

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

11:00 AM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Hewitt called the meeting to order at 11:01a.m.

Present 4 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Werfel

Absent 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

Other Present:

Chuck Bartels, County Board Member (via phone)

Michael Danforth, County Board Member

Sandy Hart, County Board Member

Judy Martini, County Board Member

Aaron Lawlor, County Board Chairman (via phone)

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Amy McEwan, Deputy County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Ben Gilbertson, Finance and Administrative Services

DonnaJo Maki, County Administrator's Office

Shane Schneider, Division of Transportation

Carla Wyckoff, County Clerk

Kipp Wilson, County Clerk's Office

Kent Gaffney, McGuire Woods Representative (via phone)

Steve Rice, State's Attorney's Office

Eric Waggoner, Planning, Building, and Development

Jodi Gingiss, Planning, Building, and Development

Al Giertych, Division of Transportation

Heidie Hernandez, County Board Office

Danya Abusoud, Finance and Administrative Services

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Rummel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Co-Chair Hewitt noted that there was a physical quorum present and that Member Bartels and County Board Chairman Lawlor will be participating electronically due to illness.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [17-1015](#)**

Minutes from August 30, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Rummel, seconded by Member Werfel, that the minutes 3.1 be approved. Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 4 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Werfel

Absent: 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the public.

6. Chairman's Remarks

County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor commented on the legislative agenda and noted the need to prioritize items and determine which organizations should lead the initiatives. This year the agenda will strongly reflect the efficiencies, accountability measures, and consolidation efforts that the County is looking to advance.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

8. New Business**8.1 [17-1031](#)**

Discussion of the purpose of the fiscal year 2018 Legislative Agenda.

Assistant County Administrator Paul Fetherston provided an overview of the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee (committee), its schedule, and the initiatives received for consideration. Discussion ensued on implementing a deadline by which standing committees must submit their initiatives for consideration. The committee agreed on October 11 for submission deadlines.

This item was discussed.

8.2 [17-1013](#)

Discussion of preliminary initiatives for the fiscal year 2018 Legislative Agenda.

Assistant County Administrator Paul Fetherston provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2018 State and Federal Legislative Agenda and the new guiding tenets added to the agenda, which included:

- 1.) Supporting legislation promoting transparency and encouraging cost-effective consolidation;*
- 2.) Supporting legislation that mitigates inefficiency; and*
- 3.) Opposing litigation that weakens the County's ability to consolidate with local units of government and circumvents the existing appeals process. Discussion ensued.*

Ben Gilbertson, Finance and Administrative Services, and Mr. Fetherston reviewed the draft legislative agenda as summarized below:

Recommended state initiatives for Lake County to sponsor:

- 1.) Amending the property tax code to change the final take notice process for vacant properties by removing the publication requirement and requiring personal service by the*

Sheriff's Office only if the certified mailing is unsuccessful.

- 2.) Amending the Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act to exclude underground storm sewers located within county right-of-way from being classified as an "underground utility facility".*
- 3.) Amending the Cemetery Association Act to transfer the appointing authority for cemetery associations from the presiding officer of the county board to the presiding officer of the township in which the association resides.*
- 4.) Amending the property tax code by removing the partisan aspect from the board of review appointing process.*

Two recommended draft placeholders that, if approved, would be state initiatives for Lake County to sponsor:

- 1.) Legislation to eliminate the Seavey Drainage District.*
- 2.) Consolidation of the Lakes Region Sanitary District into the Lake County Public Works Department, if the County's financial feasibility study indicated consolidation would be more cost-effective.*

Recommended approval of support for the following existing bills pending in the legislature:

- 1.) Amending Senate Bill 1607, regarding the Illinois Controlled Substance Act, which would require doctors to check the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) before prescribing a controlled substance to minimize overuse of prescription drug complications. Member Hart provided feedback on a discussion at a Lake County Opioid Initiative meeting regarding an amendment that would allow doctors' staff to access the PMP. Discussion ensued.*
- 2.) Supporting Senate Bill 87, which would amend the Property Tax code to extend the homestead exemption to deceased veterans' spouses and to clarify the definition of "surviving spouse."*

Presented multiple initiatives for the County to sponsor or support, consisting of:

- 1.) Amending statutory provisions to authorize a judiciaries' discretion to waive or reduce mandatory fees for driver's license reinstatement.*
- 2.) Amending the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to extend the period for which disaster is declared for a period of 21 days with approval from the governing body. This was a draft placeholder, as staff was still gathering information.*
- 3.) Amending the Mental Health and Development Disability Confidentiality Act to include electronic signature and electronic documents in the definition of "written" and "in writing" as well as enable data-sharing models such as "strategic partnerships" or a central repository. This was also a draft placeholder, as staff needed to conduct further research.*
- 4.) Legislation to create an Extended Producer Responsibility law that permits states or*

county government to establish and maintain a pharmaceutical-funded prescription drug disposal program. Discussion ensued.

Recommended supporting the following federal initiative:

1.) *Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act*, which would reduce barriers and allow access to vital information for medical professionals to properly coordinate the care of patients with substance use disorders.

Reviewed three initiatives which are not recommended for inclusion but where collaboration with other entities would be beneficial:

1.) *Amending the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administrative rules and/or legislation to allow for joint application with other entities for financial assistance for disaster relief.* County Administrator Barry Burton added that this could have a very large impact on other counties and was a part of a much larger picture.

2.) *Discussing with the Comptroller's Office to determine the feasibility of including detailed financial reports in the State's database to increase transparency and identify opportunities for shared services.* Discussion ensued.

3.) *Collaborating with IEMA to identify strategies to change the way disaster documentation is reported, as the current method restricts the ability for local communities to assess and submit timely and accurate information.*

Presented five items that were not recommended for inclusion in the legislative agenda but were appropriate for support and leadership by statewide associations:

1.) *Amending the Illinois Election Code, shortening vote-by-mail ballots applications to be distributed 60 days rather than 90 days before an election to reduce voter confusion, and allow for more response time from the Clerk's Office.* Staff stated that the Clerk's Association would be the best organization to lead this. Member Frank requested a report on the Clerk's Association position on this topic. Discussion ensued.

2.) *Amending the Election Code to allow the election authority to close early voting sites the Monday before the election to enhance the election authority's ability to transition between procedures and maximize service to voters on election day.* Staff recommended that this item be led by Clerk's Association

3.) *Amending the Illinois Vital Records Act to permit electronic submission of fetal and stillbirth death records, via the electronic Illinois Vital Records system, to ensure registrars have accurate records and are more responsive to requests.* Staff expressed this item is better to be led by the Clerk's Association. Mr. Fetherston explained the state registrar is responsible for identifying how to submit this data; however, a specific method is not required by statute.

4.) *Request to eliminate third-party involvement in receiving and returning completed*

vote-by-mail applications. Changing the statute to require the submission of completed vote-by-mail ballot applications directly to the appropriate election authority would reduce response time and frustration by voters looking to confirm whether their vote-by-mail ballots had been received. Per staff, the clerk's association was the best organization to lead this.

5.) The Sheriff's Office requested the County to oppose House Bill 689, which would create a grant program out of the seized funds and assets from criminal violations. Law enforcement agencies currently have the authority to use these funds, but this bill would shift local funds into a state-administered grant program. Staff stated this item would be more appropriate for the Sheriff's Association to oppose.

Reviewed one initiative submitted by the Community Development Division that was not recommended for inclusion in the fiscal 2018 legislative agenda:

1.) Amending the definition of "public works" contained in the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, to limit its application to certain single-family housing developments required to maintain long-term affordability.

Kent Gaffney, representative of McGuire Woods, provided feedback on this year's legislative agenda. Specific to the County, there were some more complicated initiatives and the success of those would be limited this year. Mr. Gaffney reported there would be a greater chance for success the earlier proposals were carried through. There were larger initiatives in this year's proposed agenda that were beyond Lake County's scope that would be problematic for this current session.

Member Werfel inquired if the Collar Counties and Cook County are supportive of the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators Bill (JULIE) and if it would be successful in Springfield. Mr. Burton responded that this bill does not apply to Cook County because it is home rule; however, the Collar Counties were supportive. Mr. Gaffney provided his insight on the bills success in Springfield.

This item was discussed.

9. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

10. County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Barry Burton indicated more time will be spent this year to push the County's initiatives forward.

11. Members' Remarks

Co-Chair Hewitt suggested scaling down the number of initiatives on this year's Legislative Agenda.

County Administrator Barry Burton explained that these initiatives continue to be vetted.

Feedback will be shared with the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee as the program continues to develop. Discussion ensued regarding the need for an earlier meeting for the committee to provide additional feedback prior to approving the agenda on November 29. Staff stated they would coordinate with the committee as needed.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:21pm.

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

Aye: 4 - Co-Chairman Hewitt, Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Werfel

Absent: 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

Next Meeting: November 8, 2017 As Revised by Committee.

Meeting minutes prepared by Danya Abusoud.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee