

Cook County Board of Commissioners  
Wednesday, January 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10 am by President John Stroger. **The agenda contained 53 items and an extensive financial agenda.**

President Stroger began the proceedings by commenting on his attendance at two events commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

The financial agenda was then addressed by Commissioner Daly. **Commissioner Quigley inquired as to why consultants' payments are so late after their contracts are fulfilled.** Answer: contracts are paid as soon as invoices are submitted. With few members abstaining or voting no, the items passed.

Zoning and Building items passed, as did Roads and Bridges.

President Stroger then presided over the regular agenda. Discussion centered around Item 29 requesting **an increase of \$6,118, 574.00 and extension for eleven months a contract with the Foster Group, Inc., to provide information systems in house for health services.** The Bureau of Health Services is deciding what can be kept in house and what should be contracted out. The motion to list responsibilities and timetables with a **3 year contract and 3 year option to renew was passed.**

David Orr's office requested authorization for its purchasing agent to **amend and increase funding for a new accounting system for integrated cashing and accounting system.** This will allow 24 million records to be converted into a digitized format. **Board approved** increase.

Bethany Hospital has closed its birthing services. Since County had used that service; questions were raised as to where doctors would now refer patients. Bethany had leased space. Commissioner Steele remarked that the birthing center served one patient a day and was not cost effective. Commissioner Claypool remarked that Bethany, now under Advocate Systems, hasn't applied to the state to close down services .

A resolution to **honor Daniel Pope Cook**, the first Attorney General of Illinois and whose name this county adopted, was read. The text included notations that Cook County is responsible for extensive highways, hospitals, parks, juvenile justice system, unified court system, 133 municipalities, 5.4 million residents, second largest county in the

nation, and the 19th largest government in the U. S. January 18 is designated as the acknowledgment and celebration of the founding of Cook County 175 year ago. Happy Birthday was sung and a cake was served after the meeting.

Considerable time was spent reviewing the **new Cook County policy on domestic and sexual violence in the workplace.** It covers definition of such violence, early intervention and education prevention strategies, leave option for survivors or who have family or household member who is a victim, procedures for related absences, retaliation protection for employees, disciplinary procedures for employees who commit acts or threats of domestic or sexual violence, guidelines and policies for implementation. Passed unanimously.

The Board then went into executive session. Public meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.

Observed and submitted by Julie Sass