

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

November 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 8:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Konicki, and L. Smith.

Also Present: None.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Senator Linda Holmes led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, Jr., seconded by Ms. Traynere, to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Springfield Legislative Report

Senator Holmes came before the committee to give a legislative report.

Ms. Goodson questioned what about pension reform, will it be addressed in the general session.

Senator Holmes stated it has to be.

Mr. Friefeld questioned will the pension reform include police and fire.

Senator Holmes stated we need to look at everything.

Ms. Traynere stated I had heard that the teachers' pension cannot be taxed.

Senator Holmes stated I think that is true, but they do not get social security. This is a very complicated issue.

Mr. Wilhelmi arrived at this juncture.

Ms. Goodson stated I must reiterate our priority of opposing SB1607. This is the issue of construction debris. The Attorney General's office opposed the bill. The EPA is neutral on this issue. We will be in contact with you regarding this. There was a strong push to move this through during the veto session. We will be in further communication with you regarding this bill.

Senator Holmes stated I ask that when the time comes, please bring it to my attention.

Ms. Goodson stated we did meet with the proponents of the bill and we discovered that what they did tell us was not true. We want to be more proactive and add language to the bill.

Recent Veto Session Update

This item was discussed under the Springfield Legislative Report.

Update Re: Federal Agenda

Mr. Palmer stated we have started the process for the federal agenda for 2010. An email has gone out to all the department heads and elected officials, November 20th is the deadline and December 1st Smith will be here to meet with people. We are looking at January for the approval of the agenda. The agenda will include: road projects, a criminal justice component, a health care component and a policy position in reference to TRAC/CN.

Ridgewood Project

Mr. Palmer stated currently we have \$550,000 appropriated for Ridgewood with a \$450,000 match included. Those are STAG funds. There is also a grant from the IEPA and a 0 percent loan. For the sewer there is a \$689,000 loan and \$172,000 grant; for the water there is a \$2.4 million loan and \$610,000 grant. We are working with the city to bring down the tap on fees. There is an agreement and I am asking for you to save a space so that it may be executed. That will get this part of the project done. This will finish the final two phases which is the bulk of the project.

Ms. Traynere questioned what are the tap on fees.

Mr. Palmer stated I am not sure what the amount is. I will find out and let you know. There is also a loan repayment and we will set up a SSA to cover that.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated this is the trunk lines. Will this complete the project?

Mr. Palmer stated they are putting lines in. They are getting it done.

Mr. Brooks, Jr. stated the tap on fees will not be the same for everyone.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilhelmi, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for the execution of an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Joliet for the Ridgewood project. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

CN Update

Ms. Goodson stated there is a new chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Daniel Elliot. Congresswoman Biggert had a meeting with him when he came to town. He drove the line and he met with the CN officials. The chairman was sensitive to the issues we brought up. He feels that the oversight period needs to be extended. He gave us a direct contact with the STB. Congresswoman Bean has spearheaded the TRAC bill and the STAR line. These types of mergers will continue to happen. I would like Mr. Gower to come here in January to give us an update on the lawsuit.

Other Old Business

Mr. Mahar stated the cell towers should be on your agenda for December so that you can decide how you want to implement the language into your Land Use Ordinance.

Ms. Goodson stated the cell towers are an issue that we need to address.

NEW BUSINESS

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Wilhelmi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 am. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.