

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Bassi called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Present 6 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Absent 1 - Member Nixon

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Office

Carrienne Carallis, CAO Intern

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Bassi led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 [10-0882](#)

Minutes from September 1, 2010.

Attachments: [RRL 09.01.10](#)

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Bassi, to approve the minutes from September 1, 2010. Member Carey pointed out the following errors: there were no votes listed for items 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5. In addition, the phrase "This project concerns the regulation of telecommunications and AM broadcast facilities" was a phrase under legislative initiative #1 that should have been under initiative #2. Members Pedersen and Bassi rescinded their motion, and it was decided that the minutes would be approved at the next meeting once the corrections were made.

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

Chief County Assessment Office

7.1 [10-0903](#)

Resolution declaring that the number of appeals annually filed with the Board of Review creates an emergency situation causing the need for an expanded Board of Review; and authorizing the Chairman of the Board to appoint additional qualified members to the Board of Review.

Attachments: [2010 Board of Review Alternate Contact List without Phone #](#)

(Member Paxton entered the meeting at 8:36 a.m.)

Marty Paulson explained this resolution, stating that due to the number of appeals filed annually with the Board of Review, it is necessary to appoint additional qualified members to the Board of Review. This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the County Board to make these appointments. Mr. Paulson provided a list of 27 additional members, explaining that they passed the Department of Revenue's Board of Review qualifying exam. He explained that 12 of these additional members were previously qualified, and six of those work in the Chief County Assessment Office. There are 15 newly qualified applicants. Mr. Paulson stated that they will likely need to appoint more additional members based on the number of appeals filed.

Mr. Paulson stated that some of the applicants are from McHenry County, and Chair Bassi indicated that she hoped that most of the alternates that are selected would be Lake County residents.

Committee then discussed the drop in assessed valuation, and Mr. Paulson stated that he believes it could drop 8% this year and possibly 9 1/2% next year following the CCAO and Board of Review's equalization process.

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

Abstain: 1 - Vice Chair Pedersen

County Clerk

7.2 [10-0751](#)

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

Attachments: [County Clerk 07 10](#)

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

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

7.3 [10-0877](#)

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

Attachments: [County Clerk Aug 10](#)

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

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

Recorder of Deeds

7.4 [10-0881](#)

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

Attachments: [SRDP36C210092014140.tif](#)

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

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

Treasurer

7.5 [10-0910](#)

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

Attachments: [August 2009 Treasurer Cash and Investment Report.pdf](#)
[Cash Investment August 2010.pdf](#)

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

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

Legislation

7.6 [10-0853](#)

Resolution approving the FY 2011 State Legislative Program.

Attachments: [State Agenda 2011 11 05 10-2](#)

Amy McEwan reviewed the first draft of initiatives for the FY 2011 State Legislative Program as follows:

Direct Sponsorship Initiatives:

- Lake County Transportation Illinois Route 120 Project - Sponsor a capital request to proceed with funding for the Phase I engineering over multiple years, including funding from other sources.

- Fox Waterway Public Safety Fee - Sponsor an amendment of the statute to grant the county board's of Lake and McHenry Counties the ability to pass a resolution establishing a single public safety enforcement fee not to exceed \$50.00, to be charged by the Fox Waterway Agency. The counties may provide a credit for a portion of the public safety fee to property owners of the counties.

- *Cell Tower Use - Sponsor legislation offered through the re-writing of the telecommunications bill that would provide counties with more authority in the siting, height, and setback for cellular towers; require new cellular towers to provide capacity for multiple telecommunication carriers; and require telecommunication companies to post a bond to ensure the removal of any tower that is obsolete or no longer in use.*

- *Publication of Assessments in Local Newspapers. - Sponsor an amendment of the statute stating that to be eligible, counties must post the entire assessment roll on their public website, notify taxpayers through the direct mailing that the entire assessment roll may be accessed on the website and place a quarter page ad notifying readers of the website where they can review the assessments of all taxable parcels. Counties meeting this eligibility would then only be required to publish the assessments on parcels that experience valuation changes for that tax year. This is the same publication requirement that is currently required for non general assessment years. Mr. Burton stated that Mr. Kolkmeier needs to check with the sponsor to see if this will move or not. Ms. McEwan explained that the Assessor's Association is working on a larger publication modification that would re-look at what all of our publication notices are currently. It's possible that the County may be able to sign on to their initiative once we are clear about what it is.*

Support Initiatives:

- *Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption - Support legislation that would provide counties with permissive authority to adopt policies that would enable seniors to be entered in the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption and update their qualification. Ms. McEwan explained that we will likely recommend not moving this forward this year.*

- *DUI Law Clarification - Support combining all amended DUI statutes so they are in one area. Ms. McEwan explained that they are still awaiting input from judges and attorneys.*

- *Use of Reclaimed Water - Support the Forest Preserve's effort to adopt legislation requiring an amendment to the Illinois Plumbing Code to explicitly authorize reclaimed water recycling systems for use in flushing and landscape irrigation, provided such systems have adequate safeguards to maintain system integrity over time to ensure sanitary conditions for users. Chair Bassi recommended that since the Forest Preserve got a variance for Ryerson Woods, we could make the language more generic, framed in terms of conservation.*

- *Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund - Support the creation of a Lake County Housing Trust Fund that will increase and preserve affordable housing opportunities in Lake County. Chair Bassi stated that the coalition will wait until after the election to decide if they are going to bring this forth again next year.*

Monitor Initiatives:

- *Lake County Transportation Priority Projects for IDOT SFY 2011 - Monitor capital request to proceed with funding to start the Phase I environmental study for this improvement. The list may be updated after the PWT Committee acts. Chair Bassi asked how far south the Rt. 41 corridor extends. Ms. McEwan will check with Al Giertych.*

Policy Issues:

- *Restore and Protect Medicaid Funding for Nursing Homes - Lake County urges restoration of the past cuts the State of Illinois has made to Medicaid reimbursement for Nursing Homes. In addition, the County supports efforts to begin the process of revamping the Medicaid system in Illinois.*

- *No Diversion of Road Funds - Lake County opposes action that will divert monies from the State's road fund to the State's General Revenue Fund.*

- *Statewide Wetland Regulations - Lake County supports the development of a statewide standard to govern unregulated wetlands for other parts of the state.*

- *Unfunded Probation Services - Lake County urges probation funding to be restored to FY 2009 levels. In 2009, Lake County received \$4.2 million of the \$6.5 million for salary reimbursements that should be paid by the state. In 2010, the Lake County allocation from the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts was decreased by another \$1.1 million, a 27% reduction in funding. With this additional revenue loss, the court could lose up to 16 additional positions, resulting in higher caseloads and less supervision for those on probation. Mr. Burton stated that we may move this to a direct sponsorship initiative and we will talk about this with Metro Counties. He stated that we have 14 unfunded vacancies in Probation and their caseload is increasing. The courts have been responsive in cutting back, but Lake County can't sustain these types of deep cuts.*

Regarding the foreclosure issue - They are working on compromise language and will share that information once it's been worked out. Ms. McEwan stated that she is working with the Courts and Sheriff's Office. Mr. Burton stated that this revenue is not included in the recommended budget.

Chair Bassi reported that, according to the County Clerk's Office, they have already mailed out 8,700 ballots as a result of the vote by mail program. They are distributed evenly around the county. If this program is a success, she stated that we could possibly look at reducing polling place sites. Mr. Burton stated that the board as a whole would have to look at this.

Member Carey reported that the Board of Review Advisory Committee may have one legislative recommendation dealing with requiring the assessors and appellants to have their information in prior to the hearing. Chair Bassi said that the Board of Review already has the authority to do this according to their Rules, and she doesn't think it needs legislation. Mr. Burton indicated that staff will follow up on this.

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Carey, that the meeting adjourn at 9:15 a.m. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee