

Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting
November 20, 2007

Prior to the Board meeting the **Legislation, Intergovernmental and Veterans Relations Committee** met in the board room. All of the commissioners are on this committee and this meeting was chaired by Comm. Silvestri, the Vice-Chair of the Committee. He called the meeting to order at 9:30am and Comm. Beavers, Butler, Daley, Goslin, Peraica, Schneider, Sims, Claypool, Murphy and Gorman were present.

- The first items considered were the appointments (or reappointments – there was some confusion over this issue) of Michael Cushion and Alphonso Baldassano to the Addison Creek River Conservancy District. Neither individual was present at the meeting and the items were deferred.
- The next item was the appointment of Denise Roche-Evans to fill a vacancy on the Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board. She was in attendance and stated that she has been a county employee since 1976 and is the Director of Communications for the Police Department. In her capacity as the director of the 911 center she has been attending the meetings of this board but has never been a board member. Comm. Peraica asked for an opinion from the State's Attorney as to whether this would be a conflict of interest – serving on a board that allocates funds to a department that she directs. The SA stated that it might be and he needed to do further investigation. The item was deferred until an opinion from the State's Attorney on conflict of interest is rendered.
- A resolution entitled Homeowner and Bank Protection Act was introduced by Comm. Murphy having been referred to this committee on November 6. The resolution called for federal action to deal with the foreclosure crisis and asked for a moratorium on foreclosures. Peraica stated he thought the resolution was unconstitutional since it dealt with federal and banking issues. Murphy stated it was for protection of banks and consumers. A roll call vote was taken: Yes (4)- Beavers, Butler, Daley, Murphy No (6) – Claypool, Gorman, Goslin, Peraica, Schneider, Silvestri and 7 absent. The motion for approval failed.

This committee meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

The **Board of Commissioners** meeting was called to order by President Stroger at 10:05am. President Stroger announced that the county had again received the Outstanding Budget award and acknowledged the work of Jarese Wilson, Director of the Department of Budget and Management Services, Donna Dunnings, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Fratto, the Comptroller. They all came up front for a picture with the President and the award. Annette Marrow of the Medical Examiner's Office was recognized as Employee of the month.

At 10:30am the Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Comm. Daley.

Agenda items that were discussed included:

Item #290496 contract with Sieman's Medical Solutions. Comm. Peraica asked if this billing system is operational and used within the 3 hospital facilities of the Health System. Mr. Glaser, Hospital CEO, said there are no more unbilled boxes sitting around. Peraica asked if billing is going to be done manually in the future and Mr. Glaser stated that it would not be done manually.

Comm. Peraica raised a concern about a payment to Crowe and Chisick for an outside audit done in the Sheriff's office. Ms Berman, the County Auditor, reported that

- an unreconciled difference in the Inmate Fund of \$240,000 was found during an internal audit. Apparently then an outside audit was ordered for which there was a bill of \$220,000 and the commissioners don't think they approved this expenditure.
- Comm. Quigley asked for a procedural clarification on how the comptroller could make a payment if it has not been approved by the board. It was stated that the bill was referred to the Legislative Committee and approved there.
- The State's Attorney said that the board could pass an ordinance stating a preference that any and all outside work needs board approval.
- Comm. Silvestri wanted to know how inmate money got involved and how did an audit get ordered. Ms. Whittler, from the Sheriff's office stated that Mr. Gallagher, who was appointed as a special State's Attorney, decided that he wanted an audit of the funds in question and called the sheriff about doing one since it appeared that there might possibly be a misappropriation of inmate funds.
- The audit revealed that there probably was no misappropriation but a bookkeeping problem. The money to pay for the audit came through Mr. Gallagher's appointment since he determined he needed expert assistance.
- The bill has been paid. Comm. Beavers asked Ms. Berman what she meant by "moving on" with a bookkeeping reconciliation. It was stated that ultimately the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund may have to pay the Inmate Fund for the reconciliation.
- After much discussion it was decided that perhaps Mr. Gallagher should come before the Legislative Committee to discuss the issue further.

Item #289807 – Comm. Beavers asked if the MBE and WBE contracts were in compliance for this contract. He wanted to hold up approval to ensure that they were. Mr. Hylton, Director of the Bureau of Technology, stated that approval of this contract was needed since the AT&T contract is ending in December and this contract had gone through all the proper procurement channels and had been determined to be in compliance. The contract was approved.

Discussion of budget deficits -

- Mr. Fratto, the Comptroller, stated that overdrafts in departments will be reconciled at the end of the year when all the information has been compiled.

- Comm. Quigley stated that he thought fund transfers should be done prior to the end of the year and not after the year ends. He asked where the money would come from to make up for the Health Bureau deficit. Several commissioners asked how the forecasts which the Health Bureau had been providing throughout the year still came up short.
- Mr. Cookingham, Health Bureau CFO, stated that it turned out that of the 150,000 unfiled claims that had been in boxes at Stroger Hospital, only about 64,000 were able to be filed.
- Mr. Glaser, Health Bureau COO, stated that training has been done on billing procedures and efforts are in place to minimize errors.
- It was stated that Mr. Glaser and Mr. Cookingham did not develop the 2007 budget - they came in with those numbers already in place. They should be able to better project for 2008.
- For 2007 it now appears that the Bureau of Health has
 - overspent by \$26m and had a revenue shortfall of \$63m for a total deficit of \$89m.
 - Comm. Claypool stated that the county needs to go through the necessary process to get rid of employees that cannot do their jobs.
 - Comm. Butler asked for the ratio of supervisors to workers. They will get back to him on that.
 - Comm. Sims wanted to clarify that the classification “self pay” in essence means “no pay” and
 - Comm. Goslin again pointed out that that is approximately 47% of patients.

Bids Reports – Comm. Peraica asked if it would be possible to highlight items not going to the lowest bidder. The Purchasing Agent said she would see about that.

Comm. Daley reminded the commissioners that all budget amendments needed to be entered into the system. Training was provided for the commissioners and their staff on how to do that. Amendments will be discussed next Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 10am. The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Zoning and Building – called to order at 12:15pm by Comm. Silvestri. All items approved. Peraica, Quigley, Gorman and Goslin were opposed to billboards. Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Roads and Bridges – called to order at 12:18pm by Comm. Moreno. All items approved. Adjourned at 12:20pm.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 12:20pm.

Item #60 – Comm. Quigley asked about the highway department land that is up for bid. He wanted to know the status of other land parcels that might be available for sale. He asked that the Highway Dept. come back with a list. He thought there were about 20 different sites.

Action on remaining agenda items was routine with minimal discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Information Technology and Automation Committee – called to order at 1:10pm by Comm. Beavers.

Present: Comm. Moreno, Moldonado, Daley, Steele, Peraica, Goslin, Schneider, Gorman and Butler

The meeting was a discussion of the merits of keeping and maintaining the Z series mainframe system or converting to an internet based system for the IT needs of the county. Mr. Hylton, Director of the Bureau of Technology, spoke in favor of

- maintaining the Z series,
- renewing the IBM contract for another 3 years and
- beginning a comprehensive analysis of information system needs within the county in 2008.

Comm. Moreno had a speaker come to provide information about conversion to an I system. The discussion among the commissioners became heated with personal insults included. Resolution was not clear. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Reported by
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