

NEW ITEMS AGENDA

**Meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building
Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 10:00 A.M.
Issued: Thursday, April 26, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

NEW ITEM #1

Submitting a Proposed Ordinance Amendment sponsored by:

JOHN A. FRITCHEY, County Commissioner

COUNTY FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, contingency funds were created to assist Commissioners in the execution of their official duties; and

WHEREAS, guidelines were created in order to stipulate and regulate the proper use of said funds; and

WHEREAS, within 30 days of the end of each quarter of the County's fiscal year, each Commissioner must submit an expenditure report detailing the expenses incurred by his or her office during that quarter to the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, supported by appropriate documentation; and

WHEREAS, monies expended from the contingency fund found not to be in compliance with the aforementioned guidelines must be returned to Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Cook County Board of Ethics is charged with determining compliance with said guidelines; and

WHEREAS, despite the above mentioned guidelines, reporting mechanisms, compliance oversight and restitution measures, contingency funds usage by Cook County Commissioners has and continues to be a source of controversy, misunderstanding and purported misuse; and

WHEREAS, in order to definitively remedy this contentious program and preserve the public trust, this Honorable Body should take the exemplary step to eliminate said program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that Chapter 34 Finance, Article II, County Funds and Accounts, Section 34-40 of the Cook County Code is hereby amended as follows:

~~Sec. 34-40. Use of contingency funds by Commissioners (018-890).~~

~~(a) Contingency funds may be provided to assist Commissioners in the execution of official duties.~~

~~(b) The following guidelines shall apply to the expenditure and reimbursement of contingency funds by each Commissioner:~~

COMMISSIONERS continued

NEW ITEM #1 cont'd

~~(1) Contingency funds shall be expended for:~~

~~a. Costs relating to attendance at meetings and events, including meals, in the performance of official duties;~~

~~b. Travel and transportation expenses for county functions, meetings and duties. Such expenses may include reimbursement for automobile usage;~~

~~c. Educational programs related to government, finance, or other topics generally associated with the functions of county government;~~

~~d. Newspapers, journals, magazines, or books related to official duties;~~

~~e. Membership fees for community, or civic organizations;~~

~~f. Attendance at civic, social, fraternal, and other events sponsored by community groups and associations, including religious and charitable events, as long as such expenses for attendance are for attendance at such events and not for the general promotion of any particular religious, philanthropic, or charitable mission or objective;~~

~~g. Costs directly related to the provision of constituent services.~~

~~(2) Funds shall not be utilized for political activities, including, but not limited to:~~

~~a. Travel or transportation expenses to political or fundraising events;~~

~~b. The printing, publishing, or mailing of materials for political or fundraising events;~~

~~c. Donations to campaign funds.~~

~~(3) Contingency funds shall not be expended for or accepted as additional income.~~

~~(4) Within 30 days of the end of each quarter of the County's fiscal year, each Commissioner shall submit an expenditure report detailing the expenses incurred by his or her office during that quarter to the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, supported by:~~

~~a. Mileage logs, fuel receipts, and proof of payment for financing costs associated with a vehicle used in the performance of official duties;~~

~~b. Copies of travel documents;~~

~~c. Copies of cancelled checks;~~

COMMISSIONERS continued

NEW ITEM #1 cont'd

~~d. Course descriptions for qualified educational programs;~~

~~e. Receipts for or any other records related to expenses specified in this section.~~

~~(5) The Director of the Cook County Board of Ethics shall determine compliance with this section.~~

~~(6) The Secretary to the Board of Commissioners shall post the expenditure reports described in Subsection (b)(4) to a publicly accessible web page within 15 days of receipt.~~

~~(7) Monies expended from the contingency fund found not to be in compliance with the above guidelines shall be returned to Cook County.~~

Effective Date: This Ordinance Amendment shall be effective upon passage.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NEW ITEM #2

Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by:

DEBORAH SIMS and PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**TO AMEND THE REDISTRICTING PROCEDURES
FOR THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-105 (e) of the Rules, the 2010 Redistricting Committee has been established by the Cook County Board of Commissioners to review the 2010 U.S. Census data and to make recommendations to the Cook County Board of Commissioners for new County Board district boundaries; and

COMMISSIONERS continued

NEW ITEM #2 cont'd

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2012 the 2010 Redistricting Committee established procedures for redistricting, including but not limited to procedures to be followed by the Committee and the public, the need for public hearings and the establishment of guidelines for public access; and

WHEREAS, the March 13, 2012 Resolution establishing the Redistricting Procedures indicated that all original plans produced by the public are due by May 1, 2012 and that a plan may describe a single district or a combination of districts; furthermore, the public was encouraged to propose plans that incorporate all 17 districts.

WHEREAS, since the March 13, 2012 Resolution establishing the Redistricting Procedures, and as of May 2, 2012 the Redistricting Committee will have held four public hearings; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of testimony provided by the public, it is recommended that additional time be afforded to the public to submit plans for consideration and that the May 1, 2012 date for public plan submission be extended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY that the Redistricting Procedures approved on March 13, 2012 by the 2010 Redistricting Committee are hereby amended to allow all original plans produced by the public to be due on May 8, 2012 instead of May 1, 2012.