

Lake County Illinois

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

12:00 PM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Hewitt called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

Absent 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

Others Present:

Mary Ross-Cunningham, County Board Member

Judy Martini, County Board Member

Aaron Lawlor, County Board Chairman

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Administrator

Paul Fetherston, Assistant County Administrator

DonnaJo Maki, County Administrator's Office

Ben Gilbertson, Finance and Administrative Services

Kent Gaffney, McGuire Woods Representative (via phone)

Danya Abusoud, Finance and Administrative Services

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Rummel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [17-1348](#)**

Minutes from November 8, 2017.

A motion was made by Member Werfel, seconded by Member Rummel, that the minutes 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

There were no Chairman's Remarks.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

8. New Business**8.1 [17-1335](#)**

Recommendation of the 2018 Lake County State and Federal Legislative Program.

Assistant County Administrator Paul Fetherston provided an overview of the revisions and modifications to the proposed legislative program.

There were no changes to the following State Initiatives to Sponsor or Support:

- 1) Final Notice of Taking for Vacant Property;*
- 2) Definition of Storm Sewers as Underground Utility Facility;*
- 3) Lakes Region Sanitary District Consolidation;*
- 4) Seavey Drainage District;*
- 5) Cemetery Association Appointment Authority;*
- 6) Board of Review Appointment Process; and*
- 7) Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouses Veterans with Disabilities.*

An update was provided on the following State Initiatives to Support:

1) Mental and Behavioral Health Coordination of Care: the consensus of the committee was that the County will support rather than sponsor this item. Mr. Fetherston explained the complexity of the initiative, noting it requires a lot of participation from stakeholders to bring forth a legislative solution.

2) Prescription Monitoring Program: Per the committee's discussion, this item has been removed from the legislative program, as the bill passed during the Veto Session.

3) Driver's License Reinstatement: this item was originally proposed to give the judiciary more discretion to waive or reduce fees. An existing state bill includes language on waiver of fees for nonmoving violations as well as other criminal offenses; however, there is no bipartisan support of the bill and it is not likely to pass. Staff met with various stakeholders from the State's Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office, as well as a representative of the Lake County Bar Association to discuss viable alternate legislative solutions; however, a consensus could not be reached. The County Administrator's Office and County Board Chairman Lawlor initially recommended that the initiative be removed from the legislative program as it is still in development. However, following the presentation of the recommendation before the Law and Judicial (L&J) Committee, the L&J Committee voted to recommend that the item be included in the legislative program with alternative language. Member Frank explained there was significant discussion amongst the L&J committee members regarding amending the language and its plan of action. Discussion ensued. The L&J committee unanimously supported the proposed draft for reinstatement.

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Werfel to reincorporate this initiative into the legislative program with the proposed language provided by staff as a result of the L&J Committee recommendation.

Co-Chair Hewitt suggested that the committee hear all options before voting.

Member Frank withdrew his motion and Member Werfel withdrew his second.

Mr. Fetherston reported that another option was to create a third category in the legislative program which would identify multi-year initiatives. Co-Chair Hewitt supported this option. County Board Member Ross-Cunningham expressed concerns regarding adding this item into a multi-year category. She implored the committee to add this initiative to the legislative program as recommended by L&J.

County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor was supportive of a third category with the proposed language provided by L&J. He did note that policy ideas without fully developed implementation proposals will stall any movement at the state level. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Werfel, to reinstate this initiative into the legislative program; and add a multi-year initiative category to the County's legislative program for any appropriate items that come up in 2018 or beyond.

Aye: 3 - Member Frank, Member Rummel and Member Werfel

Nay: 1 - Co-Chairman Hewitt

Absent: 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

Staff received a request from the Health and Community Services Committee to amend the language in guiding tenet number eight, as the current language could be perceived to oppose certain changes to revenues, such as the property tax exemptions. Member Frank, who inquired about the pending federal tax legislation and its impact on taxpayers, requested that staff complete an analysis.

A motion was made by Member Rummel, seconded by Member Frank, to approve the modified language for guiding tenet number eight to read as follows: oppose legislation that erodes existing state-appropriated County revenues.

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

Absent: 1 - Co-Chairman Mathias

This matter was approved

9. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

10. County Administrator's Report

Mr. Fetherston provided an update on the small cell bill. This item successfully passed both houses; however, it was not passed on to the governor for signature. Another iteration of this item is anticipated.

11. Members' Remarks

Member Rummel thanked the committee for supporting Julie Morrison's Bill, (SB 403), which provides for an income tax credit of \$750 for property owners in 18 counties where flood damage occurred in July. This bill was enacted in November.

Mr. Fetherston noted the Cook and Collar Counties 2018 legislative program will be discussed this week. Staff will keep the committee informed on what is adopted by the Cook and Collar Counties.

County Board Members Martini and Member Ross-Cunningham inquired on House Bill 851. Mr. Fetherston and County Board Chairman Lawlor will review this item and relay their findings to the committee. Discussion ensued.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

**A motion was made by Co-Chair Hewitt, seconded by Member Werfel 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: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Meeting minutes prepared by Danya Abusoud.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairman

Co-Chairman

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee