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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS**  
**February 15, 2017**

The DeKalb County Board met in regular session at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Clerk called the roll. Those Members present were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. Mr. Schmarje was absent. A quorum was established with twenty three Members present and one absent.

Chairman Pietrowski requested Mr. Brown to lead in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion

Mr. Porterfield moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 Board Meeting. Mr. Roman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Chairman Pietrowski asked for a voice vote on the approval of the minutes. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a voice vote to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REFERRALS**

Chairman Pietrowski shared with the Members that he recently received a letter from the Executive Director of the National Association of Counties thanking DeKalb County for participating in the national Stepping Up initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

Declaration of Vacancy

Chairman Pietrowski announced that he officially declared the seat formally occupied by Jonathan Schmarje (R) District #2 to be vacant as of February 8, 2016.

Employee Service Awards for January

Chairman Pietrowski recognized the Employee Service Awards for the month of January 2017: Five Years – Kirsten Owens: Rehab & Nursing Center; Ten Years – Bethany Rowan: Sheriff's Department, Jason Johnson: Sheriff's Department, and Ashley Kirsopp: Sheriff's Department.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR**

Mel Haas of Shabbona requested to speak regarding what he believes to have been an Open Meetings Act Violation during the recent Public Hearing that took place on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building's Conference Room East. The Public Hearing was regarding EDF Renewable Development Inc.'s proposal of erecting a wind testing tower on a portion of a property located at the southeast corner of Gawe and Byers Road in South Grove Township. Mr. Haas described how the Conference Room was filled beyond capacity and many of the standing citizens were not able to properly hear what was being said during the Hearing. He expressed that a larger room should have been used to conduct the Public Hearing and should also be at a more convenient time for the public to attend. Mr. Haas ultimately requested that the Planning & Zoning Committee request another Public Hearing on the testing tower proposal.

William Klein of DeKalb and former DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center employee, spoke to the Board regarding his concerns about a staffing crisis at the DCRNC. He expressed that for the past four months he was employed at the DCRNC they were experiencing a serious shortage of CNA's. He also shared that, "For those of you who don't know, the role of a CNA is paramount when it comes to the hands on care of your loved ones most personal needs. We are the workers responsible for their regular toileting, washing and dressing in the morning, undressing and washing at night, assisting with their meals, attending to them when they are sick, and overall getting to know their habits and who they are so they can feel safe and at home at the DCRNC. They depend on us to help them with these very basic necessities. In any nursing facility the value of a good CNA should never be underestimated, because when that happens and an administration is forced to assign one CNA to a hallway of 20-24 residents, not only does the quality of care dramatically plummet, but it also creates an unsafe environment for both the resident and the CNA. Under no circumstances should a CNA be expected to do this! Please, people of DeKalb County, our local government, and board of directors of DCRNC, and Management Performance Associates, before turning over the first shovel of dirt on this major renovation project, take a closer look at our staffing problem because it is directly affecting the care of our residents and aren't they the reason we have a County Home to begin with? Perhaps investing some of the proposed \$15 million in hiring and keeping CNA's would be a better place to start than adding more rooms and a new kitchen. After all we're not talking about pots and pans here or a horse's place in relation to a car, we are talking about living, breathing, souls."

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Amylin Hendrix-Ziegelbauer of the area requested to speak to the Board Members about using an alternative electoral counting system when counting casted ballots in an election. She explained that American communities regularly see dynamic and competitive local elections, with no shortage of motivated candidates seeking office. But the rules governing these elections do not reflect political realities. Under current systems, the candidate with the most votes wins, but in a crowded field the most votes might not be very many at all. When there are three or more strong candidates, supporters of candidates with similar views can “split the vote” rather than unifying behind on candidate. This means that voters have to be strategic-often settling for the lesser of two evils, rather than voting for their favorite candidate. In a ranked choice voting election, voters can rank as many or as few candidates as they want in order of choice. All 1<sup>st</sup> choices are counted, and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. If a voter’s 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate is eliminated, their vote instantly goes to their next choice. Candidates with the fewest votes are eliminated until there are two candidates left. Just like in a runoff election, the candidate with a majority of votes in the final round wins. Because you can rank your choices, you can vote for your favorite candidate without fear of splitting the vote. If you favorite candidate can’t win, your vote goes to the candidate you ranked second, so you don’t feel like your vote is “wasted”. Ranked choice voting opens up politics to more diverse voices, including women, people of color, and independents. When we have the power to rank candidates, new and diverse voices can run without worrying about splitting the vote and playing the role of “spoiler”. With more choices, voter can vote for someone they truly believe in, rather than setting for the lesser of two evils. A democracy should reflect the will of the people. Our current voting system rewards whichever candidate has the most votes, even if a majority of voters prefer someone else. With ranked choice voting, only candidates who can garner at least 50% of voter support will win. Lastly she shared that University studies show that ranked choice voting encourages candidates to run more positive campaigns, focus on the issues, and reach out beyond their base.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski recommended approval for the following appointments:

- a. **Community Mental Health Board:** Meghan Cook appointed immediately for a term expiring December 31, 2020. Terry Purcell appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Andi Andree until December 31, 2018.
- b. **Stormwater Management Committee:** Derek Hiland appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Paul Miller until June 30, 2018.

### Motion

It was moved by Mr. Faivre and seconded by Ms. Willis to approve all of the recommended appointments as presented.

### Voice Vote

The motion was carried unanimously.

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## REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

### COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

#### **Resolution R2017-04: New Tandem Cab & Chassis; New Utility Tractor; New Crack Fill Machine**

##### Motion

Mr. Frieders moved the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to award the lowest bids meeting specifications to JX Peterbilt of Rockford, Illinois for the provision of a new Peterbilt 348 Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis with options for a total of \$88,114.00 after trade-in allowance; to DeKane Equipment Corp. of Big Rock, Illinois for the provision of a new Kubota M5-111HD12 utility tractor for a total cost of \$34,500.00 after trade-in allowance; and to Sherwin Industries, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the provision of a new Crafcro Super Shot 250 gallon Sealing Melter Applicator for a total of \$34,285.00 after trade-in allowance. Ms. Willis seconded the motion.

##### Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for roll call vote on the motion as presented. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution R2017-05: Engineering Agreement for Willett, Hofmann & Associates for Culvert Replacement at Union Ditch #1 (Somonauk/Gurler Roads)**

##### Motion

Mr. Frieders moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to enter into an Engineering Agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. of Dixon, Illinois for the provision of preliminary engineering services incident to the repair or replacement of the culvert located at the intersection of Somonauk and Gurler Roads in Cortland and Pierce Road Districts in an amount not to exceed \$63,725.05. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

##### Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for roll call vote on the motion as presented. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution R2017-06: Reconstruction of Waterman Road**

##### Motion

Mr. Faivre moved the DeKalb County Board hereby authorizes the appropriation of \$1,145,000.00 from the Motor Fuel Tax allotment to be utilized for the beginning of the reconstruction of Waterman Road from Perry Road south to Duffy Road (5.03 miles). Mr. Cribben seconded the motion as presented.

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Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski requested a roll call vote on the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Resolutions R2017-07 thru R2017-58: Delinquent Property Tax Sale Resolution**

Motion

Mr. Stoddard moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board to execute deeds of conveyance of the County's interest or authorize cancellation of the appropriate Certificate(s) of Purchase, as the case may be for the fifty-two (52) Resolutions (below) to be paid to the Treasure of DeKalb County Illinois, to be disbursed according to law. Mr. Faivre seconded the motion.

<b><u>Resolution</u></b>	<b><u>Township</u></b>	<b><u>Parcel #</u></b>	<b><u>Purchaser</u></b>	<b><u>Total Paid by Purchaser</u></b>
<b>R2017-07</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-023	Ronald L., Beatrice A. Thornton	\$650.00
<b>R2017-08</b>	Cortland	09-29-252-001	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-09</b>	Kingston	02-22-100-004	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-10</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-019	Grant P., Ashley S. Erickson	\$650.00
<b>R2017-11</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-020	Grant P., Ashley S. Erickson	\$650.00
<b>R2017-12</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-021	Grant P., Ashley S. Erickson	\$650.00
<b>R2017-13</b>	Cortland	09-17-326-001	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-14</b>	Cortland	09-17-329-005	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-15</b>	Cortland	09-17-329-006	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-16</b>	Cortland	09-17-329-007	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-17</b>	Cortland	09-17-329-008	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-18</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-013	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-19</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-014	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-20</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-015	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-21</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-016	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-22</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-017	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-23</b>	Cortland	09-17-377-018	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-24</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-003	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-25</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-004	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-26</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-005	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-27</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-006	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-28</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-007	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-29</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-010	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-30</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-011	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-31</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-012	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-32</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-013	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-33</b>	Cortland	09-17-382-014	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-34</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-007	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-35</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-008	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00

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<b>R2017-36</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-009	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-37</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-017	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-38</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-018	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-39</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-019	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-40</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-020	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-41</b>	Cortland	09-17-383-021	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-42</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-002	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-43</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-003	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-44</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-004	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-45</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-006	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-46</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-007	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-47</b>	Cortland	09-17-384-009	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-48</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-007	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-49</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-008	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-50</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-009	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-51</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-010	<del>Don Haugk</del> Lamp Rd. LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-52</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-011	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-53</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-012	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-54</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-013	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-55</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-014	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-56</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-015	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-57</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-016	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00
<b>R2017-58</b>	Cortland	09-17-385-022	Lamp Rd LLC, Michelle Work	\$650.00

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a roll call on the motion to approve all 52 Resolutions. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution R2017-59: Abating the Entire Property Tax levy for the 2016 Tax Year for the 2010 Courthouse Expansion and Jail Expansion Planning Bond Issue**

Motion

Mr. Stoddard moved the DeKalb County Board approves that the \$1,233,705 property tax levy for the 2016 Tax Year (payable in 2017), which was levied for the retirement of the debt of (a) \$923,597 for the Build America Bond Issue and (b) \$310,108 for the Recovery Zone Bond Issue, is hereby abated in its entirety in the amount of \$1,233,705, and that a certified copy of this resolution should be filed with the DeKalb County Clerk within fifteen days. Mr. Reid seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

The Chair requested a roll call vote. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **Claims**

#### **Motion**

Mr. Stoddard to approve the payment of claims for this month, and the off cycle claims paid during the previous month, in the amount of \$9,953,675.71. Mr. Plote seconded the motion as presented.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Chairman Pietrowski asked for a roll call vote on the approval of the February Claims. Those Members that voted yea were Mr. Brown, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Ms. Askins, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports of County Officials**

#### **Motion**

Mr. Stoddard moved to accept and place on file the following Reports of County Officials:

1. Cash & Investments in County Banks – January 2017
2. Public Defender's Report – January 2017
3. Adult & Juvenile Monthly Reports – January 2017
4. Pretrial Report – January 2017
5. Sheriff's Jail Report – January 2017
6. Planning & Zoning Building Permits & Construction Reports – January 2017

Mr. Whelan seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

The Chairman requested a voice vote to accept the Reports of County Officials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Motion**

Mr. Jones moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to create an Ad Hoc Website Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing content on DeKalb County Government's website and appoints the following Members to serve on the Committee until November 30, 2018: Mark Pietrowski, Marjorie Askins, Tim Bagby, Laurie Emmer, Steve Faivre, Jerry Osland, Jeff Whelan, and Suzanne Willis. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

## **AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE**

### **Ordinance O2017-01: Revisions to Chapter 2 of the DeKalb County Code**

#### **Motion**

Mr. Jones moved that the DeKalb County Board does concur with the recommendations of the DeKalb County Ad Hoc Rules Committee to amend Sec. 2-32, 2-66, and Sec. 2-68.1 of the DeKalb County Code as outlined in the Ordinance. Mr. Faivre seconded the motion as presented.

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Voice Vote

The Chairman requested a voice vote on the motion as presented. All Members voted yea.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Little, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee, read a letter from Tammy Anderson, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission, which highlighted what a great year the Vets Commission had in 2016. Ms. Little and the full County Board recognized and congratulated Ms. Anderson on the outstanding work of her department and all they do for the local Veteran Community.

Nathan F. Schwartz, P.E., County Engineer, presented the County Board with his Annual County Highway Presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion

Mr. Porterfield moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a voice vote on the adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

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DeKalb County Board Chairman

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DeKalb County Clerk

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