

Cook County Board Meeting
Thursday September 7, 2006
10:00 am

The meeting was called to order by newly appointed President of the Board, Bobbie Steele. A quorum was present. The agenda contained 166 items. The board had not met since July.

President Steele stated that her goal in her short term ending in January of 2007 will be to present a blueprint for getting the county on solid footing. She has asked the Commissioners to submit individually the issues they see as most pressing. Those Commissioners who hadn't responded were urged to use this window of opportunity to do so. "Change is on the way," she stated.

Resolutions were read and acted upon including a musical presentation by parents of an autistic child to publicize this cause.

The board was then recessed to hear the Finance Committee Report.

Commissioner Daley presented the *Finance Committee Report* which covered 143 pages. Categories breakdown as follows:

Appellate Cases to be ratified and approved totaled: \$10,236.10
Non capital cases: \$131,705
Domestic Relations Civil Contempt Cases: \$66500
Juvenile Cases: \$341,344
Special Court Cases: \$1,054,229
Supreme Court Cases: \$17, 670
Special Court Criminal Cases: \$222, 408
Bill and Claims, including Health Facilities
Industrial Claims: \$749,466
Self-insurance claims \$29,057
Proposed settlements: \$646.183
Patient Arrestee Claims: \$92, 932
County Treasurer Office: \$51,422 for worker salaries for renovation and
relocation project at the Hawthorne warehouse
Employee injury compensation committee: \$754,999.
All figures rounded.

There was discussion about the county's expenditure in the Burge Chicago Police torture case. Concern was voiced that the recent conflict of interest discovery re the judge might necessitate more legal fees. There was also concern voiced that when investigations are made public nothing results from them. President Steele commented that she has assembled a team of lawyers to assess such problems.

In discussion about the health system it was noted that the county is 60 million below what it had projected for collections. Dr. Winship was questioned about solving this problem. He responded that they are trying to increase collections by an RFP to find vendor to help with collection and billing, Each unit must develop 4% reduction for last 3 months of the year. Human Resources and Public Relations have been consolidated but this will show minor reduction in deficit. Super Bill has been implemented but not fully operational. President Steele commented that she has an advisory committee working on the health system and it will present its blueprint at the end of the month.

Public Safety has a budget of \$1.1 billion and the Bureau of Health has 40% of the total

budget. It is projected that by August they will be short 70 million in revenue. The overtime pay outs were described as excessive. Staff stated that they are attempting to oversee the expenditures beyond the budget. It was noted that Medicare/Medicaid do not reimburse for incarcerated patients. The county will begin to bill patient's home counties when outside of Cook (approximately 5%), which has not been instituted to date.

The Clerk's office stated that previous problems with elections are being addressed. Each precinct will have a trained person in attendance. An analysis of the software will be presented to the board. There will be a test in 2 weeks in Cicero Township's 51 precincts with a complete election day simulated.

Note: a new pharmacy will be built at Provident Hospital.

A contract for over 2 million for IBM equipment software maintenance and support services over a three year period was approved (according to my notes).

The county collects \$108 million in motor fuel taxes annually. This covers allocations to: CTA, Safety, Road Construction.

Hearings before the Health and Hospital Committee and Finance Committee will be held to hear findings contained in the Health Policy Report by Northwestern University regarding the Cook County Health Care System.

There were a few resolutions to be discussed but at 1:40 pm I concluded my attendance at the meeting.

Submitted by Julie Sass