

Cook County Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
10:00 am

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Joseph Mario Moreno, acting on behalf of the absent President John Stroger, who was still hospitalized. Several commissioners were absent due to memorial services for The Honorable Lovana S, "Lou" Jones, Illinois House of Representatives. The board deferred its agenda to hear reports from Finance, Zoning and Building, Roads and Bridges.

Commissioner Daley presented the *Finance Committee Report* which covered 186 items and totaled \$2,558,256.00-rounded. Item 278798 was discussed for some time. To summarize, State's Attorney, Richard Devine advised that the County permit the entry of the Agreed Supplemental Order regarding Jimmy Doe v County of Cook. This class action litigation was brought on behalf of juveniles in the County Justice System. It was originally brought in 1999 and resolved by a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties, approved by the District Court in December 2002.

The Plaintiffs were represented by the ACLU. The pending petition does not require Cook County to transfer settlement funds to the plaintiffs' class as part of this resolution. Rather Cook County will be required to reimburse the Monitor's Designees and the Compliance Administrator with reasonable compensation and their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the course of their work pursuant to the Agreed Supplemental Order.

Synopsis of the discussion by the commissioners follows. This decree mandates decent health care, safe and reasonable discipline, and provision of basic needs. Staff who violated these mandates have been removed. To date, however, a Compliance Administrator has not been hired.

Commissioners voiced the opinion that monitoring should be taken out of political control. Also, it was stated that nothing will change without hearings. Monitors need to continue as long as case is before court and Judge Norenberg. Since the public paid for the report it needs to be brought out to the public.

Youth are in the system for an average of 23 days. So when educational help begins it is cut short. The system is broken, the state legislature needs to help. Surprise unannounced visits should happen.

Zoning and Buildings items passed.

Roads and Bridges items passed.

The Board of Commissioners reconvened and reviewed its agenda which contained 53 items including waiver of permits, medical appointments, permission to advertise, contract approvals, several resolutions including one to honor broadcaster, Dick Kay on his retirement and a resolution to deliver a statement to the President of the United States and elected officials from Illinois designating health care as a basic need.

On another matter, Commissioner Hansen complained that minority set asides are unfair as they favor certain populations and cost the County money by not awarding contracts to the lowest bidders. Commissioner Collins refuted the statement.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

Observed and reported by Julie Sass