

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**July 13, 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 8:35 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent were Members:** Wilhelmi and L. Smith

**Also Present:** Sheriff Kaupas, Deputy Chief Jerome Nudera, Nick Palmer, John Cicero, Bill Mahar, Bruce Friefeld.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Sheriff Kaupas led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, second by Mrs. Rozak, to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Traynere, second by Mr. Brooks, to approve the minutes of May 11, 2010. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Chairman's Legislative Report**

Ms. Goodson advised that Mr. Palmer has distributed the Smith-Dawson Legislative Update.

Mr. Palmer stated there is nothing directly impacting us, it is an overview of what is happening in Washington.

Mr. Friefeld advised that this information would be forwarded via e-mail to all the County Board members.

Mr. Brooks inquired if this report would be provided whenever they are available.

Mr. Friefeld advised that they have been forwarded previously when received but it is not on a monthly basis.

Mr. Palmer replied that Smith Dawson provides updates to the Executive office frequently. Mr. Palmer then comes to the Legislative Committee with those updates.

**Other Old Business**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**HB5055 – Re: Civil Law-Tech (Makes technical change in a section regarding the short title of the Article re: mortgage foreclosures (Sheriff's sales))**

Ms. Goodson advised that this bill has gotten by not only us but by other counties as well. This is regarding Sheriff's sales-foreclosures. Several counties have written letters to Governor Quinn opposing this legislation. This bill is currently on the governor's desk. We have saved a space on the County Board agenda for a resolution opposing HB5055 and requesting that the governor veto it. Ms. Goodson advised that this doesn't take foreclosure away from the Sheriff's Department, it provides options to go with private companies.

Sheriff Kaupas advised that for the past 4 years he has received calls from Cook County where they are trying to get their way into Will County to do foreclosures. He explained that for Sheriff's sales we make sure that all residents that are being foreclosed on are properly notified in advance so they were not thrown out on the date of eviction. We intermeditate with the banks and the people living in these apartment buildings and/or houses. All of that will be lost, there will be no consideration for the people who live in these homes and/or apartment buildings We allow time for them to make suitable arrangements and we do not proceed during inclement weather or during holidays. We go overboard trying to help these people with their problems. That will all be gone.

Deputy Chief Jerome Nudera stated that there were 2,011 foreclosures last year and 1,469 in the past 7 months. If the trend continues there will be approximately 2,500 foreclosures this coming year. The Sheriff last year collected \$1.5 million which goes into the general fund. The projected income for 2010 would be \$2,260,000 in foreclosure fees that come to the Sheriff. In addition there are fees collected by the Circuit Clerk and the Recorder of Deeds.

Ms. Goodson stated that the clerk fees would not be affected. Her concern is how that would affect employment.

Sheriff replied it is unknown, right now he could use additional assistance, but if this happens he may have to lay off staff. He advised that Dunn, Miller & Martin is the firm that runs this for the County. This system is differently run than other counties. These private companies

will be able to advertise where ever they want even if it occurs in Will County which means it may not be in local papers. These newspapers who post these notices by law will then lose revenue.

Mrs. Rozak expressed concern regarding the safety issue because sometimes law enforcement is necessary to provide security during an eviction.

Mrs. Traynere inquired who makes the designation under this bill on whether or not to make a private firm versus the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Kaupas replied it would be up to the mortgage holders and the banks.

Mr. Brooks reviewed the numbers with Deputy Chief Nudera and inquired who pays these fees.

Dep. Chief Nudera replied that for the first 7 months we have collected \$735,500.00. Using the numbers basing an average he was forecasting that it will be about \$1,260,850.00. These are monies from the actual foreclosure fees when they sell the house. Dunn, Martin and Miller work with the attorneys, comes up with a settlement and part of settlement are the fees that are paid. The Recorder receives \$25.00; the Clerk receives \$13.00; Dunn, Martin and Miller receive \$125.00, advertising gets whatever and the Sheriff receives \$500.00. The Sheriff issues a check to the treasurer and that money goes back to the county.

There was a discussion regarding how this legislation got through without anyone in the county knowing about it until after the fact. It was determined that there were thousands of bills with various lobbyists and organizations watching them but we need to be more diligent.

Ms. Konicki stated Cook County has the problem because the Sheriff in Cook County did not act in a timely faction. The bill is unduly wide and maybe they should reword it to leave the rest of the counties out.

Mr. Friefeld wanted clarification on the numbers provided by Deputy Chief Nudera.

Deputy Chief Nudera stated that in 2009 we had 2,011 foreclosures; I am predicting that we are going to have about 2,500 in 2010.

A motion was made by Ms. Konicki, second by Mrs. Traynere, to support the resolution opposing HB5055 and move it forward to July 15, 2010 County Board meeting. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Goodson advised that she should have reviewed lobbyist Bill Mahar's report which had been mailed to all board members by Mr. Mahar. She inquired what was happening on the gaming bill and the capital bill recently.

Mr. Mahar stated administrative promulgation of the rules regarding the gaming is still moving forward and should be ready by the end of this year.

Ms. Konicki stated at the last County Board meeting we discovered the language regarding contaminated debris from certain Chicago schools demolition projects being exempt.

Mr. Friefeld advised that Dean Olson received information from Scott Phillips of the IEPA indicating that the rules were not any different for Cook County schools than for anyone else. He will forward the e-mail with this information to all committee members.

Mr. Friefeld stated that he will forward the e-mail to Ms. Konicki and if she requires anything additional she could contact Mr. Phillips as his contact information is in the e-mail.

Mr. Friefeld advised that the problem with all this debris is that it is being allowed to be disposed of prior to the formulation of regulations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, second by Mrs. Traynere, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 am. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES