

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
April 12, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Brown, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Stoddard, and Chairman Pietrowski. Mr. Faivre was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

In Mr. Faivre's absence, Planning & Zoning Committee Vice Chair, Mr. Bunge, joined the Executive Committee.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Jeff Whelan, Steve Reid, Craig Roman, Marj Askins, Jim Luebke, Sandra Polanco, Kevin Bunge, Chris Porterfield, Misty Haji-Sheikh, Roy Plote, Ryan Cardinali, and John Mataitis.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Ms. Little and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from March 8, 2017.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Leifheit and seconded by Mr. Frieders to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Mataitis of Sycamore requested to speak in regards to the Approval of Appointments, more specifically, the appointments for the Board of Review. Mr. Mataitis noted that he had some questions regarding those positions and also reviewed that the three Board of Review Members get an annual salary of \$10,400. He also stated that last year the Members worked 23 half days which would come out to \$452.00/day. He continued that out of those days worked, there were 313 appeals heard but they made decisions on 479. He questioned where the other 166 decisions came from. Mr. Mataitis noted that he found 8 that they approved which totaled a reductions of \$88,000 on properties and shared there are still 150 missing. He also questioned whether or not the County Board understood what was going on within the Board of Review. He additionally questioned the ethics of the Board Members, more specifically Mr. Wahlstrom and Mr. Guio.

Mr. Frieders questioned what Mr. Mataitis thought was going on within the Board of Review. Mr. Mataitis noted that he thinks the Board of Review is giving individuals with Federal loans

totally reduced rates and the individuals who are pay their mortgages are getting it socked to them pretty bad. He additionally noted that he has examples that he would be more than happy to share with Board Members. Mr. Mataitis continued that there are many lies coming from the Board of Review and that it is only a matter of time before it gets investigated. He strongly encouraged the County Board to find new Members to be appointed to the Board of Review and not to reappoint the existing Board Members.

Mr. Ryan Cardinali of Sycamore requested to speak in regards to the Approval of Appointments, more specifically, the appointments for the Board of Review. He shared that he has lived in Sycamore his whole life and owns property in Sycamore. He and his wife purchased a home in Sycamore a few years ago and every year since then they have seen a \$1,200-1,500 increase in their taxes. After letting it go for some time, this year he appealed his taxes. Knowing nothing about the process, he shared that he fought his way through the system and in doing so he did some of his neighbors as well to see what he could do for them as well. He learned that he is a \$36/sq ft and some of his neighbors are at \$20/sq ft and he brought everything to the Sycamore Township Assessor and received the response of “shut up kid and pay your taxes, from what you own in town you’re doing fine”. Mr. Cardinali noted that while he was going through the process he noticed that the Sycamore Township Assessor put an exemption on his property that he didn’t signed up for. When he bought his home his basement was finished without a permit, so the Township Assessor put a Home Improvement Exemption on his home. Mr. Cardinali stated that he never filed any paperwork or signed anything for that exemption. He continued that at this point he was done and took his appeal to the Board of Review and went through their whole process. Mr. Cardinali shared his experience with the Board of Review and their processes and expressed how unprofessional and embarrassing it all was and that he became so frustrated by the experience that next year he plans on appealing all of his neighbors assessments. He additionally added that before the County Board just approved to reappoint the Board of Review Members, they really should look into what is going on within that Board because the County Board Members are the ones who are going to ultimately have to answer to the many complaints. Lastly, Mr. Cardinali noted that he too had information he could share with any Board Members after the meeting if they were interested.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski announced that at the full County Board Meeting he will be inviting Mr. Jeff Birtell from DeKalb to join them so they can congratulate and recognize Mr. Birtell for his participation in the 2016 World Series Ring Ceremony for the Chicago Cubs.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **County Board Member:** Tim Hughes appointed immediately to represent County Board District #2 until November 30, 2018.
- b. **Committee Assignments:** Tim Hughes appointed immediately to the DeKalb County Board’s Health & Human Services Committee and the Forest Preserve Committee until November 30, 2018.
- c. **Kirkland Community Fire District:** Marty Banks appointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2020.
- d. **Cortland Community Fire Protection District:** Dan Black appointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2020.

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

- e. **Genoa-Kingston Fire Protection District:** Randy Jennings reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2020.
- f. ~~**Board of Review:** Gerald Wahlstrom and Robert Merriman reappointed for three year terms beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2020.~~
- g. ~~**Board of Review – Alternates:** Daniel Cribben and Michael Miner reappointed for terms beginning May 1, 2107 and expiring April 30, 2018.~~
- h. **Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District (DeKalb Sanitary District):** Carol Zar reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2017 until April 30, 2020.
- i. **Northwest Water Planning Alliance:** Misty Haji-Sheikh appointed immediately until November 30, 2018.
- j. **Farmland Assessment Board:** Nicholas Moore reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2017 and expiring April 30, 2020.
- k. **Regional Planning Commission:** Rich Gentile (City of Genoa), John “Jack” Fischer (Village of Kingston), Becky Morphey (Village of Somonauk), and Kevin Bunge (County) all appointed for three-year terms beginning April 1, 2017 and expiring March 31, 2020.
- l. **Regional Planning Commission – Alternates:** Alyssa Seguss (City of Genoa) and Misty Haji-Sheikh (County) both appointed for three-year terms beginning April 1, 2017 and expiring March 31, 2020.

Multiple Committee Members expressed that they would like to see the Board of Review appointments pulled off of the agenda until they had more time to look into what the two gentlemen shared with them and other issues they have heard. Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee noted that he would invite the County’s Chief Assessment Officer Robin Brunschon back to the Committee to discuss these matters with them at their May 1st Committee Meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Ms. Leifheit and it was approved unanimously by voice vote to forward the recommended appointments, minus the Board of Review and Board of Review – Alternates appointment, to the full County Board for approval.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

The Chairman next asked to go around the table and hear an update from all of the Committee Chairpersons on what their Committees had done at their last meeting together and/or what they are anticipating in the months to come.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee is meeting in special session prior to the County Board Meeting to vote on two resolutions to bring to the April Board Meeting. The first is for the renaming of a platted road which no one had any objections to but they wanted to ensure there were no other obstacles before approving. The second is resolution is for the replacement of Somonauk Road Bridge. The bid opening for that replacement will be the morning of the Board Meeting. Lastly, Mr. Frieders noted that the Committee is still in the process of evaluating the County Engineer but is still hoping to bring forth their decision in May.

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee received an Active Transportation presentation at their last meeting and that at the most recent Russell Hustle event, there were 110 runners and the Forest Preserve District received compliments on their excellent trails for the event. Lastly, Mr. Brown noted that the Forest Preserve District Commissioners will have the updated Travel Policy to vote on at the meeting, which is the same one the County passed last month.

Ms. Little, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee shared the Committee met twice this month to conduct their Senior Tax Levy Hearings. The Committee decided to allocate funds not to exceed \$423,000 in order to fund the agencies at about the same levels as last year, minus KishHealth Hospice. That resolution is being forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval along with the annual 5311 Downstate Operating Assistance Grant resolutions and an additional resolution for the purchase of a 30' transit bus to be used by Voluntary Action Center which will be purchased with 100% grant funded monies.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee noted that the Committee was provided with reports from Mr. Dennis Miller for his annual Coroner and ESDA reports. Ms. Leifheit handed out to the Executive Committee a breakdown of the Coroner's deaths within the County, most of which are due to drug overdoses. She strongly encouraged all the Board Members to take a look at both annual reports.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee approved to recommend sending a resolution naming the PBC to be the oversight of the Rehab & Nursing Center expansion project, a resolution certifying IMRF participation for Elected Officials, and an Ordinance which will continue to allow the County to collect cable television franchise fees in the unincorporated areas.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee received an annual report from the Chief of Assessments Office, there were five candidates interviews for the Economic Development Coordinators position with an offer to follow, and he provided the Committee with the most recent update on the CEDS project.

Mr. Bunge, Vice Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee briefly reviewed that the Committee has been busy with multiple Public Hearings and they are also working on finalizing zoning text amendments with the Farm Bureau and continuing work a wind/solar farm Ordinance.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was carried unanimously to approve the County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board for approval.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson presented the Committee with his County Administrator's Report. He shared that parking has been a big issue on the Sycamore Campus due to the jail expansion construction but signs have been put out and today was the first day of assigned parking and Mr. Hanson reported that things so far are working out better than expected.

Another issue that is currently being addressed is the Sheriff's radio communications. There have been dead spots identified throughout the County for Police and Fire personnel which is a safety concern. The current system is an older analog system and they are looking to update the entire system to a digital one which is expected to cost around \$3-4 million.

Last Friday, Mr. Hanson shared that he attended the Illinois Econ Contest that was hosted at the County's Community Outreach Building. The contest was a State-wide finals contest for high school students.

The third and final CEDS workshop is scheduled for next month and following that workshop they will work on digesting a document which is on track for late summer.

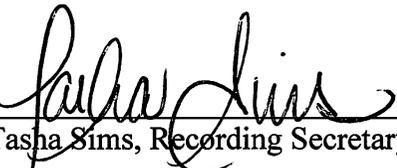
Mr. Hanson shared that he has been appointed to the DeKalb Airport Advisory Board and they are working on trying to change the focus and turning the DeKalb Airport into a more economic development driver and also to become more self-sufficient.

In addition to that, Mr. Hanson serves on the DSATS Board and they are looking to see if could merge the NIU bus systems with the TransVac bus system which could help leverage more Federal dollars into the community which would greatly enhance area transit services.

Lastly, Mr. Hanson shared some progress photos of the Jail Expansion Construction Project with the Committee from over the last month and also informed them on how the Public Building Commission is managing change orders.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Little, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary



Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.