

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

11:00 AM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Mathias called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Present 3 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Co-Chairman Mathias and Member Werfel

Absent 2 - Member Frank and Member Rummel

Others Present:

Linda Pedersen, County Board Member

Carol Calabresa, County Board Member

Judy Martini, County Board Member

Sandy Hart, County Board Member

Mary Ross-Cunningham, County Board Member

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Ben Gilbertson, Finance and Administrative Services

Eric J. Guenther, Mundelein Police Chief

Gary Gordon, Finance and Administrative Services

Anthony Cooling, Finance and Administrative Services

Mark Pfister, Health Department

Ryan Horne, Finance and Administrative Services

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Werfel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

General discussion of the County Board Rules of Order and Operational Procedures ensued.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [18-0095](#)**

Minutes from December 6, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Wefel, seconded by Co-Chair Hewitt, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 3 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Co-Chairman Mathias and Member Werfel

Absent: 2 - Member Frank and Member Rummel

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the public.

6. Chairman's Remarks

Co-Chair Mathias noted the committee received requests by members of the County

Board office to discuss several topics. These items will be discussed during Members' Remarks.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

8. New Business

8.1 [18-0090](#)

Update on 2018 State Legislative Session.

Kent Gaffney, McGuire Woods Representative, provided a general overview of the legislative process and the anticipated events for the spring legislative session. He noted due to the overwhelming political dynamics, there were a limited number of days for legislators to introduce bills. Member Werfel inquired on how the legislative events in Springfield will affect the County's legislative program. Discussion ensued.

This matter was discussed

8.2 [18-0091](#)

Update on status of Lake County 2018 Legislative Program.

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator, reviewed the status of County sponsored bills. Staff worked with the Lake County Board Office and McGuire Woods staff to develop the proposed items to sponsor. Three bills have been successfully submitted:

- 1.) Senate Bill(SB) 2452: consolidation of the Lakes Region Sanitary District into the Lake County Public Works Department, pending completion of the County's financial feasibility study.*
- 2.) SB2453: amending the Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act to exclude underground storm sewers located within county right-of-way from being classified as an "underground utility facility".*
- 3.) SB2459: amending the Illinois Drainage Code (70 ILCS 605) to allow for the dissolution of the Seavey Drainage District and appropriate transfer of assets to the Villages of Libertyville, Mundelein, and Vernon Hills.*

The remaining bills are in development. Member Martini requested a copy of legislation submitted by Lake County legislators. Staff advised Member Martini and the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee (committee) that all bills sponsored by specific legislators could be found on ILGA.gov. Discussion ensued.

This matter was discussed

8.3 [18-0092](#)

Update on the Cook and Collar Counties 2018 Legislative Program.

Mr. Fetherston noted chief elected officials from the Cook and Collar Counties met in December to establish a collaborative legislative program that will be distributed to the committee once finalized. There were four areas of focus for the agenda:

- 1.) Preserve Local Revenues.*
- 2.) Local Government Consolidation.*

3.) *Property Tax Exemptions.*

4.) *Amend Illinois Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act.*

This matter was discussed

8.4 [18-0093](#)

Presentation of Federal Tax Law Changes.

As requested by committee members, Gary Gordon and Anthony Cooling, Finance and Administrative Services, provided an update on the new federal tax law and its effects on Lake County. Based on the analysis conducted, the three areas of impact that staff identified were:

1.) *Effects on Lake County Government: advance refunding bonds can no longer be issued on a tax-exempt basis.*

2.) *Effects on Lake County Residents: \$10,000 cap on the deductibility from the federal income tax of state and local taxes.*

3.) *Effects on Lake County Residents: \$750,000 cap, reduced from \$1 million, on the mortgage interest deduction from the federal income tax for a newly-purchased home (eliminated for second homes). Discussion ensued.*

This matter was presented

9. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

10. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator Report.

11. Members' Remarks

Board Member Calabria and Mundelein Police Chief Guenther provided an explanation of the County-Wide diversion program "A Way Out" and requested that the committee support or sponsor the program. Mr. Gunther noted there is legislation in development for the program. Co-Chair Mathias and Co-Chair Hewitt requested staff to revisit the committee with a recommendation once the bill is finalized. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Hart requested that the committee consider supporting SB2280 and an amendment of the bill to include Lake County which would restrict the retail sale of non-rescued animals at local pet stores in Will and DuPage Counties. Co-Chair Mathias noted the current bill does not specifically affect Lake County and he does not believe the committee should take a position at this time. Discussion ensued. Member Werfel recommended that this item be discussed further at a future committee meeting due to the limited number of committee members present.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Hewitt, seconded by Member Werfel to reschedule the February 28 meeting to March 7. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 3 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Co-Chairman Mathias and Member Werfel

Absent: 2 - Member Frank and Member Rummel

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

**A motion was made by Member Werfel, seconded by Co-Chair Hewitt, to adjourn.
The motion carried unanimously.**

Aye: 3 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Co-Chairman Mathias and Member Werfel

Absent: 2 - Member Frank and Member Rummel

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

Meeting minutes prepared by Danya Abusoud.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee