

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

February 10, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Will County Office Building
County Board Committee Room
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Goodson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Wilhelmi, Brooks, Konicki, Rozak, Smith, Traynere and Goodson.

Absent were Members: None.

Also Present:

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Melanie Manning and Lyle Koester.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Leigh led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Konicki, seconded by Ms. Traynere, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

CN Update

Mr. Duesing presented an update regarding the Canadian National to the committee.

Mr. Wilhelmi arrived at this juncture.

Federal Agenda Update

Mr. Palmer gave the committee an update regarding the federal agenda.

2009 State Legislative Agenda

Ms. Goodson stated the House has a new committee, the County and Township Committee. Instead of local government now there will be this committee that a lot of bills will

funnel through, which will be easier for us to track. Included in your packet is the legislative agenda for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, Jr., seconded by Mrs. Rozak, to place a resolution on the Count Board Agenda in support of the 2009 state legislative agenda as presented. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Resolution Opposing GNEP

Mr. Friefeld stated this is an issue brought to this committee by Ms. Konicki. The resolution opposing GNEP is in your packet. We are concerned about this and we need to be on record opposing this.

Mrs. Rozak stated there have been some articles recently about derailments in the Kankakee Journal that I will get copies of and distribute to the Board Members.

Ms. Konicki stated the significance of GNEP is an increase of volume coincides with an increase in risk.

Ms. Smith stated my district members have set up a meeting with our local mayors. I would like us to send a draft of this resolution to those municipalities. This is a countywide issue.

Ms. Konicki stated Homer Glen would like one too.

Ms. Goodson stated Plainfield would as well.

Mr. Friefeld questioned why don't we send it the municipalities and the governmental league.

Ms. Goodson stated that is a great idea.

A motion was made by Ms. Konicki, seconded by Ms. Traynere, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda opposing GNEP. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Maureen Headington, president of Stand Up/Save Lives, gave the committee an overview of the history of GNEP as well as reasons to opposing it.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance Licensing Sale of Tobacco Products in Will County

Joan Leigh and Brittany Arnold, Sumaiya Saad, Ala Salameh, John Egner, David Gloria, Allan Baker, and Bryan Luna, students from Plainfield Central High School, came before the committee to discuss implementing an ordinance licensing the sale of tobacco products in Will County. This includes a \$50 annual licensing fee and purchasing and possession offenses for

underage smoking: \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense and \$100 for the third offense.

Ms. Traynere stated I think that the fee should be higher. What is the cost involved in the education?

Mr. Cicero stated we currently have a tobacco education program that is grant funded through the state of Illinois. It was always our intent to do the vendor education program.

Mrs. Rozak stated it costs money to do these programs. We need to look at the fees.

Ms. Traynere stated \$250 for the annual licensing fee is fair.

Ms. Goodson questioned who is responsible for compliance checks.

Deputy Chief Romeo stated the funding has changed. We suspended them in 2006, prior to that we did them for five years.

Ms. Goodson questioned would the Sheriff resume the checks.

Deputy Chief Romeo stated if the ordinance was passed, we would have an obligation to enforce it.

Mrs. Rozak questioned who would do the administrative hearing.

Mr. Friefeld stated this does give rise to other issues. There are alternatives. You can have someone other than the Sheriff's Department doing the compliance checks. This is an ongoing process. The Board needs to take a serious look at that. They go before the Public Health and Safety Committee next.

Mr. Cicero stated under Smoke Free Illinois we do compliance checks. When we get complaints we go out with law enforcement. We do not go out on our own, we do not have that authority. We work with the State's Attorney's office and have taken some people to court on the ordinance violation. We are one of the first counties in Illinois to move forward and attempt to prosecute.

Ms. Smith questioned they pay for the court costs.

Mr. Cicero stated yes.

Ms. Goodson stated we need time to work through the details.

A motion was made by Ms. Traynere, seconded by Mrs. Rozak, to table the proposed ordinance licensing the sale of tobacco products in Will County. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Review of the Abatement Guidelines & Process (This was carried over from Policy & Rules)

Mr. Cybulski presented to the committee the revised version of the abatement guidelines and process. An addition has been made, 'or on a date agreed upon by the parties

to the abatement agreement.' This allows us to put in a start date for the abatement. There have been instances in the past where we have allowed for an abatement and the local municipalities, school board or the county itself wanted to see an execution date.

Mr. Friefeld stated we need an occupancy permit before then. We can agree upon a date, but we also need the occupancy permit.

Mr. Cybulski stated okay. Next, we have 'if the project qualifies under the CED evaluation criteria; existing businesses that have been located in Will County for a minimum of five years will be given a 20% bonus in the point evaluation of the project.' That is to keep them here instead of moving to another county.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned have we had that many move.

Mr. Cybulski stated when looking for a new facility, they do consider surrounding counties and states.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated they would spend money on improving the facility here, not abandoning and looking for something somewhere else. They would already be getting points for those types of things.

Mr. Cybulski stated in order for them to apply for the abatement they would be looking at a location within the county. This would be a bonus for them in the normal application.

Mr. Friefeld stated this is like the Panduit situation in Tinley Park. Tinley Park was able to keep them in their municipality but they moved into the Will County portion.

Mr. Cybulski stated there is a clarification that the company would have an either or scenario with regard to the 20% bonus. Either it is an existing business located in Will County or 'the U.S. Corporate Headquarters of a non-target industry category will be given 20% bonus; however, the U.S. Corporate Headquarters of a target industry business will be given a 30% bonus in the point evaluation of the project.' We would not give up to 50%.

Ms. Konicki stated what i see happening is that just about the time that they are finally going to pay their full load, they come back in and ask for another abatement on the premise of expansion. When do we get them on at the full amount?

Mr. Cybulski stated in our guidelines there is a ten year provision that companies must be located in the county or they have to pay back the tax abatement.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated I would like it to say that they have to be company that has been here at least ten years for the bonus. A five year old company is not an established company.

Mr. Friefeld stated this would also apply to those companies that would not have had an abatement. In those cases you would not have an objection. We need to add for companies

receiving a tax abatement they must be here for a certain number of years beyond the expiration of the tax abatement.

Mr. Cybulski stated can it also say that if a business has been here for a minimum of five years and has never previously had a tax abatement they are eligible, just for clarification.

Mrs. Rozak stated they do not have to be here five years, as long as they did not receive a five year abatement.

Mr. Friefeld questioned are we going to give bonus points to every company.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated no bonus points under ten years.

Ms. Johannsen stated we do need to address Ms. Konicki's concern in here as well.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated they can still apply for an abatement, they just would not get the bonus. So technically what Ms. Konicki is concerned about could still happen.

Mrs. Rozak left at this juncture.

Ms. Goodson questioned I know there is a different point schedule for warehouse and distribution, why not change the point schedule.

Mr. Cybulski stated we did change the point schedule. This is a way for us to internally keep things straight.

Ms. Konicki left at this juncture.

Mr. Cybulski stated we would also like to add the flexibility to front load incentives, 100%, 75%, 50% for years one through four instead of the standard 50% for five years. This is limited to target industry businesses and headquarters, as well as increasing the rate and term of abatement as permitted in the statute for special projects for example a Fortune 1000 headquarters project. These are just requests to be considered.

Mr. Friefeld stated we need to bring in a revised draft of the abatement guidelines. I did want to address the issue of reaching out to the Will County minority community. I think that when we have business come in, there should be a requirement that they must reach out. They should demonstrate that they are reaching out and that should be included.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated we should include a narrative in how they are achieving that.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilhelmi, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to table the issue of abatement guidelines and the process. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Request to Amend Federal Legislative Agenda to Include Funding for Canal Corridor Association as Official Coordinating Entity for our I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor

A motion was made by Mr. Wilhelmi, seconded by Ms. Smith, to place a resolution on the Count Board Agenda to amend the federal legislative agenda to include funding for the canal corridor association as the official coordinating entity for our I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Legislative Update

Initial Discussion Re: Creation of Policy Establishing Criteria/Guidelines for the County Distribution of "Grant" Funds for Numerous Entities Requesting Funding

A motion was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to table the initial discussion regarding the creation of a policy establishing criteria/guidelines for the County distribution of "grant" funds for numerous entities requesting funding. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, Jr., seconded by Ms. Traynere, to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 am. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.