

Lake County Illinois

*Central Permit Facility
500 Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

8:30 AM

Central Permit Facility

Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability

1. Call to Order

Chair Foreman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present 9 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim and Member Darch

Absent 6 - Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Bensinger and Member Schaafsma

Others Present:

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Amy McGowan, Civic Federation of Chicago

Ann Maine, County Board

Sonia Hernandez, County Administrator's Office

Jerry Newfarmer, Management Partners

Kevin Knutson, Management Partners

Susan Hoyt, Management Partners

2. Approval Of Minutes

2.1 [17-0684](#)

Minutes from May 31, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Ryg, seconded by Member Darch, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: 9 - Ex-Officio Member Rummel, Member Foreman, Member Ryg, Member O'Connor, Member Shaw, Member Msall, Member Magalis, Member Kim and Member Darch

Absent: 6 - Member Osmond, Member Roberson, Member Lamphere, Member Link, Member Bensinger and Member Schaafsma

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Foreman welcomed members to the second meeting of the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability.

4. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

6. New Business

6.1 [17-0591](#)

Introductions

Chair Foreman asked for public introduction and introduced Jerry Newfarmer, Management Partners consultant, to the meeting. Jerry Newfarmer briefly introduced his two colleagues Kevin Knutson and Susan Hoyt who will also serve as staff to the Commission. Mr. Newfarmer thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work on the County's Government Reform and Accountability initiative. He described the role of Management Partners in assisting local units of government on a variety of areas for the past 23 years. All Management Partners staff have had local government experience.

6.2 [17-0697](#)

Commission Ground Rules

The Commission discussed and agreed upon draft ground rules for conducting the Commission's business. Kevin Knutson stressed to Commission that attending every meeting is very important. Commission was also reminded that Jennie Vana will be the point of contact for answer any media questions. Members also agreed that the public adhere to the same 3-minute rule as followed at County Board meetings. Also noted, that decisions on recommendations are not final until the Commission report is approved for submission to the County Board and that Commission discussions are open to the public. Chair Foreman asked members to read all materials provided and be ready to discuss at meetings. Discussion regarding redistricting took place.

6.3 [17-0698](#)

Discussion of Committee Charge Issues: Identify questions, topics to pursue, or ideas and/or issues from Commissioners about each component of the Commission's Charge:

- a. Independent Redistricting: Analyze state and county governments; evaluate their governance structure, methodology, implementation and outcomes
- b. Countywide Elected Chairman: Study similar counties; identify key issues, challenges, opportunities and decisions; identify best practices and policies to balance authority between the County Board, Chairman and County Administrator; ensure strong accountability, professional standards and high ethical standards and safeguards
- c. Reduce the size of the board: Examine, assess and report on similar counties' efforts; identify positive and negative impacts on efficiency, constituent services, policy decisions, and compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act
- d. Other Reform Proposals: Share ideas on additional reforms that could be studied in the future

Commissioners discussed an interest in receiving information on how redistricting is done in Lake County and to hear presentations from outside experts on the Federal Voting Rights Act, Illinois laws on redistricting, on the pending Supreme Court Case related to the State of Wisconsin's redistricting and independent proposals for redistricting being discussed in Illinois.

Commissioners discussed and requested information on the options available for electing a County Board Chair under Illinois law including the pros and cons of the three options: elected by the Board, elected at large, and an at large elected county executive. It was recommended that a cheat sheet be provided with the powers of each option and are these the only 3 options. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners discussed the relationship between redistricting and the reduction in the number of Lake County Board members. The Commission is interested in how board size impacts board effectiveness, costs and representation. What would be achieved if the size is reduced? Discussion ensued.

Commissioners discussed exploring potential opportunities for consolidation of local governmental units within the County.

6.4 [17-0699](#)

Discussion of overall Commission schedule of topics.

Commissioners reviewed the timeline for its work and put a priority on receiving information from legal, academic and other experts at the July and August meetings. Next meeting will take place on July 19, 2017.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foreman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan Hoyt & Sonia Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

*Lake County Commission on Government
Reform and Accountability*