

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

January 13, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Brooks, Jr., led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Wilhelmi, to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Wilhelmi, to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

CN Update

Mr. Paddock gave an update to the committee regarding the Canadian National.

Ms. Konicki arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Paddock stated the SBC has approved the application of the Canadian National to purchase the EJ&E. The County has decided to pursue a stay to that decision. New Lenox is planning to move forward with us. There are active discussions with Plainfield and DuPage County as well.

Ms. Goodson stated if this current stimulus bill does move forward we would be looking for some funds for railroad crossings from the federal government.

Mr. Friefeld stated there has been talk about funding for the grade crossings but there has not been talk about the kinds of material that will travel over these rails. The Canadian National has stated that that is not a problem because they will train the first responders. With the location of those rails to the residents, the residents will be the first responders. Hazardous material is up to the discretion of the railroad. This is a discussion that we need to start having.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned are they moving the same types of material through Chicago now.

Mr. Paddock stated yes, but the volume will increase.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Calendar

Ms. Goodson stated this is for your information. The new legislation session starts tomorrow.

2009 Federal Agenda & Priorities

Mr. Palmer stated the ongoing programs we have are: Ridgewood and the flood plain study. With regard to law enforcement there is a phase II integrated criminal justice initiative, an in-car camera program and homeland security funding. For the Public Health Department there is a mental and substance program and community health center funding. The two transportation projects are 80th Avenue and the 95th Street extension, one from each congressional district. There is also requests for phase I planning for the Laraway corridor, the I-55 Weber Road interchange, and the land use airport plan.

Mrs. Konicki questioned who is responsible for 159th Street. It is a serious problem.

Mr. Gould stated 159th Street is a state highway. We need to concentrate on the County highways.

Ms. Konicki stated I need to keep pushing 159th Street. We need to coordinate through the municipalities all the way through that corridor.

State Legislative Agenda

Ms. Goodson stated we will not have that to review today.

Request for Resolution Opposing Global Energy Partnership Facility in Illinois

Ms. Konicki stated this is a proposal where the nuclear fuel from the nuclear reactors would be reprocessed and transported via rail through this county. We do have Argonne in the area and that makes us a magnet for reprocessing. There are foreign countries that would

participate in the GNEP and basically the United States tells these countries that they will help them build reactors if they promise to send the fuel rods back to this country. This is where our transportation hub becomes a disadvantage. There were thirteen sites under consideration nationally as a focal point for GNEP. It has been narrowed down to six and our Morris site is reported to be in the top two or three. If a site is picked, everyone worldwide will know where it is going. It is a flawed concept.

Ms. Goodson stated this issue will also go to the Public Health and Safety Committee. We can address this after they have reviewed it.

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Traynere, seconded by Ms. Konicki, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.