

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 5, 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 8:30 a.m.

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

Absent 1 - Member Nixon

Member Paxton arrived at 8:41 a.m.

Also present:

Amy McEwan, Sr. Assistant County Administrator

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Gary Gordon, Finance & Administrative Services

Melinda Bush, County Board Member

Mary Otahal, County Board Office

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Member Carey, seconded by Member Hewitt, that the minutes from July 8, 2009 be approved. Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

3.1 **09-1822**

Minutes from July 8, 2009

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Added to Agenda**

6. **Old Business**

Member Carey reported on the status of the first meeting of the Board of Review Advisory Group. They walked through areas of responsibility - township assessors office versus the County Assessor's office versus the Board of Review. The next meeting will be held on August 13th at 7:30 a.m. at the Fremont Township Center where they will walk through the whole appeal process. Vice-Chair Bassi requested copies of the minutes of these meetings.

7. **New Business**

County Clerk

7.1 **09-1765**

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

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

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Recorder of Deeds

7.2 09-1766

Report for Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Recorder of Deeds, for the month of June 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 Carey, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Pedersen and Member Taylor

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Treasurer

7.3 09-1782

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, may be deposited.

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

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Legislation

7.4 State Legislative Program update

Barry Burton and Amy McEwan updated the Committee on the status of the State budget. Mr. Burton stated that when the legislature passed the budget, they gave unfettered discretion to the Governor. The State departments will have to work through their contacts within the agencies to determine where their cuts will be. Staff shortage is part of the problem. There was discussion on the current economic status of the state budget.

Regarding the County's State Legislative Program, Mr. Burton stated that staff is working on mapping out a time line for this process. They are revamping the process forms for departments to submit projects. They are suggesting putting more responsibility on individual departments to do the project legwork on their initiatives. (Member Paxton arrived at this time). He suggested meeting with our legislators early and talking to them

prior to unveiling the program at the Legislative breakfast. Vice-Chair Bassi stated that with some of the initiatives, it makes sense to go one on one with the legislators to get their reaction before we decide to submit the initiatives for adoption.

Member Carey reported that she is attending the Lake County Municipal League legislative committee meetings, and she will keep this committee up to date on the status of these meetings.

Vice-Chair Bassi stated that we need to ask department heads and other committees to put together their requests now. We should ask committee chairs to e-mail their members to think about potential legislative items that they would like to submit. She would like to discuss the legislative items at the two committee meetings scheduled for September. Staff will work with Kip Kolkmeier with the intent of discussing initial ideas at the first meeting in September and send to standing Committees to discuss at the second meeting. They will plan to meet with Mr. Kolkmeier in October and work on a draft legislative program to bring to committee. Members like the idea of getting guidance from Mr. Kolkmeier early in the process.

7.5 Federal Legislative Program update - Trent Lehman

Trent Lehman, The Ferguson Group, joined the committee via conference call to report on the status of various federal legislative issues. He reported that the federal health care initiative is at the forefront of discussion right now. He then touched on the following:

1. Stimulus bill – This bill for \$787 billion was signed into law in February of this year. There is currently a vigorous debate about whether there will be a second stimulus bill needed with unemployment at a 26-year high at 9.5% and expected to continue to rise. \$200 billion of the stimulus money has been obligated or spent to date. The Ferguson Group has been working closely with Lake County on a number of stimulus issues.

Amy McEwan reported on the status of the Byrne/JAG grant available through the stimulus program, stating that the State of Illinois was not passing the crime statistics data collected by the Sheriff's Department to the federal government, which disqualified Illinois from these funds. Cook County was one of about six Illinois communities that were able to submit their data in a comparable format and qualify. Mr. Lehman stated that we explained the situation and impact on Lake County as a result of missing out on this funding to our congressional delegation, and we will be able use a waiver of language in the FY 2010 Commerce & Justice State Appropriations bill that will allow Lake County to be eligible for these funds going forward. Lake County potentially missed out on millions of dollars this year.

Mr. Lehman then reported on the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant. He is working closing with Amy McEwan and Marty Buehler to put together a grant application for the Illinois 120 Corridor. They will be briefing our congressional delegation to get letters of support from them. There is no cost-share associated with this grant.

Mr. Lehman reported that the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant program is due out in September.

2. Appropriations process for FY 2010 – Mr. Lehman reported that over the past two or three years, then-Senator Obama did earmark requests, and did not take requests when he ran for president. Congressman Kirk took a pledge not to make appropriations requests. As a result, we have been relying on Congresswoman Bean and Senator Durbin for requests, and they have done a wonderful job. With only half of our delegation making requests, we are not receiving as many earmark requests as we have in the past, and not getting as much money as in the past.

Barry Burton and Amy McEwan will discuss the appropriations process with Mr. Lehman. Mr. Lehman explained that FY 2010 requests were due to Congress at end of February prior to FY 09 bills being passed. Regarding the FY 2010 process, the House has passed all of their appropriations bills, and the Senate has marked up most of theirs and passed 4 of them. Within these bills we have earmarked \$600,000 for the Illinois 120 Corridor project, \$200,000 from the Army Corps of Engineers for the Countywide Wetland and Restoration Program, and \$500,000 for Des Plaines River Phase II project.

3. Reauthorization of Highway bill – This bill expires September 30th of this year. We submitted projects to the House several months ago. Mr. Lehman feels that there is no way the bill will be put into law by Oct. 1st of this year. The Chair of the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee released a marked up six-year bill for \$500 billion - \$50 billion for high speed rail and \$450 billion for highway and transit. This leaves a \$250 billion+ shortfall in money to pay for the bill. The Highway Trust fund is in bad shape, and will need at least a \$3 billion infusion of cash from the general fund this month or the money will run out. The House and Senate have come to an agreement on a bill that would put \$7 billion from the Treasury General Fund into the Highway Trust Fund to keep the fund solvent for a short time. The administration and Chair of Senate Environment & Public Works Committee have asked for an 18 month extension on the highway bill. Most transportation groups are opposed to this. Mr. Lehman feels that they will have to do a short term extension.

Mr. Burton explained, for the benefit of the new members, that Lake County has been very successful with our legislative agenda over the years. The Transportation Center at DOT was 100% federally funds with no match. Member Paxton reminded the Committee that we have amassed over \$100 million in funding over the ten years we have been with The Ferguson Group.

8. Executive Session

9. County Administrator's Report

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Bassi, Member Paxton, 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