

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

9:00 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

Call to Order

Chair Spielman called the meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Present 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton,
Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Also present:

Gary Gibson, Asst. County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman

Lisa Tapper, Affordable Housing Commission

Vern Witkowski, Planning, Building and Development

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Jim Newton, News Sun

Melinda Bush, Citizen

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Spielman led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

1 [08-0352](#)

Minutes from June 25, 2008

A motion was made by Member Leafblad , seconded by Member Powers, that the minutes of June 25, 2008 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton,
Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Public Comment

Added to Agenda

Old Business

New Business

2 [08-0450](#)

Presentation on Assessment Issues - Chief County Assessment Officer

Marty Paulson reported that four (4) townships have turned in their books and will be published next week, and others will follow. He anticipates that eight (8) townships will be published by the end of the month.

Mr. Paulson presented a demonstration on how to access property tax assessment information on the County's website. He then presented a summary of statistics for township equalization, showing the adjusted median sales ratio for years 2005, 2006, and 2007. Those sales were compared to determine how close the three-year average level of assessment is to 33 1/3%, thereby determining the 2008 tentative township multiplier.

Mr. Paulson distributed copies of available brochures as well as a copy of the 2008 Board of Review Rules. He stated that the Assessment Outreach schedule has been set for the fall.

This matter was Placed on the Floor

County Clerk:

- 5 [08-0346](#) Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of May 2008.
- A motion was made by Member Powers, seconded by Member Leafblad , that this Resolution be recommended for adoption to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett
- 6 [08-0347](#) Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of June 2008.
- A motion was made by Member Douglass, seconded by Member Leafblad , that this Resolution be recommended for adoption to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett
- 7 [08-0464](#) Joint Resolution authorizing the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with Graphic Partners, Zion, Illinois, in the estimated amount of \$110,600, plus renewal options, to provide election ballot printing services for the Lake County Clerk.
- Gary Gibson explained this resolution.*
- A motion was made by Member Talbett, seconded by Member Paxton, that this Resolution be Recommended for Adoption to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Recorder of Deeds:

- 8 [08-0348](#) Report of Mary Ellen Vanderventer, Lake County Recorder, for the month of June 2008.
- A motion was made by Member Leafblad , seconded by Member Bassi, that this Resolution be recommended for adoption to the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Treasurer:

- 9 [08-0357](#) Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of June 2008.
- Attachments:** [TreasurerCashInvestment- June 08.XLS](#)
- A motion was made by Member Powers, seconded by Member Talbett, that this Resolution be recommended for adoption and placed on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

- 10 [08-0356](#) Joint Resolution designating the herein named banks and other financial institutions as depositories 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 Paxton, seconded by Member Bassi, that this Resolution be Recommended for Adoption to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**
- Aye:** 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton, Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Legislation:

- 11 [08-0299](#) Federal Legislative Update
- Trent Lehman, The Ferguson Group, joined the Committee via conference call to update the Committee on the status of the Federal Legislative Program.*
- Mr. Lehman provided a summary of the appropriations process, stating that the Appropriations Committees are at a standstill. The House Appropriations Committee has approved 5 bills, while the Senate has approved 9. It is most likely that they will pass a Continuing Resolution after the election and after the new President is sworn in.*
- Mr. Lehman reported on the status of HR 3221, a comprehensive*

housing package aimed at stabilizing the financial markets by alleviating some of the ongoing problems in the housing market, which was recently signed by President Bush. He included a summary of a section of this bill that addresses emergency assistance to local governments for abandoned and foreclosed homes. Today's discussion focused on how this will affect Community Development Block Grants. Because the staff person at The Ferguson Group who handles the housing bills is on vacation, Mr. Lehman will set up another phone meeting once that person returns.

Mr. Lehman stated that the law provides \$3.92 billion to states and local governments to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes and other residential property. HUD must establish a formula on how these funds will be distributed with 60 days of when the bill was signed (July 30, 2008), and all recipients must use the funds within 18 months. At least 25% of those funds must be used on properties that would house individuals or families whose income is below 50% of the area median income.

Mr. Gibson informed Mr. Lehman that staff will meet with the Director of the Affordable Housing Corporation and Community Development staff following this meeting to talk about the opportunities afforded by this bill.

Mr. Witkowski stated that the Center for American Progress apparently has created a formula based on the parameters of the legislation which indicates that there will be about \$135 million to the State of Illinois. HUD informed Mr. Witkowski that the formula will be created by them.

Mr. Lehman stated that because this bill was just signed into law a few days ago, they are still reviewing the bill. Member Bassi requested that The Ferguson Group housing expert meet with Lisa Tapper and Vern Witkowski to review this bill and to get their input.

12 [08-0300](#)

State Legislative Update

Mr. Gibson reported that the Governor is still within the 60-day time period for signing legislation, and there is nothing new to report.

3 [08-0452](#)

Discussion and Direction on Constitutional Convention Issue

Mr. Gibson stated that the Committee has had a number of discussions regarding the Constitutional Convention issue. Chairman Spielman asked if there was any interest on the part of this Committee for the County to weigh in on this issue. She asked for direction from this Committee as to whether or not to bring this issue to the full

County Board for discussion. Member Paxton indicated that the Board should have some sort of presentation explaining what the Constitutional Convention is and some of the issues as to the pros and cons. Chairman Schmidt said that, as it gets closer to the vote, more information will be available from both the pro and con sides that will help educate the public. She suggested that the County draft a paper for County Board Members on how the process works, and stated that Lake County could do something on LCTV with regard to the process.

Chairman Schmidt agrees that Lake County has to be ready, but does not want to use staff time in researching this at this point. More information will be coming from both sides that will help educate the public. She stated that a program on the process could possibly air on LCTV. Member Paxton feels that Board Members will be getting questions from constituents and will need to be educated in the pros and cons of this proposal.

Vice-Chair Leafblad feels that a presentation should be made to the County Board on the pros and cons of a constitutional convention. Member Bassi said that, if the question passes, a separate Committee will need to be set up to work on this.

Mr. Burton stated that he will have staff prepare a process fact sheet and gather pro and con information from websites and other people's views on this subject. Once the fact sheet is ready, it will be brought back to this Committee. Communications staff will work on drafting an informational program for LCTV.

Chair Spielman has done considerable research on what impact a Constitutional Convention could have on the County, and she will provide a copy of her report to staff.

- 4 [08-0458](#) Discussion and Direction for Illinois Commercial Towing Law
- Mr. Gibson distributed information regarding the new Illinois Commercial Towing Law. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.*

County Administrator's Report

Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Talbett, seconded by Member Douglass, that this meeting adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 7 - Member Bassi, Member Douglass, Vice Chair Leafblad , Member Paxton,
Member Powers, Chair Spielman and Member Talbett

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee