

Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, May 3, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:08am by Commissioner Moreno, acting as the presiding officer. Commissioner Claypoole requested clarification of who is running Cook County while President Stroger is incapacitated. Comm. Claypoole stated that there were significant issues like an impending nurses strike and an apparent budget deficit that require the attention of the President, and since there has been no update on when President Stroger might be returning, there needs to be some clarification of who is in charge. Comm. Moreno stated that the question was out of order and the issue was not on the agenda for discussion but that everything was being taken care of.

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Comm. Daley. Comm. Peraica inquired about Special Court Cases #278458 and 278460 which concerned an independent report by State's Attorney Patricia Bobb, which apparently was requested by the sheriff concerning the Burge case. Comm. Peraica wanted to know the status of the report. The Cook County State's Attorney stated that the findings might be top secret rulings and may not be released. Comm. Peraica stated that the public paid for the process and the public has the right to see the findings. He asked the State's Attorney to urge Judge Beibel to release the findings to the public.

Comm. Peraica then asked about Bills and Claims #278542 wanting to know for what we were paying a problem company like Environmental Design Intl., Inc. Comm. Collins stated that this was not a problem company. This company was engaged to plan for the demolition of Cook County Hospital. Comm. Peraica requested that the commissioners receive an update on the status of the work on Cook County Hospital. Comm. Daley said the bill just needed to be paid and the issue of Cook County Hospital was not on the agenda. Comm. Peraica said we just keep paying them and we don't know what is happening. Comm. Butler wanted to make it clear that the board never voted to preserve Cook County Hospital. This bill is for the planning necessary for tearing down the wings of the old structure. The actual demolition process will need to go out for bid.

A proposed amendment to the Ethics Ordinance (item# 276742) regarding preservation of records, generated discussion about exactly how long records should be kept and what records the amendment referred to. The issue was referred to the Finance Committee for further clarification. All items on the agenda for the meeting were approved as recommended.

A reference was made to financial reports that the commissioners had received that indicated the budget was \$23million short. A question was asked about what format the commissioners could use to raise questions about the reports. Chairman Daley indicated that a meeting would be scheduled next Tuesday or Wednesday for that purpose. The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Zoning and Building Meeting was called to order at 10:56am by Comm. Silvestri. All items were approved as recommended and the meeting was adjourned at 11:11am. The

Roads and Bridges Meeting was called to order at 11:12am by Comm. Hansen. All items were approved as recommended and the meeting was adjourned at 11:13am.

The Cook County Board was reconvened at 11:13am. The following items were discussed:

Item #16 - Comm. Moldanado asked about the purpose of an intergovernmental agreement concerning the Child Support Enforcement Program and was told by Daniel Coughlin, Ex. Dir. Of the Judicial Advisory Council that it was a state requirement.

Item #24 - Comm. Hansen wanted to know how many bids could be expected for generating revenue through recycling at the jail. He was informed that bids average about \$45/ton and last year they made about \$20,000 in revenue.

Item #30 requested authorization for bids for security at 2 DPH Clinic Sites. Comm. Claypoole asked if all DPH clinics had security. Stephen Martin of the DPH stated that these 2 clinics are not part of the courts building and therefore need separate security. Those clinics that are part of the courts have security provided through the sheriff's office.

Item #45 requested authorization for a 3 month contract extension to allow for a contract for the purchase of meat at the Juvenile Detention Center to be rebid. Comm. Silvestri asked Mr. Robinson from the Juvenile Detention Center if there was a system in place to know when contracts were expiring. He stated that there is a process in place and that was why the extension was being requested.

All agenda items were approved as recommended. Other items had only minimal or no discussion.

The Board of Commissioners went into recess at 12noon to clear the room so that they could reconvene in closed session to consider the impending nurses strike at Stroger Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Schilsky, LWVCC Observer