

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Flanigan-Bassi called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Present 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Absent 2 - Member Nixon and Vice Chair Pedersen

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Keith Devore, FAS Intern

Carrienne Carallis, CAO Intern

David Serdar, Citizen

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Flanigan-Bassi led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 **10-0307**

Minutes from March 3, 2010

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Carey, to approve the minutes from March 3, 2010. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chair Bassi, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Vice Chair Pedersen

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

Member Carey reported that the Board of Review Citizens Advisory Group met on April 15th. Staff and Marty Paulson presented a report to the committee, but it is being re-drafted and will come back to the Committee in June. Member Paxton entered the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

7. **New Business**

County Clerk

7.1 **10-0286**

Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of February 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: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

7.2 [10-0353](#)

Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of March 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: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Recorder of Deeds

7.3 [10-0272](#)

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

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

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Treasurer

7.4 [10-0333](#)

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of February 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: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

7.5 [10-0390](#)

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, 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: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Legislation

7.6 **State Legislative Update - Kip Kolkmeier**

Keith Devore provided a brief State Legislative Agenda Update:

- 1. Lake County Transportation Route 120 Project – There are no known bills for this project.*
- 2. Cell Tower Use – HB 4877 - This bill as presented by Representative Osmond was*

unsuccessful for this year, but they are trying to include some of the language in the Telecommunications Act.

3. Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption – HB 4919 and HB 5801 – both of these bills appear to be unsuccessful for this session.

4. Publication of Assessments in Local Newspapers – HB 4799 was filed on January 12, 2010, but is unlikely to be successful this year.

5. Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund – SB 3001 – This bill was defeated in Senate 30-20 and is unlikely to be successful this year

6. DUI Law Clarification – There are no known bills at this time but the legal community is working on language for this item.

7. Unaltered IDOT crash reports to federal, state and local agencies requesting them. – HB 5330 – This bill passed through both Houses and is being reviewed by the Governor's Office.

8. Use of Reclaimed Water – SB 2549 – This bill passed out of the Senate and has been re-referred to Rules.

Mr. Devore reported that we are still tracking monitor initiatives and policy issues, but there are no known bills for the following:

9. Water Safety and Enforcement Fee/License – Boat Length Fee

10. Tax Credit for Jury Duty

11. Environmentally Contaminated Property Redevelopment Penalty Abatement

12. Lake County Transportation Priority Projects for IDOT SFY 2011

13. Restore and Protect Medicaid Funding for Nursing Homes - no known related bill or bills

14. No Diversion of Road Funds

15. Statewide Wetland Regulations

Kip Kolkmeier joined the meeting via conference call to discuss the following:

The General Assembly is planning to adjourn at the end of the week, and they are still working on putting together a budget. They are looking at \$6-7 billion dollars in some type of borrowing, late payment to vendors, or lapsed appropriations. It doesn't look like there is support for cutting the local government share of income tax.

Mr. Kolkmeier is less optimistic that probation funding will be restored. The Governor and Supreme Court did recommend an appropriation of \$75 million. He does not feel that this recommended increase from last year will occur. Mr. Burton stated that Lake County only just received payment through August of last year. He stated that they are working on letters to the Governor and legislative delegation that will address key initiatives, including probation funding. Ms. McEwan reported that the State still owes Lake County close to \$2 million for probation funding. If we are unsuccessful in getting the state to reinstate the funding, we do not have an alternative revenue source. Mr. Burton stated that the money is coming out of the general fund to pay these costs. He stated that the courts have been very responsive, and they are crafting a budget plan that eliminates the use of probation services fees and whatever reduction in funding we face from the state, we will set the budget based on the reduced amount.

Pension reform - IMRF - SB 1946 pulled out local law enforcement, including SLEP and municipal police and fire. One of the arguments for pulling them out was that the maximum age of retirement at age 67 is too late for police and fire. There is a draft amendment to HB 5873 in the senate raising the retirement age to 55 instead of 50. It does not address calculating the final rate of pay based on overtime; we would like to see it based on base salary. Mr. Kolkmeier is recommending that Lake County support this bill, but it is not as significant as we had hoped. The larger pool of municipal police and fire are opposed to this draft bill because it contains enforcement provisions that would compel them to make pension payments. There may be an effort on the House side to file another approach that would be more favorable to us.

SLEP calculates the rate based on the final 4 years, and that allows members to run up overtime costs of \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year and get a pension greater than their base salary. Mr. Kolkmeier stated that the State appears to be focusing on state mandated benefits, saying that locally, we completely control overtime. Mr. Burton stated that we should support whatever the Municipal League recommends. Staff is working on a letter in this regard.

Nursing homes – Mr. Kolkmeier reported that there has been a large reform effort by the Attorney General focusing on bad nursing home practices at private facilities in the City of Chicago. A proposal floating includes 2 components that the County Nursing Home Association has advised would be problematic for us – mandatory stacking levels and an increase in the bed tax from \$1.50 to \$6.87 per bed. Mr. Kolkmeier's recommendation is that we oppose additional mandated costs because we think it will be a net loss, but we don't know how significant. Chair Bassi asked if Medicaid beds are exempt from the tax, and Mr. Kolkmeier stated that his understanding is that the bed tax is a tax on each bed, no matter if it's occupied or not.

HB 2369 – Amends the Illinois Procurement Code - The Illinois Finance Authority had a very aggressive proposal to try to rescind the bond allocation authority that counties and municipalities had under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. They have negotiated and Mr. Kolkmeier recommends that we support the current version that would provide a mechanism for counties or municipalities that choose to waive the funds back to the state to be reallocated.

SB3695 - State Police are proposing to lay off 500 troopers. Speaker Madigan came up with an amendment to SB 3695 that says that since County Circuit Court Clerk's are already imposing a court automation fee, they could double the fee and the extra money will shift to fund the state police. The problem with using local fee collection to generate money to the state is that the fee, in most circumstances, is coming out of the existing \$75 bail bond amount on traffic tickets; it is not new money and it will mean a loss to counties and municipalities. This passed in the House yesterday. It is likely to pass the Senate, and will set a terrible precedent of funding a state program with local fee money. The Illinois Supreme Court established the bail bond cap at \$75. Mr. Kolkmeier believes that we should put the Senate delegation on notice that we are opposed to this bill.

Mr. Kolkmeier reported that Senate Bill 3464 was amended last night to contain cell tower notification language that will require them to give 30 days advance notice before a building permit is requested for a tower and we will have serious negotiations over the summer on more extensive planning and zoning regulation of cell towers.

HB 5923 - Mr. Kolkmeier is seeking information on an amendment adopted that would obligate an area incorporating to file a comprehensive plan on how they will provide municipal services.

HB 6863 – A proposal allowing for the creation of taxpayer action boards in collar counties would be a voter initiated creation of a membership organization that would create a group that advocates for taxpayers against taxing bodies. This could add another layer that creates friction with duly elected taxing bodies and is of concern.

Cigarette tax – they are proposing a cigarette tax of \$1.00 per pack, but it would be implemented as \$.50 in 2010 and \$.50 in 2011.

Mr. Kolkmeier reported that Exelon offered half a billion dollars to the state to secure a contract with the state for supplying power, but he feels that this will be too hard to pull off in the final days of the General Assembly.

7.7 Federal Legislative Update - Trent Lehman

Trent Lehman joined the meeting via conference call to update the committee on the following:

Regarding requests to our congressional delegation - Representative Bean requested \$2 million for the Rt. 120 project and \$400,000 for the Criminal Justice Information and Senator Durbin requested \$900,000 for our watershed initiatives. Markups should take place before the August recess.

The health care debate was very time consuming. There are still a number of items awaiting discussion, including climate change legislation, the Cap and Trade bill, financial services reform, and immigration reform. Congress will be working a condensed schedule to try and be out in early October.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - There is a coalition called Climate Communities consisting of local government bodies pushing for changes to the CDBG funding program.

The Senate and House are trying to push jobs bills instead of additional stimulus bills. There is a bond program for infrastructure development and \$600 million for the Summer Youth Jobs Program. They are hoping to pass a \$100 billion bill designed to help states prevent police, firefighter and teacher layoffs.

Transportation bill - an extension was passed thru 12/31 and odds are that nothing will

happen. The reauthorization of Safe -T- Lu will likely be stuck and probably pushed off to the next congress.

Mr. Lehman reported that the financial services reform bill is most likely to get the most attention. He feels that the Climate bill is a difficult bill that puts members in a tough position to vote on before an election.

Immigration reform - one of the leading proponents of a bi-partisan immigration bill dropped out stating that he won't participate until the United States agrees to shut down the borders.

Member Taylor asked if the bill pertaining to preventing police and fire layoffs has any language that addresses personnel that have already been affected, and Mr. Lehman stated that he will look at the exact language in the bill.

- 8. **Executive Session**
- 9. **County Administrator's Report**
- 10. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that the meeting adjourn at 9:50 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Taylor

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee