

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

8:30 AM

Conference Room C

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Bassi called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Member Hewitt arrived at 8:36 a.m., and Member Paxton arrived at 8:43 a.m.

Present 7 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Also present:

*Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator
Barry Burton, County Administrator
Suzi Schmidt, County Board Chairman
Melinda Bush, County Board Member
Keith Devore, CAO Intern
Mary Otahal, County Board Office*

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Bassi led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

3.1 **09-1922**

RRL Minutes 8.26.09

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Nixon, that the minutes of August 30, 2009 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chair Bassi, Member Nixon, Member Carey, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 2 - Member Paxton and Member Hewitt

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

7. **New Business**

Member Hewitt arrived at this time (8:36).

Recorder of Deeds

7.1 **09-1877**

Monthly report for Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds for the month of July 2009.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, 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 Nixon, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Treasurer

7.2 09-1924

Monthly report for Robert Skidmore, Treasurer, for the month of July, 2009.

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

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

9.1 09-1857

Draft State and Federal Legislative Agenda for 2010. (Discussion only)

Amy McEwan presented the first draft of the State Legislative Program for FY 2010. The draft consists of four phases (or tiers) - items that need additional information or background work, items we need to seek sponsors for, items we support that other agencies sponsor, proposals from 2009 that were not passed, and those items that were passed, amended and passed, or passed in part.

Ms. McEwan stated that we also need to discuss whether to bring back items that have not passed in previous years. One such item is the clarification of requirements for plan review and inspection services for public school buildings; the Regional Office of Education is in the process of hiring an inspector to inspect schools (Member Paxton entered at this time 8:43).

Phase 1 items -

1. Cell Tower Use – Barry Burton stated that this has been unsuccessful in the past because of strong lobbying efforts. Eric Waggoner will reach out to the Municipal League and industries to see if there is an opportunity to move forward. We need to work with other entities to build support for this. Committee members indicated that they would like to keep this item as a Tier 3 initiative.

2. Wind Farm Statutes – Mr. Burton said that staff has 30 days to get information on what other counties have done. Chairman Schmidt stated that this may be a Metro Counties issue. Ms. McEwan reported that there are various task forces working on wind codes and model ordinances.

3. Increase Court System Fee and Probation Service Fee – Ms. McEwan reported that the State has cut an additional \$2.4 million in reimbursement to Lake County for probation services. Mr. Burton stated that we need more information to determine how much this fee will generate, and if the state will continue to cut their funding if enacted.

He stated that they will meet with the courts to get more information on this. Chair Bassi stated that she is not in favor of increasing any fee that is not based on ability to pay, and that this item will need to go to the L&J committee before it comes back here. Chairman Schmidt stated that this will be a huge Metro Counties issue. Mr. Burton reported that they are meeting next week with Ike Magalis and the Courts to talk about presenting this as a Metro Counties issues.

4. Water Safety and Enforcement Fee/License - Countywide Docking Fee – Lake County pays more than \$650,000 for the Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit, but only collects a total of approximately \$52,000 from fees and tickets. The recommendation is to pursue legislation that would authorize the County to establish fees that could be administered either through a fee collected by the IDNR and returned back to the county where the boat is registered or through imposition of a one-time fee collected by local marinas. The Fox Waterway may consider an "out of county fee" for out of county boaters. Mr. Burton stated that the costs to operate the Marine Patrol Unit continue to increase, and that this would be a user-based fee. They are recommending tagging an additional fee on to the IDNR license fee.

5. Altering the residency requirement for additional board of review members – Ms. McEwan will invite Marty Paulson to explain this to the committee and to present facts and figures pertaining to this issue.

6. Transportation Summit - Ms. McEwan stated that Lake County has applied for federal funds for the Rt. 120 project, but we would like the State to amend their list of qualified projects to add this project. She stated that Marty Buehler will also be submitting a list of priority projects asking for IDOT funding.

Phase 2 items –

1. DUI Law Clarification - This law has been amended a number of times, and we are asking that all amended DUI statutes be combined and the interpretation of legislation made clear.

2. Plat Act Clarification – Recommends clarifying the language of this Act.

3. Publication of assessments in local newspapers - since we are mailing to every single taxpayer in the county, we should not be required to publish the assessments in the paper. It costs about \$150,000 each time we publish in paper.

4. Establishment of Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Chairman Bassi stated that this is permissive and being driven by an interest in the county. There is a coalition working on getting sponsors and lining up support.

5. Unaltered IDOT crash reports to federal, state, and local agencies requesting them - Ms. McEwan stated that additional information is needed.

6. Tax credit for Jury Duty Service – Support passage of legislation that would establish a state tax credit of \$50 per day for individuals serving jury duty.

7. Use of Reclaimed water – Since this request is supporting the Forest Preserve’s effort to adopt legislation requiring an amendment to the Illinois Plumbing Code, Member Paxton asked if this should be submitted as a forest preserve issue. Member Carey suggested that this could be in our program as a support item.

Phase 3 items -

1. Brownfield Property Late Penalty Write-off – It is recommended to keep this as a Tier 3 item and hope someone else will pick it up.

Due to time constraints, discussion will continue on the rest of the Phase 3 and 4 items at the next meeting.

Chairman Bassi cautioned the committee members about sharing the recommended tiers with legislators until we get their reaction to the items.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Paxton, seconded by Member Taylor, to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, Member Nixon, Member Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Minutes prepared by Mary Otahal.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Revenue, Records and Legislation Committee