

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

September 23, 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: Wilhelmi, Rozak, Konicki and Goodson.

Absent were Members: Anderson.

Also Present:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Duesing led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Rozak arrived at this juncture quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes was moved to the end of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Palmer stated we have the paperwork for the laptops and we are processing that. We will get the instructions on how to draw down the money after the paperwork is processed.

Ms. Goodson questioned what about this year's agenda.

Mr. Palmer stated some things were marked on some bills but there has not been any movement on that. We are still working on legislative money for road projects.

Springfield Legislative Update

Ms. Goodson stated we will talk about this under new business.

Edward Hospital Application

Ms. Goodson stated we are still low on beds in Will County. Edward did receive an intent to deny from the Health Facilities Planning Board. They have modified their application from 114 med surge beds to 72 med surge beds: ob will be 32 beds; mental health 20 beds; and ICU 6 beds. Silver Cross has been approved and will be breaking ground this week but that does not change the bed count in the County. This application will go back to the Board to be considered sometime between November and January. I wanted to let the committee know that the Board will accept public comment for a period of time prior to the hearing. County Executive Walsh, Representative Cross and I submitted comments based on a finding from the Board. We discovered that after the hearing our letters went but were never presented to the Board yet objections were presented to the Board.

Mr. Ryan stated we have sent a letter that is critical of the process that occurred. The comments we made were directly related to comments that the Board had made at their meeting in Springfield. We submitted them in a timely manner. We were upset that those comments were ignored.

Ms. Goodson stated I did ask and was told that the Board has changed their policy and they will determine if the comments should be included. There is a task force in place to look at this process.

Ms. Konicki arrived at this juncture.

CN Update

Mr. Paddock gave an update regarding the CN to the committee.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

SB790 Fund Sweeps Bill

Ms. Goodson stated this passed the senate yesterday. They did attach an amendment that does state these funds will pay for Medicaid, state obligations or state board of education. They are controlling the funds and where they will go.

Ms. Konicki questioned is there any language that states the funds need to be replenished.

Ms. Goodson stated this is money that is still in the line items that they are taking and putting into the general fund.

Mr. Ryan stated there is no provision to put back the money they are sweeping out. It has been done at the state level over the last few years. All this does is fix this year's budget. Next year they will not allocate money to put back into the special funds.

Ms. Konicki questioned is there any magic terminology when a fund is created that it is protected from any future sweeping.

Mr. Ryan stated when you create a special fund, the premise is to keep the money there for the specified purpose but there is nothing to prevent them from taking it.

SB2595

Ms. Lyne stated there was a HB5152 that proposed taking the current non-tiered road funds and dividing it up within the state. Currently the money is allocated to District 1 and 2-9 downstate on a 50/50 basis every year. It is an informal policy that the state has followed for a long time. The proposal was to give 45 percent to District 1 and 55 percent to District 2-9. The bill has been attached as amendment #4 to the lottery bill; this portion needs to be opposed.

Ms. Goodson questioned does the committee want to do a resolution opposing this.

Mr. Ryan stated if we oppose this, we oppose the capital bill. This provides the funding mechanism for the capital bill. The capital spending would be a companion bill. It is problematic to oppose it because then it will be perceived that we are not for a capital bill.

Mr. Wilhelmi questioned regarding the leasing of the lottery, does that effectively remove revenue.

Mr. Ryan stated it provides an infusion of money up front. The revenue from the lottery still goes to the education fund it is just that we are selling an asset for a quick infusion of cash. The Secretary of State will allocate these funds once this is passed.

Other New Business

HB824

Ms. Goodson stated this is the ethics bill. This bill prohibits campaign contributions of over \$50,000 from a company with a contract or pending contract with the state.

Mr. Wilhelmi stated I believe it just for the office holder with the contract so the company can still make a contribution of over \$50,000 to another office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Wilhelmi, to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Konicki, seconded by Mrs. Rozak, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 am. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.