

## LAKE COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

### SPECIAL CALL MEETING

Friday, January 30, 1998

The Lake County Board met in a Special Call Session as a Committee-Of-The Whole held on Friday, January 30, 1998 in the Courthouse in Waukegan, Illinois. Chairman Robert Grever called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked for a moment of silent prayer. The Chair led the Pledge to the Flag. County Clerk Willard Helander called the roll. Members present were: Calabresa, Carter, Cole, Halas, Kyle, Marks, Mountsier, Nixon, O'Kelly, Schmidt, Schulien, Spielman, Stanczak, and Westerman. Members Beattie, Buhai, LaBelle, Martini, and Newton were late. Members Leafblad, Neal and Stolman were absent.

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALL

1. County Clerk Helander read the Notice of Special Call.

### NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion regarding the closure of the Commonwealth Edison Zion Nuclear Plant.

Chairman Grever opened by stating that this meeting had been organized and put together at the request of Senator Geo-Karis, with Chairman Grever being happy to host the meeting to accomplish a dialogue and communication concerning this issue. Chairman Grever asked for cooperation in keeping the meeting informative, friendly, and constructive. It is a discussion meeting only; no action will be taken.

Chairman Grever turned the meeting over the Senator Geo-Karis who introduced the ComEd representatives and other public officials. Chairman Grever stated that mayors and city representatives of 52 municipalities in the County had been invited.

The Senator introduced the ComEd representatives present: Lou Del George - Vice President; John Hooker - Vice President of Governmental Affairs; Joe Trexler - Public Affairs Director and Dick Tuetken - Manager of Decommissioning Projects. The agenda proposed is as follows: Introduction by John Hooker, Economic Story by Lou Del George, and Assistance To Communities by Joe Trexler.

Mr. Hooker addressed the group by stating that the goal today is to tell what we are doing at Zion station and why: 1) why decision was made by Unicom; 2) decommissioning process; 3) transition for employees at Zion station; 4) efforts to ease economic impact; and 5) questions and answers. The decision to close Zion was a difficult one.

Mr. Del George stated that this decision was made with certainty and sadness. The decision was also made with a sound foundation; the decision was an economic one because of deregulation and the need to be competitive in the new electric generation market. There are two

nuclear generating units at Zion; both were shut down and a restart did not make economic sense. An analysis had three factors: 1) cost of operating and supporting the plant in the future; 2) number of years the plant was expected to operate; and 3) projected price of electricity in the new open marketplace. The Zion plant has a high operating cost because of its age and evaluation of the steam generators showed that their useful life was shorter than anticipated so the decision was made to close the plant and take a write off of more than five hundred million dollars. In addition with the closure of Zion station ComEd is working with other utilities and power suppliers to obtain transmission service rights and replacement power from them. These actions taken together will support continued reliability of our electricity system.

Mr. Del George stated that ComEd is working closely with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. All required protection systems, safety procedures and monitoring systems will remain in position until decommissioning. All will remain in effect until 2014 (final decommissioning).

Mr. Del George addressed employee issues. He reported that only contract employees have been released so far. They currently employ 800 people. This number will be reduced to 150 to 200 within 6 months. These employees will remain to help prepare for final decommissioning. Since January 15, ComEd has opened an employee career transition center. More than 700 employees have visited and used this resource. They provide help with updating resumes, interview methods, financial workshops and counseling. Dennis O'Connor (Human Resources Manager) and Kathy Simon (Occupational Health Services Director) are hosting job fairs. Employees will also receive a severance package.

Mr. Trexler spoke about efforts to assist Zion and the surrounding county area which included: 1) continued real estate tax payments at current levels through the year 2000; 2) contributions to economic development at the \$25,000 level over the next three years; 3) retaining an economic development professional to work with the City of Zion for a three year period, 4) contributions to United Way in lieu of employee contributions over a period of years; 5) continue to provide emergency planning financial assistance. The decision to close was not an easy one; we all know families that will be impacted by this decision.

The ComEd representatives then entertained questions and comments from the County Board Members, public officials and the public.

Board Members expressed their key areas of concern which included: 1) safety for residents; 2) effect of the closure on employees and the community; 3) reduction in the tax base; and 4) prompt removal of spent fuel.

Mayor Paxton of Zion, Mayor Durkin of Waukegan, Linda Hauck - Zion Township Assessor, Al Hill - Director of Zion Park District, and Tim Osmond - Antioch Township Supervisor all expressed their questions and concerns. There were also comments from Mr. Frank DiMarco and Mr. Bob Sabonjian.

Closing Comments

Senator Geo-Karis thanked Chairman Grever and County Board Members. She also thanked the ComEd representatives and asked that they take the message back.

Chairman Grever extended his thanks to ComEd and Senator Geo-Karis.

ADJOURNMENT

3. Member Newton moved, seconded by member Kyle, to adjourn the Special Call Meeting. Chairman Grever called for a Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Willard R. Helander  
Lake County Clerk

Minutes approved:

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