

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Talbett called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Member Paxton arrived at 8:40 a.m.

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

Absent 1 - Member Nixon

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman

David Stolman, County Board Vice-Chairman

Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds

Debra Nieto, County Clerk's Office

Mike Gavin, Finance & Administrative Services

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Talbett led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes - April 8, 2009**

3.1 **09-1489**

Minutes from April 8, 2009

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, to approve the minutes from April 8, 2009. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Bassi, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Nixon

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

County Clerk

7.1 **09-1464**

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of December 2008.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Bassi, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Nixon

7.2 09-1465

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of January 2009.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Bassi, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Nixon

7.3 09-1466

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of February 2009.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Bassi, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Nixon

7.4 09-1467

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of March 2009.

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

Aye: 5 - Vice Chair Bassi, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Nixon

7.5 09-1463

Joint resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$195,475.50 in the FY 2009 Corporate Capital Improvement Program for County Clerk HAVA activities for HAVA Grant Appropriations.

Amy McEwan explained this resolution. In response to a question by Member Carey, Debra Nieto explained they received a grant in late 2008 that could be used for the purchase of permanent or moveable fixtures for polling places. Since the County Building is a polling place, some of this grant money was able to be used to help defray the cost of the new ramp in Lincoln Plaza. During election season, the County Clerk's office uses the ramp for pick-up and delivery purposes.

Member Paxton arrived at this time (8:40 a.m.).

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative

Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

Recorder of Deeds

Mary Ellen Vanderverter updated the Committee on the status of foreclosures, stating that there were almost 600 foreclosures recorded in March, with an average of 430 a month. While there were almost 5,000 foreclosures recorded in 2008, there have already been 1,500 filed in the first three months of this year.

7.6 09-1473

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

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Paxton, 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, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

7.7 09-1461

Joint committee action item authorizing a four (4) year extension of the Records Management Services contract for the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in the estimated amount of \$220,000 per year.

Mary Ellen Vanderverter explained this request, stating that Cott Systems has been the Records Management Services vendor since 2005. In light of budget concerns, they asked Cott Systems if they would be willing to extend the contract (due to expire in 2010) until 2014. The vendor agreed and this resolution will extend the contract until 2014 at the current pricing.

Ms. Vanderverter also stated that the archiving of records is almost complete back to 1844. The records have been converted and are in the system, and they are just finishing up verification of the records. They should be ready for release within the next couple of weeks.

She then informed the Committee that the On-line Internet Subscription currently has 300 members who pay a membership fee of \$50 per month.

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Paxton, that this committee action item be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

Treasurer

7.8 09-1474

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.

A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Hewitt, 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, Chair Talbett, Member Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

Legislation

7.9 State Legislative Program Update

Barry Burton and Amy McEwan provided an update of the State Legislative Program as follows:

Brownfield Property Late Penalty Write-off – Re-referred to Rules Committee (essentially dead for this year).

Filing of Mechanic's Lien – Notification to Property Owner – Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Link agreed to give opposition one additional week to come up with an option.

Authority for County Boards to Provide Supportive Human Services through Imposition of Taxpayer Authorized Levy - Re-referred to Rules Committee (dead for this year).

Clarification of Requirements for Plan Review and Inspection Services for Public School Buildings - Re-referred to Rules Committee (essentially dead for this year). Mr. Burton stated that there is strong opposition from school superintendents, school boards, and boards of education. The Task Force position is that if a third party inspection is required, someone else should pay for it. Mr. Burton said that a decision will have to be made whether to continue this fight legislatively or locally. We need to reach out to the Municipal League for support. Mr. Burton did say that the legislation proposed by the Task Force would give the ability to review without charging a fee. The concern is that, once we start doing it at no cost, we will never be able to charge a fee.

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption - Re-referred to Rules Committee (dead for this year).

Unsewered Communities Grant Program - Assigned to the Senate Local Government Committee.

Plat Act Clarifications – This has been tabled by House sponsor Rep. Mathias, so it is

essentially dead. Eric Waggoner will work with the Municipal League who opposed this legislation.

Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund – This bill is also dead for this year. Vice-Chair Bassi stated that we need to work on accumulating a list of organizations willing to sign on and help support this bill.

Public Facilities used as Polling Places - This bill has been amended a couple of times and looks like it may move forward.

Tax Credit for Jury Duty Service – This bill is dead.

There was discussion regarding the County's legislative process. Mr. Burton stated that they will be meeting with Kip Kolkmeier after this session to come up with an appropriate strategy for preparing our legislative program next year. Amy McEwan is currently looking at the structure of the legislative process. There is a need to meet with our legislative sponsors earlier in the process. Chairman Schmidt also suggested working closely with the Municipal League. Mr. Burton said they will also work with department heads to have them do their homework prior to submitting a request.

Once the process has been set, it will come back to this committee for feedback.

7.10 Federal Legislative Program Update

Amy McEwan stated that there is no major update to report. They are continuing to work on applications for stimulus funds. Mr. Burton stated that the list of transportation priorities has been submitted to Congresswoman Bean's Office, and they are awaiting further guidance. They may also submit the list to Senator Durbin, but noted that Representative Kirk will not accept earmarks and Senator Burris most likely will not accept them either. He explained that they only submitted projects that were at least 80% funded, or they did not include it. Marty Buehler picked projects that the county will fund no matter how much money they are able to give us. The Federal program is well-defined, and we are learning to live within the changing rules. One of the key issues is the earmark process and the way the federal government does earmarks.

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Paxton, to adjourn at 9:35 a.m.. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Not Present: 1 - Vice Chair Bassi

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee