

Cook County Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
10:00 am

Chairman Todd Stroger called the meeting to order and two resolutions were brought before the Board: one honoring the 70th anniversary of Dr. Bernard Fantus's procedure to allow blood to be stored, and a recognition of Mayor Stephens, Rosemont, on the event of his death.

The County Clerk's office reported that the bench marks set for the Sequoia voting system were met. Precincts were set up the night before. Touch screens were used by 60% of the voters. The office is trying to work on presidential election systems to ensure efficiency.

As is the board's custom it adjourned the meeting for the Finance Committee report. There was the usual discussion about the length of the coverage for legal services that represent juveniles. Apparently, they are legally covered until they are graduated out of the system.

I was unable to get a copy of the Agenda. I will try to call my Commissioner's office before my next meeting to see if she can save one for me. They just didn't appear for the public with the other agendas.

The Commissioners showed the usual frustration in the slowness of billing re the Heath Services. The Commissioners wondered if the statements made to the public through the media regarding the moving of surgery cases from Provident to Stroger could be explained. Apparently, health workers and patients claimed that there was overlong delay in hip replacements due to the staff shortage. Robert Simon, MD, Chief of Health Services claimed that emergency cases are not being delayed; emergency room orthopedics are sent to Stroger.

The issue of undocumented workers was raised. County employees are forbidden to ask citizenship status. The board was reminded that undocumented workers do pay taxes: sales, property and others.

The bidding process for sheriff police vehicles was discussed again. Commissioners question why all bids are not placed at the same time.

The County is renting additional space to store its court and health records in Hawthorne. Questions were raised about storage at Provident as they have floors with empty beds. Staff indicated that space would not be appropriate for this need. Eighty boxes of bills have been handled to date.

Agenda items for Board meeting, Roads and Bridges, Zoning and Building Committees were reviewed and acted upon. The meeting ended before 12 noon.

Compiled by Julie Sass.