



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 29, 2015



RE: OMA Request for Review – 2015 PAC 35946

Dear [REDACTED]

Pursuant to section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2014)), the Public Access Bureau has received your Request for Review alleging possible violations of OMA in connection with a Republican precinct committeemen meeting in Iroquois County. For the reasons set forth below, we have determined that no further action on this matter is warranted.

Your June 19, 2015, Request for Review alleged that you attended a Republican precinct committeemen meeting on June 18, 2015, for which no agenda was posted and at which no public comment was allowed.

Section 3.5(a) of OMA provides that "a person who believes that a violation of this Act by a *public body* has occurred may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor[,]" which "must include a summary of the facts supporting the allegation." (Emphasis added.) Section 2(a) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/2(a) (West 2014)) defines "public body" as:

all legislative, executive, administrative or advisory bodies of the State, counties, townships, cities, villages, incorporated towns, school districts and all other municipal corporations, boards, bureaus, committees or commissions of this State, and any subsidiary bodies of any of the foregoing including but not limited to committees and subcommittees which are supported in whole or in part by tax revenue, or which expend tax revenue, except the General Assembly and committees or commissions thereof.

[REDACTED]
June 29, 2015

Page 2

OMA "is not intended to prohibit bona fide social gatherings of public officials, or truly political meetings at which party business is discussed." *People ex rel. Difanis v. Barr*, 83 Ill. 2d 191, 202 (1980).

In a telephone conversation with an attorney in the Public Access Bureau on June 26, 2015, you confirmed that your Request for Review concerns a partisan meeting of Republican precinct committeemen, rather than a meeting of a public body as defined above. Further, you confirmed that a majority of a quorum of the Iroquois County Board was not in attendance at the meeting.¹ Thus, your Request for Review does not provide facts from which we could conclude that a public body violated OMA.

Accordingly, we have determined that no further action is warranted on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Chicago address on the first page of this letter. This letter serves to close this matter.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
JOSHUA M. JONES
Supervising Attorney
Public Access Bureau

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¹The only meetings that are subject to OMA are "gathering[s] * * * of a majority of a quorum of the members of a *public body* held for the purpose of discussing public business[.]" (Emphasis added.) 5 ILCS 120/1.02 (West 2014).