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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
March 14, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, March 14, 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, Ms. Little, Mr. Plote, Mr. Stoddard, and Chairman Pietrowski. A quorum was established with all nine Members present.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Jim Hutcheson, Tim Hughes, Steve Reid, Chris Porterfield, Mr. Polanco, Mr. Roman, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, and Mr. Whelan.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Brown moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Faivre seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Leifheit, seconded by Mr. Bagby and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2018 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski shared that in Washington approximately 7,000 pairs of shoes were displayed on the lawn outside the U.S. Capitol yesterday to represent the number of children killed in U.S. shootings since the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The memorial was created by organizers advocating for gun reform.

The Chair expressed, "the 14,000 shoes represent children that never had the opportunity to decide if they wanted to walk out of school in protest and solidarity today for gun safety laws and reform. He shared that he has been disturbed looking at articles locally and nationally about the walkout and the way grown adults are referring to these young students saying they are sheep and only walking out to get out of class and other far worse comments. Young adults are allowed to have opinions and thoughts and even change those opinions and thoughts with time and experience. We should be applauding their effort to create dialog and act to further that dialog in our communities across the nation. I won't disparage the students that decided not to walk out today just as I will not the students that decided to do so in support of what students from Parkland have started. It was their choice and we should be excited by the civil engagement and encourage them to research and vote in elections and even run in elections for local office if they choose or volunteer and advocate for an issue or nonprofit/cause."

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a land acquisition.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 221 N. WALNUT ST., SYCAMORE, IL

Mr. Hanson explained that a few weeks ago he received a phone call from the owner of the property located at 221 N. Walnut Street in Sycamore, IL indicating that he wanted to sell his property to the County. Mr. Hanson noted that the property is located within the County's Sycamore Campus Plan expansion. He also shared that he explained to the property owners that the County pays assessed value for property and the owner readily accepted. The rounded assessed value for the property is \$125,000.00 and that is what the agreed price is at this point.

Mr. Hanson was recommending that the County Board approve this property acquisition. There are no plans for the property and throughout the years it has been proven that it is best to acquire these properties when the sellers are willing to sell to the County. He also noted there would be no walk-through of the house because the property is only looked at for its land.

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Stoddard and was approved unanimously by voice vote to forward the land acquisition to the full County Board recommending its approval.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **Cortland Community Fire Protection District:** Mark Yeager and John Longville both reappointed for three-year terms beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- b. **DeKalb Community Fire Protection District:** Daniel Faivre reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- c. **Genoa-Kingston Fire Protection District:** Tony Woodson reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- d. **Hinckley Community Fire Protection District:** Bruce Thorp reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- e. **Kirkland Community Fire District:** Kevin Aves reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- f. **Malta Community Fire Protection District:** Dave Gommel reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- g. **Maple Park and Countryside Fire Protection District:** Philip Foster reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- h. **Shabbona Community Fire Protection District:** Steve Probst reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- i. **Sycamore Community Fire Protection District:** Todd Cambier reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- j. **Waterman Fire Protection District:** Ken Boldt reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- k. **Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District:** Tim Struthers reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.
- l. **Fairdale Light District:** Edward Silvers reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2018 and expiring April 30, 2021.

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It was moved by Mr. Plote and seconded by Mr. Faivre 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. Plote, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that Committee is forwarding eight resolutions to the full Board. He briefly reviewed each of the resolutions that were listed on the draft agenda. He also added that the Highway Department Campus Storage Building will be on the Committee's Agenda in April.

Mr. Faivre, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee approved to forward three Ordinances for the full Board's consideration. The first Ordinance was described as a Special Use Amendment Ordinance in order to allow for the inclusion of an additional existing barn as part of the event venue located in Victor Township. The other is for a zoning map amendment in order to allow for the operation of a self-storage facility on Five Points Rd. in Mayfield Township. Lastly, the Committee has finished with and is forwarding to the full County Board the adoption of a Solar Energy System Ordinance for DeKalb County. He added that the Committee will be tackling wind next.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee was forwarding a resolution amending the County's current Travel Policy in order to clarify some operational issues, the FY 2017 Year-End Budget Transfers, and the normal Claims and Reports of County Officials.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee heard from County Treasurer Christine Johnson on her roles within the property tax process. He added that she presented an informative report to the Committee and they also went into Executive Session in order to perform an annual evaluation on Robin Brunschon, the County's Chief County Assessment Officer. Mr. Bagby also reminded the group that the DCEDC Annual Luncheon will be on Thursday, March 22nd.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee shared that they had no actionable items for this month but that the Committee received a presentation from Attorney Melissa K. Sims. Ms. Sims advises and represents municipalities and counties to seek redress against pharmaceutical corporations in the opioid crisis with Sanders, Phillips, Grossman, LLC out of New York. She provided a general overview of a presentation outlining the current Opioid Government Public Nuisance Litigation. The Committee nor the State's Attorney's Office has taken any action or mentioned whether DeKalb County would join in on the litigation, Ms. Leifheit shared.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee has no actionable items this month besides payment of the their Claims but at their last meeting they received an annual report from Ms. Peggy Doty regarding the Natural Resource Center. He shared that in 2017, the Natural Resource Education Programming reached a total of 7,223 kid visits which equaled to 3,731 individual children.

Ms. Little, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee did not meet but they will be conducting the Senior Services Tax Levy Hearings within two meetings in April.

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Bagby 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 1st. 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 in June. That is a State of Illinois Approval Process and is absolutely necessary in order to move forward with the Nursing Home Expansion Project. The bond notification documents are now looking to be coming to the County Board in June instead of April, which was previous reported.

The County's website re-design is in full progress and is moving along very well. The IMO Director has reported that working with Trittenhaus Design has been going good as well and that they are very responsive.

The Sheriff's Digital Radio System has run into a zoning issue in within the City of Genoa for the proposed tower site. The Sheriff worked with the G-K School Board and they were very cooperative but the City's Planning Commission rejected the proposal so the County is now looking at other sites.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is looking to wrap up in the next 6-8 weeks. Mr. Hanson noted he thought it was going to be done last September but the project hit some road blocks but now is moving along again.

Lastly, The Jail Expansion Project is 99% complete. The security testing and mechanical testing and balancing is current happening. Also in the meantime, the Regulatory Officials are inspecting everything. Mr. Hanson reminded that the Dedication Ceremony for the Jail Expansion will be Thursday, May 17th at 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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