

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW

Report of Proceedings had in the
above-entitled matter this 26th day of May, A.D. 2022
at the hour of 9:30 o'clock a.m., via
videoconference.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN LARRY ROGERS, JR.

COMMISSIONER MICHAEL M. CABONARGI

COMMISSIONER TAMMY WENDT

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILLIAM O'SHIELDS

Reported by:
Brad Benjamin, CSR, RPR

- 1 A G E N D A
- 2
- 3 I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- 4 II. Pledge of Allegiance
- 5 III. Public Participation
- 6 IV. Approval of Minutes from January 3, 2022,
Meeting
- 7 V. Old Business
- 8 1. CCSAO Advisory Opinion regarding public
9 participation in CCBOR's public meetings
- 10 2. 2021 Tax Year Schedule of public meetings
- 11 VI. New Business
- 12 1. FY23 Budget Forecast
- 13 2. FY22 OT and Resource Request from
President's Office
- 14 VII. Executive Session, if necessary
- 15 Adjournment of meeting with the Board remaining in
16 continuous session for the purpose of adjudication of
appeals and other matters as required by Illinois
17 Property Tax Code
- 18
- 19
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1 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right. It looks like the
2 court reporter has arrived, and let's get started
3 with the meeting.
4 Call to order. This is for the
5 rollcall.
6 Commissioner Cabonargi?
7 (No response.)
8 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Is Commissioner Cabonargi
9 present?
10 Mike, I can't hear you. Are you
11 there? You're on mute.
12 Commissioner Wendt, present?
13 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Present.
14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Commissioner Cabonargi,
15 present?
16 (No response.)
17 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I can see Mike is there, but
18 he's not responding.
19 Commissioner Cabonargi, present?
20 (No response.)
21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Commissioner Cabonargi,
22 present? Commissioner Cabonargi, present?
23 Commissioner Cabonargi?
24 Mike, I just need you to say "present"

1 for the court reporter.

2 Can't hear you. I'm not hearing you,
3 Mike.

4 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Chair Rogers, can you
5 hear me?

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Now we can you.

7 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Great.

8 I apologize about that.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: No problem.

10 Let the record reflect that all
11 Commissioners are present. We have a -- late
12 attendance.

13 Commissioner Wendt, would you like to
14 lead the pledge of allegiance?

15 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Sure. I'm going to stand.
16 You guys want to stand.

17 (Pledge of allegiance.)

18 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: This meeting was publicized
20 for public participation.

21 Do we have any members of the public
22 that are participating, Mr. Belz?

23 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: If anybody wishes to
24 make a public comment, please click the hand icon on

1 your screen.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. I don't see any hands.

4 Moving on, can I have a motion to
5 approve the Minutes from the January 3rd, 2022,
6 meeting.

7 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: So moved.

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Is there a second?

9 You're muted, Commissioner Wendt.

10 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: There's been a motion; it's
12 been seconded.

13 All those in favor, indicate approval
14 of the Minutes by saying "aye."

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: The motion passes; the
17 Minutes are approved.

18 Old Business:

19 Starting with the Cook County State's
20 Attorney's Office's advisory opinion regarding public
21 participation in Cook County Board of Review public
22 meetings.

23 William, what's the status of that?

24

1 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Good
2 morning, Commissioners of the Cook County Board of
3 Review.

4 That opinion has been requested, and
5 we're just waiting for the delivery of that opinion.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. Any further comment on
7 that?

8 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah. I do.

9 I know that we -- a motion was made
10 last time and approved to consider a new
11 participation policy.

12 Are we waiting to create this policy?
13 Because, you know, it's statutory, and without one it
14 could be the Wild West.

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Without a policy?

16 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Right. Without a public
17 participation policy in writing.

18 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: We -- we're open to
19 considering any policy you want to propose. We have
20 publicized the meetings for public participation and
21 haven't had an issue thus far. We welcome public
22 participation, obviously.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, yeah. Statutorily,
24 we have to, but I think we need to -- I know we have

1 to put a policy in place in writing, or we can't, you
2 know, require a limitation on the minutes that people
3 speak.

4 So if we could just put something in
5 writing. You know, I know that the County -- we were
6 supposed to look at the County public participation.
7 I don't know if you looked at that, William, but
8 there are three minutes. So if we -- I would suggest
9 three minutes.

10 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Sure.

11 Why don't we ask William to pull the
12 County's public participation policy and circulate it
13 to the Commissioners for con- -- the Commissioners
14 and their chiefs for consideration. And then we can
15 decide whether that language is -- needs to be
16 modified or is acceptable for our agency.

17 Sound good?

18 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Sounds good to me.

19 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Sounds good. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right.

22 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I also wanted to suggest
23 one more thing here under this -- I'm sorry.

24 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yes?

1 COMMISSIONER WENDT: We need to appoint an OMA
2 officer per statute. So I would, you know, make a
3 motion to do that. And, without a secretary, I think
4 probably the chief clerk should be appointed until a
5 secretary is hired.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER WENDT: You know, the statute --
8 just so you know, I have the statute, and it states
9 that every public body shall designate employees,
10 officers to receive training on compliance with this
11 act.

12 So, you know, I just think that we
13 need to appointment somebody at this point to be our
14 OMA officer.

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. That item is not on
16 the Agenda. I'm happy to consider it. I have not
17 reviewed the statutes you're referencing. So if you
18 wouldn't mind -- well, what I'll do is I'll request
19 that my staffs provide me with a copy of it. I'll
20 review it, and then we can consider it either at our
21 next meeting if not beforehand. Okay?

22 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I was actually
23 going -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Wendt?

24 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, I just thought that

1 it would fall under Agenda Item No. 1 regarding
2 public participation, because that is a OMA
3 requirement. That is why I brought that up.

4 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: No. I understand. I just
5 haven't had -- I haven't had a chance to review the
6 statute that you have in front of you.

7 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: So I don't want to make a
9 decision on what we need to do without having
10 reviewed it. Okay?

11 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: And I was going to --
13 Chair Rogers, I was going to say that I think what
14 William was saying -- and, William, correct me if I'm
15 wrong -- is you're waiting for guidance from the
16 State's Attorney on -- or another body on public
17 participation?

18 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Yes --

19 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Okay.

20 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: --
21 Commissioner Cabonargi.

22 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: So I would just -- in
23 that case I would just table this to the next
24 regularly scheduled meeting, which leads us to our

1 next item which is putting together the schedule for
2 the remaining -- for the rest of this year, hence
3 picking out some dates at this point preliminarily to
4 put on the calendar.

5 Commissioner Wendt, your point about
6 an Open Meetings Act officer or a director, I would
7 like the staff to talk internally to figure out who
8 has the bandwidth to do it now, because, as we all
9 know, we're going into our busiest time of the year
10 for the rest of the spring through the summer and
11 into the fall. So I want to make sure whoever our
12 OMA director or counselor is, is they -- it's not
13 going to take them away from our core duties of
14 finishing in a timely fashion.

15 But I would move to put the matter of
16 appointment of an OMA officer to the -- to add that
17 to new business to be heard at the next regular
18 scheduled meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, first, I want to
20 say, though, that I know, Larry, you talked about not
21 being able to review the statute. But I know that my
22 chief sent the statute to the chiefs. So they all
23 have it.

24 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. He didn't -- I don't

1 have it. He didn't send that to me. I didn't review
2 it. So, again, it's not on the Agenda. The
3 Agenda -- it could have been put on the Agenda. It
4 just hasn't been. We are clearly -- we publicized
5 this meeting for public participation. So I think
6 we're conducting ourselves consistent with the
7 statute.

8 The appointment of -- the appointment
9 of an OMA officer is something -- again, I want to
10 review what the statutory requirements are. I'd like
11 to review, you know, what resources are available,
12 maybe who serves in that capacity for the County
13 and -- for the County Board of Commissioners, and
14 who -- and what their duties and responsibilities
15 are. And, as Mike indicated, who has the bandwidth
16 to handle it within our agency given our current
17 significant demands with the data dump we received
18 from the assessor.

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah. Commissioner, I did
20 ask for this to be on the Agenda. William decided
21 not to put it on the Agenda. So...

22 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: So, Chairman Rogers, I
23 think I -- I moved. There's a motion on the floor.
24 So if there's a second --

1 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: -- on the motion --
3 okay.

4 So I would move to call the question
5 on debate on my motion -- the motion be read back --
6 is that we move to place on New Business for this
7 meeting to be heard as old business at the next
8 meeting appointment of an OMA officer.

9 Is there a second on the motion to
10 call the question?

11 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I second the motion.

12 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Right. So I think now
13 we move to a vote on ending debate and calling the
14 question.

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All in favor of the motion?

16 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye.

18 Commissioner Wendt?

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Nay.

20 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you.

21 The ayes have it. It will be on the
22 Agenda for the next meeting.

23 Second item on Old Business in the
24 current Agenda is the 2021 Tax Year Schedule of

1 Public Meetings.

2 When do we propose a suggestion that
3 we have another public meeting?

4 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I have some suggested
5 dates that we could put on the books. I mean, of
6 course, these could be changed, but July 11th;
7 September 12th; December 5th -- that one I know is
8 statutorily required.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Any comment, Mike?

10 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Oh.

11 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER WENDT: You know what? William
13 has all of these, actually.

14 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Yeah. I think,
15 William, do you have proposed dates or dates that you
16 talked with? I don't know if you want to run through
17 them again.

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: William? You're on mute,
20 William.

21 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: We do
22 have dates that have been discussed internally.
23 Commissioner Wendt just relayed July 11th, September
24 12th, December 5th. We also have discussed July

1 13th, September 14th, and the possibility of November
2 9th.

3 So I think that on a management level
4 that we can agree on the dates certain for the next
5 meetings. What we're looking at now is a July
6 meeting, and so the dates that have been offered are
7 either July 11th or July 13th.

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Any preference from your
9 standpoint, Mike?

10 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: No. Yeah. Those July
11 dates work.

12 9, 11 or -- I think 9, 11, or 13th
13 have been proposed. Commissioner Wendt recommended
14 9, and, then, I think the staff recommendation,
15 William, is 11/13. I should say "proposed." I don't
16 know if anybody's recommended.

17 COMMISSIONER WENDT: July 11th -- July 11th is
18 the proposed --

19 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: July 11th? Okay.

20 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Yeah.
21 The difference between a Monday versus a Wednesday
22 meeting.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Either --

24 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: For the

1 July and the September meetings.

2 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: July 11th actually works a
3 little better for me.

4 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Sure.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: So why don't we go with -- if
6 July 11th is acceptable to everyone, we'll do July
7 11th.

8 In terms of September, is there a
9 preference for the 12th or the 14th?

10 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I would prefer
11 September 12th.

12 COMMISSIONER WENDT: That's fine.

13 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. September 12th. And,
14 then, December 5th is statutory.

15 Okay. So we have our -- is there a
16 motion to -- is there a motion to approve a meeting
17 schedule of July 11th at 9:00 a.m., September 12th at
18 9:00 a.m., and December 5th at 9:00 a.m.?

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I'll make the motion.

20 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I second it.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. There having been a
22 motion; it's been seconded.

23 All those in favor, indicate by saying
24 "aye."

1 (Chorus of ayes.)

2 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Let the record reflect
3 that the motion carries.

4 New Business:

5 What's this -- who wants to report on
6 the Cook County Board of Review's remote work for the
7 2021 tax year?

8 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Before we do that, can we
9 just discuss a couple of items that were open from
10 the last meeting that were tabled? Well, actually,
11 just -- really, just one: the pool staff employee
12 that was terminated. I just wanted to know -- you
13 know, the one who was indicated in the Sun Times as
14 taking a bribe for a reduced assessment.

15 Who instructed HR to terminate him?

16 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Again, that's not something
17 that's on the Agenda. I don't have specific data on
18 that. We haven't gathered that in preparation for
19 the meeting. It's something you can clearly submit a
20 request to the -- to Debra on, and we can sort that
21 out, but it's not something we're prepared to address
22 today.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, it was Old Business.
24 That's why I'm addressing it.

1 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Again, we have a formal
2 agenda. It's not on the Agenda.

3 Moving on to New Business, what's the
4 status of the remote work for the 2021 tax year?
5 William, you want to report on that?

6 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS:
7 Commissioner Rogers, I have -- for the agenda that
8 was published, I do not see that.

9 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah. I don't see that on
10 the Agenda either.

11 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yeah. I'm sorry. I'm
12 looking at a draft agenda. I apologize.

13 New Business:

14 Is it the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
15 Forecast?

16 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: That's
17 what I have on mine. Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. William, what's the
19 status?

20 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: The
21 status of the Fiscal Year '23 -- 20- -- yeah -- 2023
22 Budget Forecast is that that preliminary forecast was
23 submitted to the Budget Department on its due date,
24 May 23rd. It essentially is estimation of occurring

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1 and future fiscal year spending and not an agreement
2 on that spending.

3 Specifically, we informed the Budget
4 Department that the Board would exhaust all of its
5 Fiscal Year '22 funds on or before November 30th of
6 2022. In addition, our Fiscal Year '23 projection
7 will equal our fiscal year approved budget.

8 Now, the opportunity to request -- to
9 request additional Fiscal Year '23 funds will be
10 during our Mid-year Fiscal Year '23 Budget Hearing,
11 which will take place July 2022. However, that date
12 has yet to be scheduled.

13 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. Any further comment?

14 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I do. I do have a few
15 suggestions:

16 I would propose eliminating fractional
17 FTEs because I know -- if you remember the Cook
18 County Board of Commissioners requested that we do
19 that. They weren't happy with our fractional FTEs
20 when we discussed the budget.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I do recall that. The Budget
22 Office had previously requested that we fractionalize
23 our employees based upon their work, and now they're
24 requesting something different. So we will prepare

1 our budget in a fashion consistent with their
2 request -- their current request.

3 COMMISSIONER WENDT: They also requested that
4 we separate individual budgets between the three --
5 our three districts. I would propose that.

6 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I don't recall that,
7 Commissioner Wendt. I know you recommended that.
8 But what I recall them -- is asking questions, as
9 Chair Rogers mentioned, about the legacy budget
10 reporting of fractional -- as I remember, we were --
11 maybe I'm misremembering, but I thought we were the
12 only agency that still does the fractional reporting,
13 which, certainly, we don't need to devote resources
14 to breaking it down by fractional. But yeah. I
15 don't recall --

16 COMMISSIONER WENDT: No. I do recall.
17 Actually, several of them were -- could not
18 understand why we didn't separate ours when they do.
19 I'm pretty sure Commissioner Degnen was one of them.
20 There were a few. So, I mean, really, it just makes
21 sense.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Well, we do have some shared
23 resources.

24 But in any event, why don't we do

1 this: why don't we have the transcript pulled from
2 the County Board meeting where the issue was
3 discussed. We'll have staff see what -- whether that
4 was a requirement or a suggestion. And, as we
5 prepare our budget for this -- the upcoming meeting,
6 we can decide through recommendations of the staff
7 whether we need to modify the way the budget is
8 presented. It's not something we can resolve here
9 today in this meeting.

10 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, I think we have the
11 freedom to make our own decisions. I don't know -- I
12 mean, it's just good government, really. It's --

13 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I didn't get that -- I
14 think we're -- personnel budgeting and staffing is
15 certainly a responsible issue, that every
16 Commissioner needs to be responsible for their own
17 staff.

18 I want to -- just want take a moment
19 and thank William and Debra in the Secretary's
20 Office. As we've mentioned before, we have an acting
21 secretary -- or that spot, I should say, is open.
22 But I want to thank them for putting the time in.

23 The County's budgeting process can be
24 complicated. As William indicates, it starts earlier

1 and earlier, and there's more and more reporting
2 that's due. So I appreciate them staying on top of
3 it, especially as we keep talking about our
4 scheduled -- the Board finishing the -- the current
5 tax year's going to get more complicated. So thank
6 you.

7 Chair Rogers, I have no more questions
8 about the Fiscal '23 Budget Forecast.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. I would echo your
10 sentiments about the staff. They've done a fantastic
11 job under some trying circumstances. So I want to
12 commend them and thank them for their hard work as
13 well.

14 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yes. So I agree with you.

15 But where are we at on separating our
16 budgets?

17 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Are you making a
18 motion?

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: I'm making a motion.
20 Sure.

21 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Okay. Do you have a
22 second for your motion?

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Do I?

24 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Well, what is the motion?

1 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Motion to separate the
2 three district budgets.

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. Again, just in comment
4 on the motion, I don't think we can do that right
5 now. We don't have -- I don't believe that that was
6 a recommendation that was made. There are a variety
7 of different issues that go into that.

8 For instance, the staff gets their --
9 there are certain staff memb- -- I'm sorry -- all the
10 staff receive annual cost of living increases, and
11 based upon seniority, those can be significant over
12 time. So the budgets for each Commissioner will be
13 varied depending upon how long their staffs have been
14 present. That's just an equal division of the
15 current funds.

16 So we need to have more information on
17 what's required; if that's required; and, then, how
18 that -- what that will look like. It's not as simple
19 as just dividing or agreeing to a separate budget for
20 each Commissioner.

21 So, again, I would suggest that we
22 make an informed decision by getting the transcript
23 about what's required, having the staff discuss the
24 issue, and then we receive some recommendations.

1 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, can we table it for
2 further research?

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER WENDT: With work -- you know,
5 work with a county budget analyst.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: We can, again, ask the staff
7 to begin that process of looking into that. I don't
8 think there's an issue with that at all. That's what
9 I was suggesting, quite frankly.

10 Is that acceptable, Commissioner?

11 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Sure. I mean, work it up;
12 see what it looks like.

13 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER WENDT: That's acceptable.

15 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right. William, I
16 will -- thank you for the discussion.

17 Why don't you assign someone to start
18 to pull those things together so we can take a look
19 at it and table this discussion for a future meeting.

20 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Will do.

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Two more things on Budget:

23 I think that we need to increase our
24 OT requests to reflect what it really is. I know

1 it's been a million a year for the last three years.
2 I don't know why we're only requesting 350,000 when
3 we always go over that. So I think we need to
4 increase it.

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. I think that ties into
6 the next --

7 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Okay.

8 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: -- New Business Budget Item.
9 Just --

10 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Right. I do have it on
11 that. I d- --

12 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. Fiscal Year 2022 OT
13 and Resource Requests from the President's Office.

14 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Just one more thing,
15 though -- I'm sorry. If I could add, we've had some
16 receptionists issues. I don't know if you've been
17 made aware.

18 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let me just go down the
19 Budget Items -- I'm sorry -- the Agenda Items, and
20 then we can proceed if that's okay.

21 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Sure.

22 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right. The next Budget
23 Item I have is the Fiscal Year 2022 OT and Resource
24 Requests from the President's Office.

1 For contextual purposes, this relates
2 to the late data we received from the Assessor's
3 Office within the last 30 days or so of about 70
4 percent of townships and the assessor's delayed
5 completion of his reassessment responsibilities that
6 have resulted in a delay in the schedule -- in our
7 ability to complete -- in our receipt of townships
8 for purposes of opening them for the filing of
9 appeals and consideration of appeals, and which
10 ultimately is going to result in late tax bills based
11 on the assessor's delay -- delay in completing the
12 assessments.

13 William, we submitted a request, I
14 believe -- or we're finalizing a request for
15 additional OT and resources.

16 Is that right?

17 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: Yes. And
18 that -- that request was summarized in the
19 information that I distributed to the Commissioners
20 yesterday evening.

21 What it -- it's pretty much a summary
22 of our current OT liability, as Commissioner Wendt
23 had referenced, the historical OT exposure. And then
24 just forecasting out what our OT liability/exposure

1 would be for the current tax year. That
2 approximately -- as for the assumption that every
3 Board employee worked overtime approximately about 18
4 hours per week for the next 16 weeks or so, that OT
5 liability, I think, totaled to about 1.3 million.

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. And just for -- I
7 think it's worth noting that it's very unfair for our
8 staff to be burdened during this time period with
9 having to work significant OT hours and having to
10 cancel plans they have made for their families based
11 upon the -- Assessor Kaegi's failure to do his job
12 timely, effectively, and efficiently. That has
13 resulted in basically, again, him dumping 70 percent
14 of the work on us within the last 30 days when we
15 should have received it all by probably November or
16 December.

17 His delay has resulted in, you know,
18 an emergent situation for us. We, as an agency,
19 obviously are committed to do what we can to make up
20 for the time that he has squandered. That being
21 said, we are not magicians and cannot add time to the
22 schedule. What we really need is time, more than
23 just OT.

24 So, Commissioner Wendt, to your point,

1 we are going to make a request for a significant
2 increase in OT. We've discussed -- or I believe the
3 staff has discussed even attempting to bring on some
4 former employees who are skilled in what we do to see
5 if they can help us, are willing to come back on a
6 contractual basis to help us deal with the volume.

7 So all of those things are a part of
8 the request that is being submitted and will be
9 discussed with the County Board.

10 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Yeah. Chairman
11 Rogers, if I could just say, I want to thank you for
12 your presentation to the County Board a few weeks ago
13 as Chairman of the Board of Review explaining our
14 processes. And that I think the magic word you said
15 was the only thing we need is time, and it's the one
16 thing we can't get back.

17 We are approximately five months off
18 schedule of where we should be. And if the bills are
19 going to go out on December 1 with a pay date of
20 December 31 so that the homeowners of Cook County can
21 deduct their payments for property taxes on their
22 income taxes, which for low- and middle-income
23 homeowners and taxpayers in Cook County is a
24 significant way they reduce their income tax burden,

1 it's going to be because of the hard work of the
2 people at the Board of Review. It's going to be our
3 staff.

4 And I would just add that, in addition
5 to asking for additional overtime resources and
6 additional new FTEs, I understand that we've also
7 asked that the overtime payments be made in the same
8 pay period so that we're not having a situation where
9 at the end of the session the staff is getting a
10 lump-sum payment or compensatory time off.

11 Listen, we hear our staff. We respect
12 our staff. This is coming from them. And we are
13 looking at going from this session directly into the
14 next session. There will no downtime for the staff
15 to refresh and retrain and hit the new session. One
16 will close, and the next one will open. So it's only
17 fair for them that they get paid for their time in a
18 timely manner and that they get paid for their
19 overtime.

20 And I know, at least on my staff, I'm
21 listening to them for what they need. If it's
22 additional technology, if it's upgraded technology,
23 if it's more flexible work arrangements, I'm going to
24 do whatever I can to make sure that they have the

1 resources that they need so we can get the bills out
2 in 2022.

3 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Okay. Can we go back
4 to '23? Because I wasn't finished when --
5 Commissioner Rogers, I did have a couple other items
6 I did not finish speaking about.

7 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. We haven't quite
8 finished the current budget -- the current agenda
9 item. So...

10 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, we were on '23
11 before we got to '22. So...

12 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Again, let me -- let me
13 finish the current agenda item, and then we can
14 entertain whether we will reopen a previous agenda
15 item that we have --

16 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, I was interrupted,
17 and I was not allowed to finish. I don't understand
18 why I can't be heard on the Agenda Item.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Because we are on a current
20 open agenda item that's in the middle of being
21 discussed. And you can't just go back to a
22 previously discussed agenda item in the middle of a
23 current discussion. It's just not --

24 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: -- consistent with --

2 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, maybe you guys
3 cannot interrupt me when I'm trying to speak, and
4 this would work a little bit more smoothly.

5 I would like to say --

6 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Ironically, you're actually
7 interrupting right now, the current agenda items.

8 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Oh, I'm sorry. Is this a
9 meeting with you two? Or am I included here?
10 Because so far it's really just you two talking. I'd
11 like to have a minute to be able to address some of
12 these items that I've prepared for.

13 Is that okay?

14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: It's not okay until we
15 complete this agenda item.

16 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Well, that -- I'll discuss
17 this agenda item now but --

18 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Commissioner Wendt, I
19 hate to interrupt, but why didn't you put any of
20 these items on the Agenda. You were given a copy of
21 an agenda two weeks ago. If you had items you wanted
22 to discuss, why didn't -- I'm asking you, why didn't
23 you place these items on the Agenda.

24 COMMISSIONER WENDT: They're on the Agenda,

1 Commissioner. And the ones that you're speaking
2 about, that you're saying were not on the Agenda, I
3 asked William to put them on, and he refused. So
4 there's this --

5 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Again, let's not --

6 CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER O'SHIELDS: And,
7 respectfully, may I just add something in regards to
8 the Agenda Items, those agenda items were vetted and
9 reviewed by management. It was not up to me to
10 decide what was on; it was up to management. And we
11 asked repeatedly, several times, whether or not the
12 items that were presented -- whether or not there was
13 a consensus that these are the agenda items, and
14 that's what it was. So it was not up to me solely to
15 decide what was on that agenda.

16 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Okay. So you're saying
17 that your supervisor told you not to put it on when I
18 requested that it be put on?

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: That's not what he's saying.
20 No one refused an agenda item that you submitted.
21 Again, let's continue on with this agenda, that we
22 can proceed in an orderly fashion.

23 Commissioner Cabonargi, you made
24 comments about how you will address your staff's

1 requests. We'll be doing something similar, if not
2 exactly the same -- meaning, providing the staff
3 whatever resources they need to get through the
4 onslaught of appeals that we're anticipating, again,
5 due the as- -- Assessor Kaegi's untimely completion
6 of the assessments.

7 That being said, we are not miracle
8 workers. We cannot invent or create more time, and
9 we are five months -- the assessor was five months
10 behind in completing his work, which means he
11 provided us the work for us to do approximately five
12 months late.

13 That being said, we're going to do
14 everything we can to get the work done and work with
15 our staff to provide the resources they need to get
16 the work done.

17 Any other comments on this agenda
18 item?

19 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yes. I would suggest that
20 our overtime payout be paid up currently on the
21 book -- what's on the books. I think it's 200- --
22 about 200,000. I would suggest that that be paid
23 out. Again, fund the average exposure from the last
24 three years at a million per year, which is the

1 actual overtime, and not 350.

2 As far as our extra work that's coming
3 in that's going to bog down all of our staff, I would
4 propose that each Commissioner hire four contract
5 workers, or however you want to do it. But I would
6 suggest 100,000 per Commissioner. You know? My
7 suggestion was, you know, each district: \$50 an hour
8 for three months, July, August, and September;
9 working 40-hour weeks; no other benefits -- to get
10 this overtime done, to get this work done.

11 And, then, I also think that we
12 should -- you know, there's current employees that
13 are maxed out or almost maxed out on their vacation
14 time. Obviously, they can't take it. So we should
15 either extend vacation, the max, or pay it out. I'm
16 also proposing that.

17 And I think our total ask should
18 probably be -- I think -- yeah -- \$1.25 million,
19 because there's 250 left.

20 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yeah. I think -- based upon
21 what William described to the request, I think that's
22 consistent with what you said. He's requesting about
23 1.3 million --

24 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: -- in the proposal.

2 And a lot of which you described, I
3 think is -- we're probably pretty much in agreement
4 on. It just needs to be articulated formally in a
5 budget request, which the staff is working on.

6 What you mentioned about bringing on
7 additional temporary staff, that's a part of the
8 request and the discussions -- and discussions have
9 been had about that. So -- and paying out for the
10 overtime and vacation time, all of those things are a
11 part of what we are -- you know, I agree needs to
12 occur.

13 Commissioner Cabonargi?

14 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Yeah. I --
15 Commissioner Wendt, I'm happy to look at the proposal
16 for an hourly rate for contract workers. I think
17 we're talking about similar things here, and I'd like
18 to, you know, have as many tools available to us.

19 I -- Commissioner Rogers mentioned
20 about bringing retired employees back. I asked for
21 the pension list of retired Board of Review employees
22 who worked for me who have since retired to see if
23 any of them would be interested. We've looked at,
24 you know, former employees coming back in in a

1 contract way.

2 I think one of the things that's
3 interesting about the schedule being so off is, as we
4 all know, the fiscal year calendar and the tax year
5 calendar are not in alignment. The County works on a
6 December 1 fiscal date, and typically we're finished
7 by May. And what that means is oftentimes we want to
8 bring in new employees in this current fiscal year
9 before we have funding in the new fiscal year, and
10 this is another example of that.

11 If we're going to be going from the
12 City Tri directly into the North Tri, I think, if we
13 can get new employees in and trained in this year,
14 then they'll be fresh. They won't have the overtime
15 or the compensatory time levels that our current
16 employees have. But they'll be trained and ready to
17 roll right into the North.

18 I have some concerns about bringing
19 back retired Board employees as contractors because
20 we're not really getting any of that training. Once
21 they're trained and they're working, then, if they
22 decide they don't want to stay working with us going
23 forward, we've kind of lost that versus making the
24 investment in the new FTE and having them stay on

1 board.

2 It's my understanding from talking to
3 the senior staff that we have to make this argument
4 for overtime, for direct payouts in the pay period,
5 for FTEs, for contract employees, and we have to tie
6 that to how that's going to help us get these bills
7 out on December 1. And I know the staff is working
8 on that narrative.

9 So, you know, I think all these ideas
10 are good to put in there as kind of proposed
11 solutions to the County's Budget Office to try and
12 get this done. But I bring it back to what
13 Commissioner Rogers said at the County Board when he
14 sat here, we're not guaranteeing that any of these
15 investments are going to mean that we automatically
16 get the bills out on December 1.

17 This -- this gives us our best chance
18 to have the bills sent out on December 1. I don't
19 want the County Board or anyone who's listening to
20 say "Well, we gave you everything you asked for. Why
21 didn't you get it done by December 1?"

22 As Commissioner Rogers ment- -- walked
23 through, the schedule of all the offices -- the
24 Assessor, the Board, the Treasurer, the Clerk, the

1 Office of the President -- working together to get
2 the bills out, works in moving days around, not five
3 months.

4 And the example that I always give is
5 kind of twofold:

6 A couple years ago, Treasurer Pappas
7 had a new contract for printing the bills. She
8 wanted four more days on our schedule to do
9 additional quality controls. All of us -- the
10 Assessor, the Board, the Treasurer, the Clerk -- sat
11 down and figured where can we find four days when in
12 2014 -- when the state government was frozen and the
13 state government was shut down for lack of a budget.
14 That included the Illinois Department of Revenue,
15 which generates the equalizer.

16 So we were sitting around saying we
17 were doing our job here in Cook County, but IDOR was
18 not generating the equalizer. What did we do? We
19 all picked up the phone to call everybody we knew in
20 Springfield to get IDOR unlocked so they can generate
21 our equalizer, because, again, we need days.

22 So, again, I think it's important that
23 we get the resources we need to make our best effort.
24 But I don't want anyone to expect that, if we are

1 fully resourced, we're going to be automatically
2 doing this on December 1. We're just going to give
3 it our best efforts with the resources we have.

4 Thanks.

5 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Yeah. I think we can all
6 agree that, you know, the best we can do is the best
7 we can do. And this would be the best we can do, is
8 this proposal of what we need in resources.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: All right. Any -- the staff
10 will be working on that. There're going to be some
11 County constraints as well with regard to hours and
12 so forth that people can -- and who can enter into
13 contracts and what amount. So, again, that's being
14 worked on currently.

15 Great comments, Commissioner Wendt.
16 We're all in agreement, I think, on that point.

17 Any further discussion on the Fiscal
18 Year '22 OT and Resource Request Form?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Hearing none, Commissioner
21 Wendt, you had an issue you wanted to re-raise?

22 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Just two things:

23 For the '23 Budget Forecast, I think
24 we should request some funding for outside counsel,

1 to be proactive. You know, we're spending money on
2 hiring attorneys reactive to issues when we need to,
3 you know, be more proactive. I think that would save
4 us money, save the County money.

5 And, then, there's been some
6 receptionist issues, people calling the Board of
7 Review not getting answer- -- an answered phone call.
8 I mean, I can't -- you probably have both received
9 the same complaints that I have, but I know that
10 several township assessors have called stating
11 there's no -- I've even gotten calls -- but no
12 answers at the Board of Review on closing day. And
13 that's when people are most panicked.

14 So I think -- you know, I know that
15 it's a really busy time, but maybe we need more
16 coverage on closing days, and maybe we need to hire
17 an extra person to answer calls because of the amount
18 of calls we're getting.

19 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Okay. I believe the issue
20 was raised with the Clerk and has been addressed.
21 But I did hear of the issue, and I did hear that it
22 was addressed by the Clerk's Office.

23 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I also heard, and it's
24 obviously unacceptable and, you know -- I heard the

1 same thing. I -- you know, I understand the Clerk is
2 aware of it and is going to rearrange people's remote
3 work schedules such that -- again, we have a hybrid
4 schedule for most of the employee of the Board of
5 Review -- to change the hybrid schedule so that
6 there's never a break in coverage at the front
7 counter or on the phones. So I think we can resolve
8 that going forward.

9 And I would say too we are -- we are
10 almost at the point where, with the remaining
11 townships scheduled to close soon, you know, we will
12 be -- have all the information and the evidence
13 inhouse so we won't as much access to the public.
14 And at that point, as we all know, every year it's
15 all hands on deck with the staff, because hearings
16 are over, evidence is in house, and it's just a
17 matter of resolving the appeals. So...

18 Alan, I see you on screen, and I
19 could -- I'm sorry, Chair Rogers. I didn't mean
20 to --

21 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Yeah. No.

22 I don't -- again, I think it's been
23 addressed. I don't want to prolong the discussion on
24 it. I don't think we need any further comment on it.

1 Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Having completed Old Business
4 and New Business, is there a motion -- well, do any
5 of you want to go in an executive session about
6 anything?

7 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: I'm not aware of
8 anything. No.

9 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Nothing's been raised.

10 Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn
11 the meeting?

12 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Motion to adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Let the record reflect
15 there's a motion for adjournment of the meeting with
16 Board remaining in continuous session for the purpose
17 adjudication of appeals and other matters as required
18 by the Illinois Property Tax Code. That motion's
19 been seconded by Commissioner Wendt.

20 All in favor, indicate so by saying
21 "aye."

22 COMMISSIONER CABONARGI: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Aye.

1 We remain adjourned. The motion
2 passes.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER WENDT: Thank you.

5 (Whereupon the above
6 matter was adjourned.)

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