

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

1:00 PM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Martini requested a roll call.

Present 6 - Chair Wasik, Vice Chair Martini, Member Didech, Member Kyle, Member Rummel and Member Simpson

Absent 1 - Member Danforth

Others Present:

Mary Ross-Cunningham, County Board Member

Sandy Hart, County Board Chair

Amy McEwan, Interim County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Patrice Sutton, Finance and Administrative Services

RuthAnne Hall, Finance and Administrative Services

Paul Mazzeno, Lake County Emergency Management Agency

Chris Blanding, Information Technology

Ryan Horne, Finance and Administrative Services

Matt Meyers, Planning, Building and Development

Eric Waggoner, Planning, Building and Development

Conor Schultz, County Administrator's Office

Danya Abusoud, Finance and Administrative Services

Pat Carey, McGuire Woods Representative (via phone)

Kent Gaffney, McGuire Woods Representative (via phone)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Martini led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the public.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Wasik noted the first legislative meeting of the year and plans for a lot of engagement with legislators.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

7. New Business**CONSENT AGENDA (7.1)****Approval of Minutes**

7.1 [19-0051](#)

Acceptance of the November 7, 2018 minutes.

A motion was made by Member Simpson, seconded by Member Didech, that the consent agenda be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Chair Wasik, Vice Chair Martini, Member Didech, Member Kyle, Member Rummel and Member Simpson

Absent: 1 - Member Danforth

REGULAR AGENDA7.2 [19-0045](#)

State Legislative Session Discussion. (30 minutes)

Kent Gaffney, McGuire Woods Representative present via phone, provided a general overview of the legislative process, anticipated items in the upcoming session and how it may impact legislation of interest to the County. Member Didech inquired about whether the County has a predeveloped list of assets for inclusion in a capital bill. Chair Wasik inquired about how to more effectively connect with legislators. Member Martini noted in previous years the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee implemented a legislative breakfast to meet and discuss items of interest with legislators. She recommended considering it this year as it was very helpful in the past. Chair Wasik stated that staff have been working with the legislators to implement a breakfast for this legislative session. Discussion ensued.

This matter was discussed.

7.3 [19-0046](#)

Overview of Fiscal Year 2019 Lake County Legislative Agenda. (45 minutes)

Assistant County Administrator Paul Fetherston provided an overview of the Legislative Committee (Committee) agenda, steps to amending the agenda, guiding tenets, schedule, and initiatives received for consideration.

Vice-Chair Martini inquired about legislation to reduce property taxes and recommends including it in the legislative agenda for support or sponsor. Chair Wasik noted his endorsement and would like to seek a comprehensive solution to alleviating property taxes. Member Didech inquired about how this modification would affect staff and McGuire Woods Representatives. Discussion ensued. There was a Committee consensus to have staff draft an amendment to the legislative agenda supporting and/ or sponsoring property assessment and tax reform legislation.

Mr. Fetherston noted staff is in the process of developing a legislative priorities survey for all County Board members.

This matter was discussed.

7.4 [19-0044](#)

Request to amend FY 2019 Lake County Legislative Agenda to include an item to sponsor legislation enabling the removal of a County Board Chair.

Mr. Fetherston explained Senate Bill 1485 providing that a chairman of a county board who is chosen by the board may be removed, with or without cause, upon a motion adopted by an affirmative vote of four-fifths of the board and that upon adoption of a motion to remove the chairman: (a) the chairman position becomes vacant and the former chairman's compensation shall be prorated to the date the motion was approved; (b) the vice-chairman immediately assumes the duties of chairman without chairman compensation; and (c) a new chairman shall be elected at the next regularly scheduled county board meeting. A chairman removed under this Section maintains his or her status as a member of the county board.

Mr. Fetherston sought direction from the Committee regarding amending the legislative agenda to include the sponsorship of a similar bill in the upcoming session. Member Didech inquired about the state statutory authority being sought in the event of a resignation. Member Rummel inquired about whether it is incumbent on the County Board to elect a County Board Chair of the same political affiliation as the former chair in the event of a resignation. Discussion ensued. Amy McEwan, Interim County Administrator, provided clarification regarding the language of the legislation indicating the span of time over which a chair is unable to satisfactorily maintain their duties before the position is considered a vacancy. Member Simpson inquired about creating separate language specific to the removal of a chair. County Board Chair Hart expressed that the language should focus on the removal of a chair and should there be a vacancy the County Board needs to have the authority to select another chair. Vice-Chair Martini noted her support for this legislation and inquired about the residency requirement to become a County Board member or County Board Chair. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Didech, seconded by Member Simpson, amending the FY 2019 Lake County Legislative Agenda to include an item to sponsor legislation enabling the removal of a County Board Chair. Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 6 - Chair Wasik, Vice Chair Martini, Member Didech, Member Kyle, Member Rummel and Member Simpson

Absent: 1 - Member Danforth

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

9. County Administrator's Report

There were no Chairman's Remarks.

10. Members' Remarks

There were no Members' remarks.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

**A motion was made by Member Rummel, seconded by Member Didech, to adjourn.
The motion carried unanimously.**

Aye: 6 - Chair Wasik, Vice Chair Martini, Member Didech, Member Kyle, Member Rummel
and Member Simpson

Absent: 1 - Member Danforth

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Meeting minutes prepared by Danya Abusoud.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Legislative Committee