

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
June 13, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, June 13, 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, and Chairman Pietrowski. A quorum was established with seven Members present and two absent.

Vice Chair Willis sat at the table in Mr. Plote's absence to represent the County Highway Committee.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Tim Hughes, Marjorie Askins, Jeff Whelan, Chris Porterfield, Tracy Jones, Greg Millburg, Steve Reid, Lynne Kunde, Sandra Polanco, Misty Haji-Sheikh, and Craig Roman.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Faivre 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 Vice Chairman Frieders and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2018 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Lyon of Mayfield Township noted that he had just attended the DeKalb County Historical Genealogical Society's Potluck Picnic at the 1835 Miller Log Cabin at the Hoppe Farm in Kingston, part of the DeKalb County Forest Preserve. He complimented the Forest Preserve District for taking excellent care of the grounds. He additionally expressed his concerns about the chinking on the log cabin. He explained that much of the chinking has been done wrong and a lot of it is loose and there is water running behind the concrete and that will rot out the logs.

Mr. Reid shared that he is part of a Committee that advises the Forest Preserve District on the log cabin and noted that he would like to speak more with Mr. Lyon to ensure they get the issue with the cabin taken care of.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he and Vice Chairman John Frieders went out on June 6th to provide checks to non-profits in DeKalb County thanks to generous funding from the Illinois County Association. They were able to take tours of the facilities, inquire what else they can do as a County to help them at the County-level or advocate for at the State-level. He and Vice Chair Frieders expressed that they had a great time meeting with familiar and new faces and

listening to them speak about their passion. It was very rewarding for the both of them, they expressed. Chairman Pietrowski added that there were still a couple organizations that they needed to set up a time with to visit but he hoped to do that very soon.

APPROVAL OF THE DEKALB COUNTY ELECTION JUDGE LIST

The Chairmen of both the Democratic and Republican County Central Committees have submitted the names of capable and duly qualified electors of DeKalb County to be considered for appointment as Judges of Election for a period of two years or until their successors have been appointed as provided by law. The Committee reviewed the provided list of Election Judges. Many names on the list are Judges who have served for a long time but Lynne Kunde of the DeKalb County Election's Office shared that through mailings and time put in by both parties she has received 75 new qualified Judge's names.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Frieders, seconded by Ms. Little and approved unanimously to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **Community Services Block Grant Administrative Board:** Rhonda Brown, Curt Lang, Dawn Littlefield, Kate Noreiko, and Steve Sells all reappointed for terms beginning July 1, 2018 and expiring June 30, 2021; Vivian Bright appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Carol Harrington until June 30, 2019.
- b. **Board of Health:** Jessica Harrill, JD, appointed to fill the unexpired term of Jill Tritt, JD, beginning July 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2018.
- c. **Stormwater Management Committee:** Derek Hiland, Tim Holderman, and Donna Prain all reappointed for terms beginning July 1, 2018 and expiring June 30, 2020; Nathan Schwartz, John Emerson, and Rich Gentile all newly appointed for terms beginning July 1, 2018 and expiring June 30, 2020.

It was moved by Mr. Bagby 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.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items this month but they received an update on the Sheriff's Digital Radio System. Most of the tower sites are either secured by now or almost to that point. The next phase of the project is to receive Federal Permits and then the construction can begin. The hope is to have the project done by the end of the year. She also shared that due to the strike happening in Kane County, DeKalb County juveniles that are in need of going to detention are now being taken to Will County. The Committee also received the Pretrial Services Annual Report. She encouraged Board Members to take a look at that report for many numbers have increased over the past year.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh brought up an important issue to that she wanted the Board to keep on top of. It was explained that the DeKalb County Judicial System has been previously sending a Judge and Circuit Clerk Staff to the City of DeKalb every Monday to take care of minor judicial/traffic offences. The City of DeKalb and Chief Judge Robbin Stuckert have since been in discussions regarding not having a Judge come to the City and that they would handle these cases through their Administrative Hearing Officer. The hardship of having this happen is that any fines that are associated with the violation would not come through the County Courthouse and be divided up among the different line-items which help run the Court System. Instead, the City would keep all of the fine monies and in addition the fine would not go on an individual's record. The Committee discussed the issue further and Mr. Hanson noted that the revenue loss is the hard part to quantify. Chairman Pietrowski shared that he would keep the Board up-to-date on any further information he received about this topic.

Ms. Willis, Vice Chair of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee did not have any actionable items for the June Meeting but the Committee was presented with the Highway Department's Five Year Transportation Improvement Program and the Five Year Equipment Replacement Schedule. She also shared that Coltonville, Rich, Bethany Roads and North First Street project was supposed to begin with Bethany Road on Monday but due to weather it was delayed. The project is still set to be completed by the end of the month though. The Somonauk Road Bridge is 15% complete. The old structure has been removed and pilings are scheduled. Somonauk Road culvert replacement at Union Ditch #1 (Gurler Road) is still awaiting on the scheduling of the preconstruction meeting. Somonauk Road will not be closed during the Sandwich Fair for either of these projects. Lastly, the Highway Committee was provided with a copy of the Contract Proposal for the new storage building. The formal request for bids will go out next week and bids returned in time for the Committee to act during their August meeting.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items for the County Board this month but expressed that they did receive an annual report update from Chief County Assessment's Officer Robin Brunshon. He highlighted that this is the third straight year that there has been an increase in the assessment base, the average selling price of a detached residential property was \$174,576, which would approximately be a 4.15% increase, the new construction equalized assess value rose 49% from 2016 assessment year to 2017 assessment year, but, this is also the third straight year there have been 30+ PTAB appeals. Mr. Bagby additionally shared a few more important numbers to the Executive Committee and encouraged the Members to review the annual report on the website.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh additionally shared that her husband is a Professor at the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology at Northern Illinois University and he runs a Clean Room. She explained that the at the Economic Development Committee's next meeting they would be meeting at NIU and touring the Clean Room. She encouraged any Board Members who wanted to take a tour to come to that meeting.

Ms. Little, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee received the Community Mental Health Board Annual Report. She highlighted that the Mental Health Board is trying to campaign and promote the Kishwaukee United Way 211 System more,

they will be holding more Mental Health First Aid Training Classes for the public, they are working with the Juvenile Justice Council and setting goals with them, and continue to support local organization who serve in the areas of mental health, substance use disorder and developmental disabilities.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee is forwarding an Ordinance formally adopting a DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Code. This was done to establish that the Forest Preserve District is a separate entity from DeKalb County Government. Looking ahead, he shared that the Somonauk-Sannuak Trail is expected to go under construction this fall and that at the Committee's next meeting they will discuss further a future land donation agreement once all of the appropriate language is in place.

The Executive Committee discussed the Forest Preserve District Code a bit further and received clarification on the compensation portion of the code.

Mr. Faivre, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee has forwarded and recommended approval of two Ordinance regarding Special Use Permits and Variations for two communication towers for the Sheriff's Digital Radio System. He also added announced that at the Committee's next meeting they should have a skeleton of the Wind Farm Ordinance available to start going through. The Committee will not be breaking for the County Board Summer Recess and will meet in June.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee approved a few items for the Board's consideration one being a delinquent property tax sale in Kingston Township, a revision to the County's Purchasing and Award of Contract Policy, and most importantly the approval of an Ordinance issuing \$14,000,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds for the purpose of financing the improvement to the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center. The Committee also reviewed the Fund Balance Reporting & Flow of Funds Policy Annual Report and the General Fund Target Fund Balance Policy which has been recently updated. Mr. Stoddard also reported that through those reports they received the good news that the County actually added to their General Fund Balance from 2016 through 2017. The original anticipated \$900,000 draw down that was reported back last August did not take into consideration the revenue side of the equation and when all the final numbers were in for 2017, it showed that the Fund Balance was added to instead of drawn down. On the flip side through for the upcoming budget cycle the Committee was updated on the fact that there are still many unknowns with the State as well as with the Airline Fuel Sales Tax which has a big possibility of going away.

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Brown 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 thanked all of the Board Members that attended the DeKalb County Jail Expansion Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. He expressed that it was a very well attended event. The public tours of the facility which starting right after the ceremony and throughout the weekend was thought to have brought in about 1,000 people. The Evening in the Jail Fundraiser Event that took place on Friday, June 1st

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had about 80 individuals participate and raise about \$3,500 for four local non-profits. Mr. Hanson shared that Chief Klein noted that it was a very positive event and her and her staff learned a lot about the new procedures in the Jail Expansion.

The Nursing Home's Certificate of Need Hearing that was held on June 5th was approved, Mr. Hanson gladly reported.

He shared that the Ad Hoc Website Review Committee recently met and were able to get a preview of the new County's Website design. All of the comments so far have been very positive regarding the redesign and Chairman Pietrowski echoed those comments to the Committee.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report is expected to be done very soon and the plan is for the Economic Development Committee to receive that report at their September Committee Meeting.

Board Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr. presented at the Metro West State of the Counties on May 18th in Geneva alongside Kane County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen and Kendall County Board Chairman Scott Gryder.

Mr. Hanson shared the Community Mental Health Board recently hosted an On the Table Forum sponsored by the Kennedy Foundation and the goal of the forum is to raise awareness of mental illness and to remove the stigma. He expressed that it was a really nice evening and a great event.

Mr. Hanson also noted that he had an initial meeting with a company for a solar farm for the County. They will continue to look at that option.

Lastly, regarding a revenue item, DeKalb's contract with Waste Management ends August 31st. The City has opened up for multiple bids and they are looking to make a decision Monday, June 25th at the City Council Meeting. He explained that the County has a vested interest in Waste Management having that contract because their waste goes to the landfill which the County gets the tipping fee for and while the County has minimum guarantees at the landfill, it is between the minimum guarantee and the maximum amount that is going to help operate the jail. So if they lose that cushion, it will become very problematic for the County.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice Chairman Frieders, seconded by Mr. Bagby and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary