

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Talbett called the Committee to order at 8:35 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

Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman

Bob Skidmore, Treasurer

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Bob Ross, Deputy 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 - March 4, 2009

3.1 09-1371

Minutes from March 4, 2009

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Hewitt, that the minutes of March 4, 2009 be approved.

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

4. Public Comment

5. Added to Agenda

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Recorder of Deeds:

7.1 09-1353

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

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Carey, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Treasurer:

7.2 09-1318

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of December 2008.

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Carey, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda.

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

7.3 09-1320

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of January 2009.

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Carey, that this report be received and placed on the consent agenda.

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

7.4 09-1372

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of February 2009.

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Carey, that this committee action item be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda . Motion carried unanimously.

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

7.5 09-1347

Joint resolution designating the Cornerstone National Bank & Trust Company as an additional depository 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 Bassi, seconded by Member Carey, that this item be recommended for adoption to the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Legislation:

7.6 State Legislative Program update

Amy McEwan provided a brief update on the status of our State legislative initiatives as follows:

- 1. Brownfield Property Late Penalty Write-off – Re-referred to Rules Committee.*
- 2. Filing of Mechanic's Lien Notification to Property Owner – referred to assignments in the Senate.*
- 3. Authority for County Board to provide Supportive Human Services through Imposition of Taxpayer Authorized Levy – Re-referred to Rules committee.*
- 4. Clarification of Requirements for Plan Review and Inspection Services for Public School Buildings – re-referred to Rules Committee.*
- 5. Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption – Re-referred to Rules*

Committee.

6. *Unsewered Communities Grant Program – referred to Assignments in the Senate.*
7. *Plat Act Clarifications – Tabled by Sponsor Sid Mathias in the House.*
8. *Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Re-referred to Assignments in the Senate.*
9. *Public Facilities used as Polling Places – Electioneering Access – waiting for assignment to Committee in the House.*
10. *Tax Credit for Jury Duty Service – Re-referred to Rules Committee.*

Ms. McEwan reported that a mini capital bill (\$2 billion) passed out of the House. She also stated that there are a number of things included in the budget that will push the cost to local communities. There are also a number of errors in the budget. Another issue being debated is the income tax and the impact it will have on local government revenue sharing.

7.7 Federal Legislative Program update

Ms. McEwan reported that she, Barry, Suzi and Michael Talbett went to Washington, DC to discuss our federal package, and met with Congressman Kirk and aides of Representative Bean, Senator Durbin, and Senator Burriss. There was discussion on the impact of the Canadian National Railroad, and Senator Durbin's staff expressed interest in the Rt. 53 referendum question.

Ms. McEwan stated that there are many questions regarding the stimulus package. They are working with departments to get information and moving forward to meet the deadlines.

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

Bob Skidmore informed the Committee that tax bills should be in the mail on May 1st. Due to the economy, they are anticipating an increase in people interested in making partial tax payments, and they will work with them to the extent that they are allowed. He explained that interest could accrue on any late outstanding balance. He will continue to disperse what has been collected to the taxing bodies. He also stated that there is an informational video available on the County's website, and they are working in conjunction with United Way on the publication of a Recession Survival Guide. Mr. Skidmore will keep the Committee updated on the tax payment collection.

9.1 Discussion of Board of Review appointments

Marty Paulson explained the process for Board of Review candidates, stating that members serve 2-year rotating terms. There are two appointments up this year, and both need to be democrats. Previously, the candidates have gone through an interview process and recommendations are made to the County Board Chairman.

Mr. Paulson explained some of the criteria for qualifying as a Board of Review member. In addition to it being a significant time commitment, he stated that they look for the following:

1. They must pass the qualifying exam administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).
2. Provide education/work experience background, which includes experiences and knowledge in the real estate industry.
3. Must be willing to commit to hearings from late September through the end of February and other meetings outside of that timeframe.
4. Personal characteristics – including fair mindedness, unbiased, mature temperament, personable, respectful, and good negotiating skills among others.
5. Compensation for the board chairperson is \$45,000 and \$42,000 for the other two members. Alternate Board Members are paid a full day schedule per diem rate of \$250.

Mr. Paulson explained that the Board of Review and alternate members conduct the hearings, with as many as five hearings being conducted at the same time.

The Board of Review is conducting their rule making review over the next few weeks with hopes of publishing the rules in June. It is hoped that the new members will be in place by June.

Chair Talbett reiterated the need to continue to educate constituents to help them to understand the tax process.

Member Carey suggested looking at a review of the rules and the process to discuss how it all works together, what the website provides, and she recommended putting together an ad-hoc citizen advisory committee. Mr. Paulson explained that the Board of Review would be willing to have a discussion, but that ultimately the rules are decided by them.

Chair Talbett stated that, given the importance of making these appointments in a timely manner and the limited nature of the candidates, he suggested that points being made now may be more appropriate for the next round of appointments. Mr. Paulson expressed hope that the interview process will take place prior to the next round of committee meetings.

Chair Talbett asked Mr. Paulson about the possibility of putting together a booklet for use by advisory groups that would help to educate the public.

Regarding the interview process for new Board of Review members, it was the consensus of the Committee that Chair Talbett and Member Carey serve on the interview Committee and make a recommendation to the board chairman. Mr. Paulson will set up the interview schedule. He also informed the Committee that he hopes that qualified alternates will be appointed in October.

Mr. Paulson will provide an update on the Task Force report draft by the end of the month.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Bassi, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:50 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Minutes taken by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records & Legislation Committee