

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

February 9, 2010

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 8:36 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Members: Traynere.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld, Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mrs. Rozak led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, Jr., second by Ms. Rozak, to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2010 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Wireless Telecommunication Towers

Mr. Radner and Mr. Paddock addressed the committee regarding the wireless telecommunication towers.

Mr. Radner stated we do not have the ability to regulate the design of the tower but we do have the ability to regulate the set backs. The problem is that as of right now the set back is usually the height of the tower from the nearest residential use or 50

percent of the height of the tower away from the property line. That will not cover all fall down issues.

Ms. Goodson stated this is what we attempted to do last year but because of opposition our bill was watered down to the distance to the closest structure. We ideally want to see it away from the property line. There is legislation that is being introduced that does have set back requirements. I would like this committee to take a formal position on this at a later time.

Policy Refunding or Waiving Building Inspection Fees and/or Application Fees

Ms. Goodson stated we are trying to establish a reasonable policy where we have none.

Mr. Radner stated after much research I have been able to determine that the County has waived a building fee once in 17 years. That was because of severe flooding in 1996. Most of the waivers have been for zoning fees. I found that we waived a site development plan or plat fee only twice. One was due to employee error and the other because the County Board determined the applicant was overcharged. In 1999 a resolution was passed stating the County could automatically waive fees for governmental entities in Will County. Some counties do waive some of the fees for non-for-profits and others do not.

Ms. Goodson stated in general it looks like the area does not waive fees.

Ms. Smith stated Joliet does not waive fees.

Mr. Radner stated although we have waived zoning fees, there is still a cost to zoning.

Ms. Goodson stated Mr. Wilhelmi you are suggesting that we continue our practice of waiving for governmental taxing bodies such as schools, park districts and forest preserves, townships but not site development and building fees. You are talking simply zoning application fees.

Ms. Smith stated I would have to disagree.

Mrs. Rozak questioned what is the amount of money for an application fee for a school.

Mr. Radner stated it depends on the age range. It would be more than \$2,500; probably \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Mrs. Rozak stated that would only be if they built in the County.

Ms. Konicki distributed correspondence dated February 9, 2010 to the Legislative Committee regarding Fee Waiver and stated four entities do waive the fees. I would like to see our policy add the language to waive the fees for non-profits if determined by the County Board that they are performing a function or service that significantly promotes the public health, safety, and welfare of Will County. Whatever break we give organizations such as these, they turn that around and reinvest it into their next project. One approach would be to add on the appropriate non-profits. The other is to have a policy waiving building fees. The building fees are much higher and we could consider refunding a portion on a sliding scale with a maximum amount, perhaps 25 percent with an amount not to exceed \$5,000. The idea is to help them help us for non-profits.

Ms. Smith stated next year we are looking at more budget cuts and we need to be concerned about the County.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned are we mainly talking about churches falling under this category.

Mr. Radner stated Lake County does have a special classification for churches which they call Institutional Uses. They do have a 25 percent reduction in fees for churches.

Mrs. Rozak stated we have already given New Hope a refund.

Mr. Radner stated it was a refund for zoning. They have a pending refund request for building and site development that total \$40,000. The zoning fee was about \$7,500.

Ms. Smith questioned what about Boy Scouts or the VFW.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated I understand your point. It is not like we are not trying to be helpful, but this is a difficult time to expand on those charitable givings. This does not mean that people cannot make their request and have it be a one time issue.

Mr. Radner stated the one down side is that the department does not have a line item funded for refund requests.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated that is why it needs to be before the fact.

Ms. Goodson stated perhaps what we want to do is set a policy for not refunding or waiving any fees but keeping our current policy intact for governmental taxing bodies and have that not to exceed \$2,500 for zoning fees. I think it is reasonable to put a cap on it.

Ms. Smith stated if we waive fees for governmental agencies who cannot reciprocate and it still costs us to do business that is where I have my issue.

Ms. Konicki stated I would like to see us helping more entities. I would not support waiving fees for churches. I am looking to waive them for non-profits that perform a governmental function.

Ms. Goodson stated I feel that is very subjective.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, second by Ms. Smith, to have a policy that states going forward Will County shall waive for local governmental entities only zoning fees up to \$2,500.00. Will County shall not waive any site development fees or building fees for local governmental agencies or any fees for any other applicant. All in favor, Ms. Konicki passed. MOTION CARRIES

Mr. Radner stated to clarify we will come back next month once we have talked with Mrs. Manning regarding the language.

Other Old Business

Update Re: Federal Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Re: HB4822 Re: Provides that the Division of Probation

Services is established as an independent agency by a Director appointed by the Governor (rather than a Division of the IL Supreme Court)

Ms. Goodson stated probation services is an on going problem in this county and throughout the state. I asked that Mr. Costigan come and talk to us about this bill.

Mr. Costigan came before the committee to discuss HB4822.

Ms. Goodson questioned do you know why this was introduced.

Mr. Costigan stated I do not know exactly. I do know that the Conference of Chief Judges and the Illinois Probation Court and Services Association oppose this.

Ms. Konicki stated I would like to know what the other collar counties feel about this bill.

Ms. Goodson stated let's keep this on for next month.

Request for State's Attorney to Review Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to allow the State's Attorney's office to review executive session minutes for the Legislative and Policy Committee. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, second by Ms. Konicki, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 am. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES