

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Bassi called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

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

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman

Marty Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer

Willard Helander, County Clerk

Luke Stowe, County Clerk's Office

Jim Glogovsky, County Clerk's Office

Gary Gordon, Finance & Administrative Services

Rich Hentschel, Finance & Administrative Services

Mike Gavin, Finance & Administrative Services

Michael Wheeler, Finance & Administrative Services

Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds

Marc Brogan, Chief Deputy Recorder of Deeds

Aaron Lawlor, District 18 candidate

Collin O'Rourke, District 8 candidate

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-Chair Bassi led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 **09-1642**

Minutes from April 29, 2009

Member Carey noted that the minutes from April 29, 2009 contained an error under adjournment, where it showed Member Nixon as present and Member Bassi as not present. Member Bassi was present at the meeting and Member Nixon was absent. The error will be corrected.

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Paxton, that the minutes from April 29, 2009 be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

Chief County Assessment Office

7.1 09-1742

Ordinance extending the filing deadline for the 2009 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption.

Marty Paulson explained this ordinance. He stated that the filing deadline for this exemption was July 1st, and they are recommending extending the deadline to August 31, 2009 to encourage eligible seniors to file for this exemption. They will continue to accept applications until early 2010.

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

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

7.2 Discussion of formation of Board of Review Advisory Group.

Marty Paulson explained the formation of the new Board of Review Advisory Group that will work with the Board of Review on evaluating the assessment appeal process. Once this has been approved and the appointments made, the group will begin meeting. Vice-Chair Bassi requested that as Chair of this committee, she would like to be listed as an ex-officio member of this group. Because there are two committee members being appointed to this group, a third member would constitute a majority of a quorum of the RRL Committee. A member from the Waukegan area will be added in the near future. It was the consensus of the committee to have the Board Chairman submit an ordinance forming the Advisory Group and appointing members to the group at the July County Board meeting.

County Clerk

7.3 09-1622

Report of Willard Helander, County Clerk, for the month of April 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 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Vice Chair Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

7.4 09-1683

Report of Willard R. Helander, County Clerk, for the month of May 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 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Vice Chair Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

7.5 09-1714

Joint resolution adopting a revised fee for property tax redemption payments accepted in the Lake County Clerk's Office.

Willard Helander and Jim Glogovsky explained this resolution, stating that a recent cost study recommends increasing the property tax redemption fee from \$3 to \$63. This fee has not been increased since at least the 1960's. This increase will cover the cost of providing this service, and is in line with other Illinois counties. Mr. Glogovsky stated that this fee would not have much of a financial impact on most large redemptions. Committee members were concerned about the impact it would have on smaller redemptions. Member Carey asked if a sliding fee scale was considered, and Vice-Chair Bassi asked if it would be possible for people to apply for a waiver of the fee. Mr. Glogovsky stated that, at this time, there is no provision for a sliding fee scale or a fee waiver. County Clerk Helander assured the Committee that this fee increase only covers the cost of providing this service. Committee members requested that all fee schedules be reviewed periodically so that any future increases are not this substantial.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Carey, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Member Nixon

7.6 09-1746

Resolution amending a previous resolution designating the voting sites assigned to the 481 voting precincts in Lake County townships.

County Clerk Helander reported that this resolution is the continuation of consolidating polling places as a result of the increase in the number of voters who are voting early. She reported that one-third of voters voted early in the Presidential election, and they expect to see the number of people voting on election day continuing to decline. This action will substantially reduce the cost of operating the polling places on election day. Clerk Helander stated that through GIS mapping, they are able to track the radius of travel for voters throughout the county.

Luke Stowe explained that they are proposing that the 163 current polling places be reduced to 129. He stated that the changes will affect 89 precincts, and due to the proposed changes, 42% of the voters will be closer to their polling place. They have discussed these changes with all of the County Board members, and 21 of the 23 members agreed with the changes. Members Kyle and Nixon requested that their polling places be left as they are. Member Nixon stated that her main concerns with the changes are parking, transportation and availability to the voters. Ms. Helander reported that she spoke to Members Cunningham, Kyle and Nixon and offered, in buildings with seniors or residents with limited mobility, to have everyone get an absentee ballot and on site assistance with early voting. Member Nixon stated that she is not comfortable with that solution. Ms. Helander stated that the cost to operate one polling place is between \$1680 - \$2200.

Mr. Stowe reiterated for the Committee that in working with board members on polling place changes, they take many things into consideration and work to find alternative sites

as well.

Ms. Helander stated that the resolution recommended by the Clerk's Office for approval would reduce the number of polling places by 34 sites, and they also prepared a second or alternative resolution that would reduce the number of polling places by 29 sites if Member Kyle and Nixon's sites are left as is. The 5 locations are Green Bay School, Harry A. Poe Manor, Hyde Pak Elementary School, Novak-King School, and Thompson Manor and represent precincts 235, 241, 379, 381, 401 and 402.

Vice-Chair Bassi noted that the resolution includes the word "single" precinct voting sites, and asked whether the word "single" should be removed. The County Clerk agreed.

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

Aye: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Pedersen

Nay: 4 - Chair Bassi, Member Nixon, Vice Chair Carey and Member Hewitt

Motion by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Carey, to approve the recommended changes excluding Member Kyle and Member Nixon's polling places, and to remove the word "single" in the body of the resolution. Motion carried with Member Pedersen voting nay.

Recorder of Deeds

7.7 09-1604

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

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

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

7.8 09-1672

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

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

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

7.9 09-1709

Joint resolution authorizing an agreement with Cott Systems, Worthington, OH to redact social security numbers on certain documents from 1935 to the present for the Recorder of Deeds in the estimated amount of \$638,228.

Mary Ellen Vanderverter reported that year to date recording documents are down about 10% over last year. Member Nixon left the meeting at 9:42 am.

Ms. Vanderverter explained this resolution. Approval of this agreement will allow for the redaction of social security numbers on certain documents from 1935 to the present.

A motion was made by Member Nixon, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Treasurer

7.10 09-1644

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, 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 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Vice Chair Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

7.11 09-1646

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of April 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 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Vice Chair Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

7.12 09-1691

Report of Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of May 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 - Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Vice Chair Carey, Member Hewitt and Member Pedersen

Not Present: 1 - Chair Bassi

Legislation

7.13 Federal Legislative Program Update - Trent Lehman

Due to time constraints, this discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

7.14 State Legislative Program Update - Kip Kolkmeier

Kip Kolkmeier joined the committee via phone. He stated that the House and Senate will

be back in session next week, and the House will likely move quickly to override the governor's veto of the 50% budget and put the 50% lump sum budget back in effect. The Senate failed to muster enough votes to support the tension borrowing bill that would get another \$2 billion, and could have supported a 70% budget going forward. The Senate president feels that he may have votes to get that done and they could override the 50% budget veto and put something in place. At this point, layoff notices are being sent out to state employees, and the Governor is telling agencies to assume that all grant funding is at 50% and is also talking about the possibility of furloughing prisoners. It will be hard to get back to the negotiating table until some of this actually happens. It appears that the mood has shifted on income tax, and the Senate President and Speaker of the House are determined to put something in place without an income tax increase. When they return on July 14th, we could either see them putting into place a stop-gap partial budget or nothing will happen at which time you will see a more serious discussion about additional revenues. From the County's perspective, Mr. Kolkmeier stated that while we have been worried about diversion of the local government distributors share from income tax and sales tax, he doesn't think we will see that happen. In addition, we are not likely to get the additional revenue that would come from a higher income tax in the near future. The republicans want to see how things play out and are letting the democrats see if they can get it resolved.

The capital budget is closer; the bills are on the Governor's desk and he has committed to signing them. He could further delay them, but Mr. Kolkmeier thinks he will run out the clock which is only about another 30 days or so and will sign those. The best case scenario would be to put together a partial budget and struggle until January when the democrats would find a way to get enough votes to do a major revenue enhancement. In the worst case – they don't adopt any budget for many months and human services are cut and there is no additional revenue. In this case, there could be major effects on county services. One of the big areas of concern will probably be probation. Probation is a state funded program and they keep underfunding so the county has to fund. Chairman Schmidt stated that Metro Counties is talking about reducing probation staff levels to match state funding for probation, since the state is only reimbursing 54%. Mr. Kolkmeier then stated that every state grant program should expect no more than \$.50 of last year's dollar. There could also be further payment delays.

Amy McEwan stated that they need to discuss how the county should handle legislative initiatives for 2010 in light of the current economic climate. She stated that they would like to discuss at the next meeting, how we can focus the time and money we have for next year.

Mr. Kolkmeier then reported that HB 146 – asking for additional authority to impose the fee to support the County Law Library – has moved to the Governor's office. HB 242 has also been sent to the Governor. This bill will allow an additional adjustment on the property tax level to support construction. The debt levy has been frozen at 1994 levels, and now will adjust at the lesser of 5% or the CPI.

SB 189 is the fundamental re-write of the FOIA statute. He expects the Governor to sign

this bill. It will impose a lot of new obligations and bureaucracy and is a substantial unfunded mandate.

- 8. **Executive Session**
- 9. **County Administrator's Report**
- 10. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Paxton, that this meeting adjourn at 10:02 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Nixon

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee