

WILL COUNTY BOARD
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

April 14, 2011

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 8:32 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Argoudelis, Hart, McPhillips, Seiler, Stewart and Gould.

Absent were Members: Babich.

Also Present: Will County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld and Will County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen.

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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Ms. Hart, to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting as amended to include the presence of Finance Director Paul Rafac.

All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

EMA Status Report

Mr. Damron distributed a copy of the Emergency Management Update, a summary of the Emergency Management Agency's recent activities and ongoing programs.

Ms. McPhillips arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Damron stated the February blizzard was a near-record snowfall for Will County. As a result, the President made a federal disaster declaration. The county agencies, local governments and some non-profit agencies might recover some of the costs for emergency response, snow removal and damage to the infrastructure of public facilities. About \$4 million in storm-related expenses were tallied

across the county, and various agencies now are applying for federal reimbursement. The county's expenses were about \$160,000, and representatives recently met with FEMA to discuss the county's claim. About 75% of the costs are eligible for reimbursement. Five days after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami, there was a scheduled exercise of the emergency plan for Exelon's Braidwood Generating Station. FEMA evaluates the exercise as the Emergency Management Agency interacts in a war games scenario with the neighboring counties, the state and the local communities. The preliminary review was excellent.

Mr. Damron continued his review of the agencies activities and stated it was severe weather season. More than 500 people from across the county recently attended five training sessions held by EMA, the National Weather Service and various communities. The agency also is waiting for federal grant funds to be spent on a replacement for the 19-year-old mobile command vehicle. The federal government has been encouraging regional catastrophic planning, a way for major metropolitan areas to prepare for emergencies outside their own boundaries. FEMA, the state, the city of Chicago and all the metro area counties have been working together to develop plans for events ranging from mass evacuations to terrorist attacks. The 13-year-old countywide radio system has 1,700 users – a notable increase over the original 70 – and there are now 10 towers. Nextel funded a \$3 million equipment upgrade required by the federal government. As part of the improvements, two new frequencies were added to the radio system.

Mr. Gould asked about Homeland Security funding for the city of Chicago. The collar counties don't get any of those funds; has there been any indication that some of the money might be distributed to the collar counties?

Mr. Damron replied EMA has been pursuing the funding for several years. Current federal rules allow Chicago and Cook County to decide how the funds are distributed. Unless there is a change in the rules at the federal level, the options have been exhausted.

Mr. Argoudelis arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Palmer stated there is a pending reauthorization of the related laws and that might be the best chance for funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunny Hill Replacement Hires

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Argoudelis, to place a resolution on the County Board agenda to make the replacement hires for Sunny Hill Nursing Home. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Appropriate H¹N¹ Grant Funds in Health Department Budget

Mr. Cicero stated the money would be used for community education to strengthen the pandemic flu plan. The department also would buy a small trailer and use it to deliver materials when there was an outbreak of H¹N¹, for example.

Mr. Gould asked for an explanation of the \$33,000 set aside for professional services.

Mr. Cicero answered it would be spent to hire a consultant to help develop a better pandemic flu plan and create newsletters and brochures.

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Mr. Stewart, to place on the County Board agenda a motion appropriating H¹N¹ Grant Funds in the Health Department budget. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Appropriate Tobacco Free Communities Grant Funds in Health Department

Budget

Mr. Cicero stated the \$22,509 was from the tobacco settlement funds. The money would be used for outreach programs targeting some of the Hispanic communities to explain the resources available at the Health Department for smoking cessation.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Seiler, to place on the County Board agenda a motion appropriating grant funds in the Health Department budget from Tobacco Free Communities Grant. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Appropriate Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program Grant Funds in health

Department Budget

Mr. Cicero stated the grant was an additional \$25,000 in WIC funds for the peer education program. Mothers who breast feed are hired as temporary workers to explain the benefits of breast feeding to other mothers.

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Ms. Seiler, to place on the County Board agenda a motion appropriating grant funds in the Health Department budget for the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Appropriate West Nile Virus Grant Funds in Health Department Budget

Mr. Cicero stated the additional funds were available to certain counties based on historical activity, including the number of West Nile cases tallied in the past. Much of the money is used to buy larvicide for municipalities needing assistance.

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Ms. Seiler, to place on the County Board agenda a motion appropriating grant funds in the Health Department budget for the West Nile Virus Program. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Renew Therapy Services Contract for Sunny Hill Nursing Home

Ms. Simonic stated she was requesting a renewal for the nursing home's 2010-2020 bid for therapy services. This is the second year with Alliance Rehab and the contract price will remain the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Argoudelis, second by Mr. Stewart, to place on the County Board agenda a motion to renew the therapy services at Sunny Hill Nursing Home. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

Ms. Boucher stated the TB Clinic had recently been to Romeoville High School because there was an active case of tuberculosis there. The people who had direct contact with the case had been contacted. Students' parents had been alerted, an educational program had been held and about 300 tests for the bacterial infection had been completed. No other new cases had been discovered.

Mr. Gould suggested a committee meeting at 11 a.m. on June 14 at Sunny Hill Nursing Home, and asked the members to notify staff if they could attend that day.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Mr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.