

# Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex  
18 N. County Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



## **Meeting Minutes - Final**

**Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

**8:30 AM**

**Conference Room C**

**Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee**

1. Call to Order

*Vice-Chair Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.*

**Present** 7 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Member Carey, Member Hewitt,  
Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

*Also present:*

*Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator*

*Willard Helander, County Clerk*

*Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer*

*Tom Coopriker, Board of Review*

*Tara Ori, Assistant State's Attorney*

*David Stolman, County Board Member*

*Mary Otahal, County Board Office*

2. Pledge of Allegiance

*Vice-Chair Pedersen led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 10-0543

Minutes from May 5, 2010

**A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, to approve the minutes from May 5, 2010. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

4. Public Comment

5. Added to Agenda

6. Old Business

7. New Business

*Committee moved item 7.1 to the end of the agenda.*

**County Clerk**

7.2 10-0455

Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of April 2010.

**A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

7.3 10-0555

Resolution amending a previous Resolution designating the voting sites assigned to the 481 voting precincts in Lake County townships.

*Willard Helander explained this resolution.*

**A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this resolution be recommended for adoption to the regular agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

**Recorder of Deeds**

**7.4 10-0449**

Report for Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds, for the month of March 2010.

**A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Taylor, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

**7.5 10-0453**

Report for Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds, for the month of April 2010.

**A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Taylor, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

**Treasurer**

**7.6 10-0490**

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of April 2010.

**A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Taylor, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

**7.7 10-0494**

Joint resolution designating the MB Financial Bank as an additional depository in which the funds and monies in the custody of Robert Skidmore, as County Treasurer and as Ex-Officio County Collector, may be deposited.

**A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda. The motion**

carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 3 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton and Member Nixon

### Legislation

#### 7.8 State Legislative Program update

*Chair Bassi entered the meeting at 8:36 a.m.*

*Kip Kolkmeier joined the meeting via conference call to update the committee on the following:*

*The legislature has left Springfield without passing a balanced budget, and with a budget deficit of about \$10 billion. They failed to pass a pension borrowing bill, and there is no mechanism through revenue or borrowing to make that pension payment. (Member Nixon entered the meeting at 8:38 a.m.) They passed SB 3660, the Emergency Budget Act, which gives the Governor almost unrestrained control to move money around. We should expect that the administration will roughly fund similar to what they did last year. (Member Paxton entered the meeting at 8:39 a.m.)*

*Regarding probation funding, our effort has been to try and get a larger baseline appropriation and that did not happen. The Administrative Office of the Courts reported that the Supreme Court approved vouchers and sent them to the Comptrollers office, where they are still sitting. When that reimbursement does come through, we will still be in the same position of arguing restoration of probation cuts. Chairman Schmidt reported that other counties are proposing layoffs and potentially cutting probation. She stated that a number of the Metro Counties members will have to confront this issue in the next fiscal year.*

*Mr. Kolkmeier reported that SB 1946, the creation of the second tier for state pensions, including IMRF, pulled out local law enforcement. County deputies were included in the same negotiations as municipal police and fire. Municipalities face different issues, including massive unfunded liability. HB 5873 didn't significantly lower our costs, so we are coming back and insisting that there be a meaningful reform. Nothing was ultimately passed and bought some time to work for change. Legislators have to give us more meaningful reduction in benefits in the second tier to make it worthwhile.*

*SB 3695 - If this bill does not pass, 400 state trooper positions will be eliminated. The Speaker is pushing to double the Circuit Court Clerk automation fee and give half to state to save the state troopers. This would result in approximately \$22 million statewide. They are counting on the \$75 traffic offense fee, which is set by Supreme Court rule. Although they realize that a lot of this is diversion money from municipalities and counties, they decided to run the bill anyway. The solution is for the Supreme Court to raise their \$75 amount to a realistic level so there would be enough money. We would like a sponsor to advocate to the Supreme Court on that issue as well. Ms. McEwan stated that this could cost the County \$165,000 and municipalities \$181,000 annually.*

*Mr. Kolkmeier stated that Lake County was added to a Cook County Bill, HB 6239, which amends the Counties Code to provide that a home rule county may provide for a system of administrative adjudication of violations of certain county ordinances. Chicago and 50 other counties are very aggressive in how they pursue these and say they generate money. There is a host of administrative ordinance violations to generate more direct revenue, and this could be a comprehensive ordinance violation system that could be managed outside of the court system. This bill passed both houses and will be sent to the Governor soon, and he will have 60 days to act on it.*

*HB 4877 - Cell Tower bill - accommodation was raised with the wireless industry to include an amendment that would add additional notice so that an opportunity to hold a hearing or meeting with neighbors could be handled in a timely fashion. That amendment was agreed to and filed, but at the last minute it ended up on SB 3464. It passed the House went back to the Senate for concurrence. They didn't get to it before they adjourned, and we have been promised that over the summer there will be meaningful discussion on a new bill. Rep. Osmond has been a strong force in fighting for us on this issue.*

*Mr. Kolkmeier reported that next year we should see a dramatic increase in the number of bills. We did get the opportunity to argue in favor of a constitutional amendment on the unfunded mandates issue, such as SB 3695.*

*County Clerk Willard Helander asked about mandated early voting at university campuses, and Mr. Kolkmeier stated that he believes that this passed both chambers, and concern about it being a mandate was the basis of opposition. While the Clerks were effective in articulating their opposition, he thinks that the Governor will sign this bill. This was pitched as a pilot project for one election cycle, and it is thought that this will only affect public universities.*

*Mr. Kolkmeier feels that the legislature will not come back for the veto session until late November.*

## **7.9 Federal Legislative Program update**

*No Federal update was presented at this meeting.*

### **Chief County Assessment Office**

#### **7.1 10-0542**

*Report from Board of Review Advisory Group.*

*Marty Paulson presented a summary of the Board of Review Advisory Committee recommendations and suggestions, stating that they focused on the following seven key areas:*

- 1. Evidence submitted by Township Assessors is often not provided to the appellant before the hearing, or only a day or two before the hearing. This does not allow the appellant time to develop a response. Additionally, Assessors bring evidence directly to*

*the hearing and do not provide it to the BOR and appellant before the hearing. One of the recommendations is to seek legislative authority that will require Township Assessors to submit assessment appeal case evidence to the taxpayers/appellants five days prior to a scheduled hearing. This will be discussed by this Committee as part of next year's legislative program. Chair Bassi requested that Mr. Paulson get feedback on this from the Assessors Group.*

*2. Appellants make use of the on-line tool to find comparables, yet they are often rejected as comparables by the Board of Review - Mr. Paulson reported that the CCAO is currently developing a program that will expand taxpayer ability to choose comparable properties.*

*3. The 15-minute time limit for a hearing is a concern in that it sometimes does not allow for a full, fair and deliberate hearing. Perceptions of unfairness may result - Board of Review rules and procedures currently provide a "framework" for the hearing timeframe, and Mr. Coopriider assured the Committee that in the majority of cases (including conference call hearings), 15 minutes is enough time, but if more time is needed, they will allow the hearing to continue.*

*4. There is a concern about the consistency in hearing decisions made by Alternate Board of Review Members compared with the three primary members - The Board of Review currently conducts meetings with the additional members it utilizes before the appeal hearings start each year and also holds a recap meeting after hearings are complete. In addition, every two weeks during the hearing session, the Board sets aside time to allow for conversations with additional members to clarify Board policy on assessment issues.*

*5. When a subdivision/neighborhood is covered by more than one Assessor, problems can arise due to inconsistent approaches in assessing properties in the same neighborhood. Recommendations include promoting more consistency in the assessment methods and processes used by assessors in different townships and encourage the assessors to work closely together, particularly on shared neighborhoods/subdivisions.*

*(Member Nixon left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.)*

*6. On some occasions, the appellant leaves the hearing with the understanding that a decision has been made and specific action will be taken by the BOR. Yet, sometimes that action is never taken. The appellant has no "evidence/supporting document" to demonstrate that a decision was, in fact made, and action promised - it is recommended that some type of written document of the BOR decision, and action to be taken should be given to the appellant before leaving the hearing. The Board of Review has not found this to be an issue.*

*7. There is concern that asking an appellant questions about an appraisal submitted with their appeal is unfair - it was recommended that BOR Rules should be updated regarding the use of an appraisal at a hearing, and the appellant is encouraged to have the*

*appraiser present at the hearing. County Office Comments state that the primary question that the BOR would ask in a hearing context regards the purpose of the appraisal (refinancing, the appeal or another reason).*

*Discussion of this report will continue at the next RRL Committee meeting on June 30th.*

**8. Executive Session**

**9. County Administrator's Report**

**10. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Hewitt, that meeting adjourn at 10:05 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

**Not Present:** 1 - Member Nixon

*Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Chairman*

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*Vice-Chairman*

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*Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee*