

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

October 14, 2008

10:30 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 10:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Anderson, Rozak and Goodson.

Absent were Members: Wilhelmi and Konicki.

Also Present:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Matt Goodson led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Palmer stated the county was funded for several projects in the current budget: the IWIN laptops, which were 2 projects; the Sheriff's Department for the Byrne Funds; a floodplain study project and funding for the engineering project for 143rd Street at I-355. The total is \$2,087,186; that was signed in the budget and is being processed. The IWIN's, we are waiting for the paperwork to get the money – we knew it would be around September. The flood control is an ongoing project and the money is funded directly to Army Corp of Engineers who is working on our behalf. The money for the 143rd Street project has come to the state and we are trying to process that out; the project is moving along. He noted 2 other projects that were not part of our federal agenda but when we hired Smith Dawson & Andrews they offered their assistance with other projects. They assisted with letters of support for an O/P grant that was

funded in 2006 and they were able to get it renewed for another year. Smith Dawson & Andrews also works with Lewis Airport and the county has contributed money in that effort to seek federal money and they received \$735,000. If you include that, it is \$4.3 million over the last 3 years at a cost of \$120,000 per year; that is a pretty good return on our investment. The other issue that remains is our current agenda and our top priority which has been the Ridgewood project. We asked Smith Dawson & Andrews how realistic is it of us to expect money; their answer was we still have a good chance that Congress will come back and fund some of the projects; more will happen after the first of the year. Our hope is that we will still get some money for Ridgewood or other projects – to get this much is an accomplishment.

Ms. Goodson clarified the Ridgewood project had previously received an earmark but it did not make it on the final appropriation.

Mr. Palmer stated the money was put in for these projects and then in the final negotiations, they were pulled out. At this point we are earmarked for money for Ridgewood but we are not sure how much and where it is in the process. Smith Dawson & Andrews has helped us with other federal grants we have put in. We are continuing to seek out federal funds outside the federal agenda process but those funds have been shrinking.

Mrs. Rozak questioned if anything has been started on the Ridgewood project.

Mr. Palmer replied we are moving along with CDBG funds. There have been positive things with Joliet and more collaboration there.

Springfield Legislative Update

Mr. Mahar stated the legislators are all engaged in running for election; public policy is not on the forefront.

Ms. Goodson gave the committee an update on the sweeps bill. The veto session will be coming up in November.

CN Update

Mr. Paddock stated CN had attempted in the US District Court of Appeals to get a writ of mandamus which would have forced the STB to make an early decision on the whole matter of the acquisition prior to the completion of the EIS process. The county filed a joint brief on this subject pointing out with excellent legal reasons why this should not be issued. The STB itself filed a brief on this subject. This would indicate that the STB is unhappy with CN for having attempted to pre-empt the decision making process that the STB had established and CN had agreed to. The EIS comment period was completed the end of September. We anticipate it will not be until January until the final EIS is issued. The final decision should follow fairly quickly after that. Another matter was to get a bill passed that would have required the STB to include

community impacts; that bill failed to get the 2/3 required to make it an emergency piece of legislation prior to the adjournment of Congress. It did garner a significant number of votes.

Mr. Duesing indicated the next meeting of TRAC will be on Friday, October 17th in Aurora.

Mr. Paddock commented Mr. Moustis is our representative and will probably be in attendance and anyone else could attend.

Ms. Goodson stated we have done everything we could do at this point. We will have to begin working on our state and federal agenda. Many municipalities believed they had some authority over trains stalling and blocking intersections. The opinion was rendered that we have no authority; we may want to work with our state and federal officials to get some authority or ability to fine them when they block our intersections. We need to have some sort of power to do something.

Mr. Duesing indicated the Will County comments and reports that were generated are on the Land Use website.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Resolution Supporting People's Right to Bear Arms

Ms. Goodson stated we had a request from Pro2A with a proposed resolution they would like the county board to look at; this was sent to our committee. The representative was not able to attend today. This resolution is showing the county does not support any further infringement on our Second Amendment rights; several counties across the state have passed this resolution.

Mr. Anderson questioned why we need a resolution supporting the Constitution.

Ms. Goodson replied the reason it was brought to us is there are certain areas that have banned handguns and have come back to support no further legislation on the Second Amendment.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern with defining infringement.

Mrs. Rozak stated she defines it as taking the guns away.

Ms. Goodson indicated it is limiting the ability to bear arms.

Mr. Anderson commented the resolution is rather vague and he would support it if the word unreasonably was inserted.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson, to amend the resolution by adding the word unreasonably before infringe in the Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved paragraph.

MOTION FAILS FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Ms. Goodson commented that would change the meaning of the paragraph.

Mr. Anderson indicated he would not vote yes for it the way it is worded; it would be an unsuitable thing for us to vote on.

Ms. Goodson stated it would not be unreasonable to bring to the full county board for consideration.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, second by Ms. Goodson, to place the resolution, as presented, on the County Board Agenda. On a roll call vote, Rozak and Goodson voting yes with Anderson passing.

MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 am. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.