

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

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

Present 6 - Vice Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Chair Talbett, Member Carey and Member Pedersen

Absent 1 - Member Hewitt

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Gary Gordon, Finance & Administrative Services

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Talbett led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes - February 4, 2009**

3.1 **09-1317**

Minutes from February 4, 2009

A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Vice Chair Bassi, that the minutes from February 4, 2009 be approved. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Chair Talbett, Member Carey and Member Pedersen

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

Recorder of Deeds

7.1 **09-1260**

Report of Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds, for the month of January 2009.

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

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Chair Talbett, Member Carey and Member Pedersen

Treasurer

7.2 **09-1234**

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, County Treasurer and Ex-Officio County Collector, may be deposited.

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

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Chair Talbett, Member Carey and Member Pedersen

9. County Administrator's Report

Marty Paulson presented the Chief County Assessment Office Annual Report for 2007. Since the property tax cycle is a two year cycle, this report encompasses the period from January 1, 2007 through December 2008. Mr. Paulson discussed the property assessment work flow and the 2007 County assessed value summary showing that 83% is residential property.

Mr. Paulson reviewed the number of homestead exemptions and types of exemptions. The senior citizen assessment freeze exemption has doubled since 2003 due to a population shift and an increase in the income level to qualify for this. He explained the impact of exemptions, stating that is a burden shift from the people who benefit from that exemption to all other taxpayers, and he explained that due to the impact on the taxing districts, the tax rate goes up.

Board of Review survey cards are given to taxpayers who come in for a hearing. Vice-Chair Bassi requested that the survey be made available to people who participate in a hearing via a tele-conference, and Mr. Paulson stated that they do not have it available on the website at this time, but that they will work on it.

Mr. Paulson discussed how foreclosures are affecting the sales ratio and he is working on trying to get the Department of Revenue to recognize these for 2009. He is meeting with the manager of Local Government to discuss this and to try and get it recognized as a policy direction. He has a draft document from the International Association of Assessing Officials Technical Standards Committee on how to deal with foreclosures that the Department of Revenue should review.

Chair Talbett asked the Committee if they would like to take a position on this policy direction with either a letter from Suzi or a resolution from the board. It was the consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Paulson look into the best way to handle this and to report back to Committee.

Mr. Paulson then touched briefly on the Property Tax Appeal Board Activity from 2003 – 2007.

Legislation

7.3 State Legislative Program Update

Amy McEwan stated that a number of our bills have failed to get out of committee and/or one or more of our legislators are asking for additional sponsors to get items out of committee.

Barry Burton joined the meeting via conference call from Springfield. Mr. Burton provided an update on the status of the following:

HB 544 - Human Services bill – This bill is out of Committee with an amendment

making it clear that you can ask for a human services levy or a senior social services levy, not both. In addition, the County Board would need to pass a plan on how to use the money for a human services levy prior to going to the voters.

HB 383 - Brownfield bill – This is held up and is not going to pass out of committee. They offered to have a 60 day window to file for a project, making this a project specific bill.

HB 460 - Unsewered communities - passed out of committee and should move forward.

Filing mechanics lien – There was an amendment added as a compromise that a person would have 10 days following the filing of a lien to notify the property owner.

Senior assessment freeze and Jury Tax Credit – Kip Kolkmeier is working on these.

SB 80 - Electioneering – Senator Link made an amendment to allow electioneering 100 feet from door but no signs allowed at a public building. This amendment also removed the exemption for churches and non-profits.

SB 1398 & HB 2630 Affordable Housing - Realtors are opposed. Kip is trying to meet with Senator Link to get his position and to see if he will either co-sponsor this bill with Senator Garrett or if he will support this bill. Vice-Chair Bassi mentioned that the bill is scheduled to go to committee tomorrow, and asked Mr. Burton to check with Mr. Kolkmeier to see if there is merit in pulling the bill for another week to try and get Senator Link's endorsement. Mr. Burton will talk to Mr. Kolkmeier.

Clarification on plan review and inspection services for public school buildings – Mr. Burton stated that the Board of Education is not clear about what is going on from amendments made a couple of years ago. The Task Force created a few years ago put a requirement for the minimum qualifications necessary to do certain types of inspections. At this time, the Regional Offices of Education are signing off on the architect's plan with no independent review. Our bill asks for third party plan review and inspection. School superintendents and the Regional Offices of Education are opposed to the bill. Representative Sid Mathias is planning to meet with the superintendents, but without them removing opposition, this bill will be very difficult to pass.

Amy McEwan informed the Committee that they are working on changing the way we do our legislative programs for next year that would include doing more research ahead of time. Along with developing a plan to prioritize initiatives, Ms. McEwan stated that we will also need to discuss reducing the number of items submitted.

7.4 Federal Legislative Program Update

Ms. McEwan stated that documents were due to the legislators on February 27, and she has been working with Trent Lehman in this regard. Packets have been

delivered to Representative Bean and Senator Durbin, with less specific packets going to Senator Burris and Representative Kirk because Rep. Kirk is not accepting earmarks and Sen. Burris is still working on setting up his office. The Federal Omnibus bill for FY 2009 is scheduled to be voted on and signed by March 6th. Lake County has a request for \$950,000 for Rt. 120 in this bill. Integrated Justice money is not included in the omnibus bill. Member Carey asked about the reauthorization of the SAFETEA bill, which expires on September 30, 2009. DOT is working on getting the project list and materials together.

Ms. McEwan stated that she, Barry Burton, Chair Talbett and Chairman Schmidt will be going to Washington to lobby for federal issues at the end of March. Chair Talbett asked if there will be money left over from the stimulus bill for other projects. Ms. McEwan said that there have been reports that the federal government is looking at a series of stimulus bills.

Member Nixon asked if the County has attempted to set up a meeting with Senator Burris. According to Mr. Lehman, Senator Burris is not setting up any meetings until his office is set up. Mr. Lehman is staying in touch with Senator Burris' staff.

Lake County's requests for last year included money for integrated justice, Rt. 120, Butterfield Rd., and for a number of Stormwater projects. The only request funded was Rt. 120. We are repeating last years requests along with a couple of new stormwater projects.

Each section of the stimulus package has its own set of criteria, formulas, and the way it is going to be distributed. She stated that we have an idea of what we are getting for certain projects, and Marty Buehler is working, along with CMAP, on a list of transportation projects.

Committee requested that Vern Witkowski be invited to a meeting to discuss the CDBG application process and how it will be affected by the stimulus dollars.

8. Executive Session

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Bassi, that the meeting adjourn at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Chair Talbett, Member Carey and Member Pedersen

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee