to continue moving forward. We have increased the funding in PBC but they will not receive that funding until November.

Mr. Gould suggested this be kept on agenda for next month. He requested Ms. Sorbero provide a response to the recommendations and what action you are taking.

Mr. Baltz asked for not only a response but also for her to prioritize the recommendations.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Re: Leaf Burning

Mr. Gould stated he had asked staff to provide information on the townships in Will County that operate a leaf sweeping machine; it appears only Frankfort does.

Ms. Manning indicated we believe we have the power to regulate open burning. We received a letter from the Attorney General saying that under our general authority to regulate public health we can regulate the sale of tobacco, which is a very broad interpretation of our

power to regular public health. This would be the authority under which we can also regulate open burning. Our ability to pass laws under the authority to regulate the public health includes the regulation of tobacco; that is a very broad interpretation to regulate public health. If it is that broadly interpreted she believes we could also regulate burning leaves under that. EPA would pre-empt anything we do. This would apply to unincorporated areas.

Mr. Blackburn stated he does not agree with the idea that because they cannot be picked up by a sweeper, then they have to be burned. There are other options. It is absolutely a health issue and has to be addressed.

Mr. Baltz commented this could become an unfunded mandate. The county should look at ways to get grants to help the townships; they are willing to do something.

Mr. Blackburn indicated it is not an argument to burn leaves if there is no other way to dispose of them. We need to enforce what we have.

Mr. Gould stated he researched around the United States how they handled leaf burning. Will County is different since we are not all rural or all urban. Many counties regulate by dates and times – you can burn certain times and days.

Mr. Blackburn indicated that would be a great first step.

Mr. Babich stated we as city dwellers, pay through garbage fees; the leaves are picked up. Why should the unincorporated areas not bag their leaves for pick up at a cost to the residents?

Mr. Olson indicated 3 years ago, the State's Attorney informed us we could not use the nuisance ordinance any longer, which was working pretty well. He agreed with limiting the days and hours; otherwise it gets to be too much. There is no leaf pick up for those unincorporated areas. If you are going to do something, then we need to do it in a way that allows them to burn but with some restrictions. He offered to put together a draft ordinance if the committee is interested in any of the ideas that were discussed. That way you will have something to look at. The Sheriff has to take care of the enforcement on weekends since his department does not work then. You may want to have specific fines; the deputies need to have some type of hammer.

Mr. Gould suggested Mr. Olson put something together with permit dates and times; if they go beyond that time they would be subject to fines.

Mr. Blackburn asked for a minimum acreage requirement; he would like to have a bigger setback from any structure and even the ditch.

Mr. Olson indicated they contacted the Farm Bureau. Two acres is generally the rule of thumb for ag property. They would like it if you ag-exempt, which would be two acres.

Mr. Gould disagreed. We have many large lot subdivisions, which may not be two acres in unincorporated southern Will County. Right now you can burn 24/7. If we set dates and times,

after a period of time, everyone will be aware of what the rules are. He requested a copy of the Attorney General's opinion for the committee.

Ms. Keane stated last year Homer Glen mandated that everyone has curbside collection.

Mr. Gould commented that will be the case in all municipalities very soon, but it is not the case in unincorporated areas.

Mr. Cicero indicated he has not seen or heard of any correlation back to the Smoke Free Illinois Act relating to this matter.

Mr. Gould stated we will leave this issue on for next month.

Replacement Hires for Sunny Hill Nursing Home

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

Request to Renew Paper Products Contract for Sunny Hill

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Baltz, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda renewing the paper products contracts for Sunny Hill. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

Mrs. Johannsen stated they had met with the Health Department regarding the NACo drug implementation plan and they will be ordering 100,000 cards.

Mr. Cicero indicated the paperwork has been sent in. They have a February 1, 2009 roll-out date; thirty days prior to that they will issue a press release to the public. The information will also be on the website and will be included in the tax bills in the spring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Blackburn, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.