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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes  
April 11, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 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. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Stoddard, and Chairman Pietrowski. Ms. Little was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Jim Hutcheson, Jeff Whelan, Steve Reid, Tracy Jones, Laurie Emmer, Jim Luebke, Terry Hannan, Marj Askins, Greg Millburg, Sandra Polanco, Chris Porterfield, Misty Haji-Sheikh, and Sue Willis.

**Mr. Plote moved to bring Health & Human Services Committee Vice Chair Ms. Askins to the table to represent that Committee in Ms. Little's absence. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Mr. Plote moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bagby seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski announced that he received a letter from the Illinois Counties Association ("ICA"). The ICA is an organization representing all 102 Counties in Illinois. The ICA Board of Directors consists of representatives from Cook County, the Metro Counties organization, the United Counties Council of Illinois and the Illinois Association of County Board Members and Commissioners. The ICA Board of Directors has agreed that in these hard economic times, especially for the not for profit organizations in our Counties, the ICA would like to help out in any way that they can. They have allocated \$5,900 to one or multiple 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in DeKalb County. The Chairman shared that he and Vice Chairman Frieders came up with eleven different charitable organizations throughout DeKalb County that they would like to donate the funding to. Chairman Pietrowski noted that he would be contacting the agencies soon but did not want to publically announce yet who those organizations were.

The Chair additionally updated the Committee that he has been in talks with City of DeKalb Alderman Jacobson regarding the sales tax issue that is happening between the County and the City. Details are still being worked out and Chairman Pietrowski explained he would continue to update the Committee when he had more information.

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A LAND TRANSFER FROM THE DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION (HEALTH FACILITY PROPERTY)**

Mr. Hanson explained that this item and resolution before the Committee refers to the DeKalb Health Facility land. The transfer is in preparation of the Nursing Home Expansion Project. Before the County can get to the point of selling the bonds all of the property needs to be in the hands of DeKalb County Government which is currently owned by the DeKalb County Public Building Commission. Mr. Hanson provided a brief history of why the property is current in the name of the PBC. He added that this is all a similar process to what has to be done prior to the Courthouse Expansion and Jail Expansion Projects. Chief Civil State Attorney David Berault drafted the resolution and the Warranty Deed which has already been approved and signed by the DeKalb County Public Building Commission at their last meeting. The only thing that is needed now is for the County Board to accept the land transfer from the PBC.

**It was moved by Mr. Plote, seconded by Mr. Bagby and was approved unanimously to forward the proposed resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **Regional Planning Commission:** Cheryl Aldis (Town of Cortland), Russell Kula (Village of Hinckley), Martha May (Village of Lee), Dan Nolan (Village of Shabbona), and Brian Gregory (City of Sycamore) all reappointed for three-year terms beginning April 1, 2018 and expiring March 31, 2021.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission-Alternates:** Adam Orton (City of Sycamore) reappointed for a three-year term beginning April 1, 2018 and expiring March 31, 2021.
- c. **Farmland Assessments Board:** Charles Payne reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- d. **DeKalb County Board Finance Committee:** John Frieders appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Tracy Jones until November 30, 2018.
- e. **DeKalb County Board Law & Justice Committee:** Tracy Jones appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of John Frieders until November 30, 2018.

**It was moved by Mr. Faivre and seconded by Mr. Stoddard to forward the recommended appointments to the full County Board for approval. The motion carried unanimously.**

**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. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items for the County Board this month but provided an update that the CEDS Project was back underway. He also added that the Committee received an update from DeKalb County Economic Development Coordinator Jolene Willis and they learned from her that the Business Incubator Advisory Committee has fulfilled their duties and was now essentially done. The Economic Development Committee and Community Development Staff was working on how the new tenant approval process would work and how it may also be beneficial to streamline the approval and application process for the Business Incubator. Mr. Bagby also noted that the

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DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Northern Illinois University (NIU) are proud to be hosting the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) State Wrestling Finals for its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The economic impact for the area is estimated to be \$300,000. We anticipate more than 5,000 visitors will attend this two-day event.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee shared that they had no actionable items for this month and that the Committee had a very short business meeting then took a tour of the new Jail Expansion. She also shared that there will be a 5K Recovery Run by Friends of the DeKalb County Drug Court in Sycamore on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee did not meet in April.

Mr. Faivre, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding one Ordinance to the full County Board with recommended approval for accessory building height regulations. At the Committee's next meeting, Mr. Faivre shared that they will be continuing to discuss the definition of a Gun Club as well as continue with another phase (decommissioning) of the Wind Farm Ordinance.

Ms. Askins, Vice Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee met twice in the month of April to conduct their Senior Services Tax Levy Hearings. They heard from their usual applicants as well as one new applicant. The Committee made a determination to fund the same agencies as last year with a 4% cut across the board. They also conducted a Public Hearing for the 5311 Downstate Operating Assistance Grant which is a pass through grant for the Voluntary Action Center. The 5311 Grant resolution and the 5311 Special Warranty resolution were also forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval of both.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee is forwarded a land trade possibility to the full Board of Commissioners at the Afton South Prairie. Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan was present and helped describe all of the advantages associated with this possible land trade. Mr. Brown also shared that the Committee is forwarding their FY17 year-end budget transfers as well as updates to the District's Travel Policy which was mirrored after the County's updated that were approved last month.

Mr. Plote, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that Committee currently has one resolution for the purchase of a new shoulder machine on the agenda. He also shared that the Committee will be meeting for a Special Meeting regarding the remaining proposed resolutions that were listed on the draft agenda. The bid lettings for three other projects are scheduled to take place on the morning of the County Board Meeting, April 18<sup>th</sup>. This is why they are needing to meet prior to the Board Meeting, Mr. Plote shared.

**It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Plote 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 as shown on the County Board Agenda, a term for the Board of Review is about to expire as well as all of the Alternate's terms and a Board of Review Test will be provided over in Kane County on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to serve on the Board of Review an individual needs to pass that test.

The Nursing Home's Certificate of Need Hearing is coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup>. That is a State of Illinois Approval Process and is absolutely necessary in order to move forward with the Nursing Home Expansion Project.

The DeKalb County History Center is beginning to get their feet on the ground. On March 26<sup>th</sup> they had their inaugural board meeting. Plans are now underway for fundraising to build a new building next to the current building just north of Sycamore on IL Route 23. The County is also working on an Intergovernmental Agreement with the History Center in order for the Joiner History Room to have space out there because they have outgrown their area at the Sycamore Library.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Senator Durbin was in town and he made contact with Deanna Cada for the County's Community Action Department. Mr. Hanson shared that it was a very nice event and it was nice to engage with a ranking U.S. Senator.

Mr. Hanson noted that he and others are working on trying to restructure The DeKalb, Sycamore Area Transportation Study (DSATS). The City of DeKalb is currently the fiscal agent for the entity and everything currently goes through the DeKalb City Council and the County is trying to readjust that and try and get everything rerouted to come through the County and for us to become the fiscal agent.

For the Jail Expansion Project, they are currently working on the punch list items and the hope is by the end of April to closeout half of the remaining 25 contracts that are open. Exchange Street resurfacing work done by the County Highway Department and Abbey Paving will be done, weather pending, in mid to late April and Mr. Hanson reminded that the Dedication Ceremony for the Jail Expansion will be Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Hanson noted that some may have noticed a new feature on the County Board Agendas. There are now individual direct links to bring up specific business items instead of having to scroll through the whole packet to find a specific item. He added that is it much easier now to navigate around the agenda and encouraged Members to bring their tablets or laptops to the meeting. He also noted that if anyone else ever has any ideas on how to make the agenda's or County Board items better to please let the Administration Office know.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

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Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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