

Cook County Board of Commissioners – October 16, 2007

All Commissioners present with the exception of Comm. Moreno.

Thinking that the budget and tax increases were to be discussed I went in early and secured a seat through Comm. Silvestri's office. At about 3:15PM I found I was wrong.

The meeting started at 10:30 to a packed house.

A delegation of about 30 or more people from Termini, Italy, sister city of Elk Gove Village, was seated. Comm. Schneider introduced the group. The delegation's leader spoke for the group through his translator. The commonality of Termini and Elk Grove Village is industry and close location to an airport. A reception was planned to 4:00PM on the 34th floor of 69 W. Washington.

There was an acknowledgement of the employee of the month, a relatively new practice. The award was given to Bruce Paprzyca from the Comptroller's office.

The next group of 7 was the Blue Ribbon Committee on Health Service.

Dr Larry Goodman presented the report from the committee. The recommendation was that the hospital could be better run with an outside CEO.

Dr. Goodman spoke for 2 hours, stating that the patients did receive good medical care. Mentioned during the presentation was that negative media reports were keeping patients with Medicaid and Medicare away. Also mentioned was the fact that morale was low, and for the 100th time, the poor billing and collection procedures.

At about 1:00PM Jennifer D.Vidis, who is leaving the County and taking a position with the Chicago Board of Education, was honored for her exceptional leadership as Executive Director of Cook County Department of Human Rights and Women's Issues since 1991. Ms. Vides received a law degree from Georgetown University.

At 1:30PM the boardroom was emptied to make room for friends and family of past president Bobbie Steele for the unveiling and hanging of Ms. Steele's portrait in the boardroom lobby.

Art Norman of Channel 5 news was the master of ceremonies.

At 3:00PM with (Comm. Daley as president pro tem,) the commission recommended approving several items before they closed for an executive session at 3:40PM.

I left at this time wondering who would entertain the Termini delegation at 4:00PM.
Mary Ann Tate
October 26, 2007