

**Cook County Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2006**  
**10:00 am**

The meeting was called to order by President John Stroger. The agenda contained 64 items including committee reports from Business and Economic Development, Labor Subcommittee, Finance, Zoning and Building, Roads and Bridges.

President Stroger began the meeting by commenting on the campaign ads run by Commissioner Claypool who is challenging President Stroger in the Democratic primary for President of the County Board. He described the ads as racist and negative.

Commissioner Daley presented the Finance Committee Report which covered approximately 189 items. As it their custom, Commissioners presented blocks of items for passage, voting aye followed by individual commissioners who vote no or present on numbered items.

Zoning and Buildings items passed.

Roads and Bridges items passed.

Discussion centered again on the County's relationship with **Bethany Hospital. It is becoming a long term care facility and will discontinue services it had provided for Cook County Hospital patients.**

Commissioner Peraica questioned the claims for nurses who were injured during patient care. He was assured by Dr. Winship, Chief, Bureau of Health Services, that staff receives in service training on safety.

Discussion centered on the **reappointment of the members of the Cook County Workforce Investment Board.** These members review the requests for funding from the President's Office of Employment and Training which are then submitted to the Cook County Board for approval of grants. Commissioner Claypool wondered **if members whose agencies are receiving funds are in a conflict of interest.** The final outcome was President Stroger's retort to Commissioner Claypool that he take the matter to the Governor who sets the policy. The President also stated that the timing of the question was connected to coming election. Several Commissioners remarked that those Workforce Investment Board members whose agencies received money do recuse themselves from voting when appropriate and that the community board members reflect the needs of the communities in which they work and live. **Motion carried** with Commissioner Claypool voting no.

Two items concerned the **purchase of automobiles.** The Department of Environmental Control and the State's attorney's Office were applying for authorization to advertise for bids, in the first instance, for Toyota sedans and in the second, Chevrolet sedans. Discussion centered around the purchase of US made cars and the environmental impact. Commissioner Hansen voiced his concern that the automobiles accommodate taller citizens. The issue was tabled until more information can be presented.

Commissioner Claypool submitted an amendment to the **Cook County Ethics Ordinance: "All Cook County employees are prohibited from making any political campaign contribution to any elected official of Cook County or candidate for County office.** Elected officials of Cook County and candidates for County office shall not accept or receive any contributions violation of this subsection (f). Elected officials

shall not include members of the judiciary. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a Cook County elected official from giving or receiving a contribution to another Cook County elected official or candidate for County office.”

President Stroger introduced a representative of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office who stated that **the amendment violated local government employees political rights**. A very heated discussion followed with Commissioners voicing all sides of the issue. President Stroger stated that he would veto the measure immediately if passed. A roll call vote resulted in 7 yes and 10 no. **Measure died.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 am and the Board went into executive session regarding a personnel matter.

Observed and reported by Julie Sass