

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING NOV. 14th, 2006

Carol Brown gave the CTA report. The CTA is working with a structure deficit of 68 million dollars in '06. The County gives the CTA two million dollars for the operating fund each year. The CTA has a 1.13 billion a year budget.

Mr. Tom Glaser gave a report on the Bureau of Health and Cook County Hospital. The revenue collection contract is not producing revenue. The hospital staff is not filling out forms that generate income. Every week millions of dollars of services go uncollected. It is possible to collect \$220 million dollars a year. The company hired to collect revenue earns 15% of revenue collected.

The question debated all morning was should the County Commissioners give a new company the revenue collection contract? How will the situation improve if the previous contract workers will continue to be employed? Mr. Peñalosa said restructuring has been recommended for the past three years. Mr. Glaser, he hopes to receive 30 million dollars a month. A commissioner questioned the ability of the new contract firm since they have had difficulty in North Carolina and Nevada. Mr. Claypool said the Board should vote on a finished contract not one that is being negotiated at present.

A vote was taken on the new revenue collection firm negotiated contract which is not the final contract. The vote was 13 to 3. It seems County Hospital should be run like a business and produce the income it is entitled to.

Arline Doblin

A surprised budget amendment revealed the head of the Cook County Forest Preserve Supt. Steve Bylina, was to receive a \$12,000 raise. This would make his salary almost equal to the Cook County Board president. A second budget amendment would create a deputy superintendent making \$17,000 a year. Commissioner Forest Claypool said this is no time for giant pay raises for top executives while nothing has been done to streamline waist.