

## Cook County Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2006\_

10:00 am

The meeting was called to order by President of the Board, Bobbie Steele. A quorum was present. The agenda contained 68 items.

Since personnel from METRA and Pace were present their reports were heard first. Included were budgets for 2007 from PACE, the sixth largest bus system in North America, and METRA.

- PACE carries a deficit.
  - The RTA hasn't funded the PACE deficit and it was stated that the State of Illinois "must step up."
- The CTA didn't increase funding for para-transit.
- The RTA's campaign slogan is "moving beyond congestion." \_ \_
- METRA board does not see an increase in fees for '07.
  - The cost of fuel, electricity, and security are up.
  - There is a capital program's deficit because of rehab and track maintenance.
  - METRA has a 96% on time record. Several commissioners were glad to hear that the 35th St. station's contract has been let and that it will open in 2008.
- The issue of security was discussed with response that the transit systems rely heavily on the local police departments in the communities where an incident takes place. In unincorporated areas the Sheriff's Police is responsible.
- Commissioner Suffredin urged the institution of the universal fare card. Response was that METRA has it under study; it would require serious capital and would need state funding to make it happen. Commissioner Suffredin indicated that there would be support from the County Board in Springfield. He feels it would increase ridership.
- The report was accepted.

The board was then recessed to hear the Finance Committee Report. Commissioner Daley presented the *Finance Committee Report* which covered 33 pages. \_

- Approved pay outs for attorney fees/insurance settlements/transfers follow: \_  
Non capital cases: \$44,136 \_ Juvenile Cases: \$104,256 \_ Bill and Claims, including Health Facilities-not totaled \_ Industrial Claims: \$445,683\_  
Subrogation Recoveries: \$4,220 \_ Self-insurance claims \$450\_ Proposed settlements: \$780,000 \_ County Treasurer Office: \$43,928 for worker salaries for renovation.
- An ordinance authorizing Cook County to collect a fee to finance its drug court was approved at the Oct. 12 meeting,
- and a resolution was heard requesting a public hearing to discuss the most efficient and cost effective method of replacing the Stroger Hospital Cook County police force with an alternative security unit. Approved. \_

- It was reported that the Hay Group found no Shackman violations in its audit for 2004. Commissioner Quigley voiced the opinion that it was hard to believe that there were no violations in the audit. President Steele stated that there are 1-2,000 hires a year. There were 6 no votes on payment of \$40,000 (partial payment) to this company. \_\_
- Next meeting of the Finance Committee: 11-2-06.

Zoning and Building items passed;

Roads and Bridges passed.

Next meetings of the Finance Committee 11-2-06. \_ \_

The Board of Commissioners meeting resumed. All items were approved. Item of interest: a grant totaling \$12, 543,185 was approved for 41 agencies for employment and training. This is for the fiscal year ending '07.

Submitted by: Julie Sass