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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes  
August 8, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Vice Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Plote, Mr. Stoddard, and Vice Chairman Frieders. Those absent were Mr. Brown and Chairman Pietrowski. A quorum was established with seven Members present and two absent.

Others present included, Gary Hanson, Craig Roman, Chris Porterfield, Misty Haji-Sheikh, Tim Hughes, Jeff Whelan, Sue Willis, Steve Reid, and Tracy Jones.

**Mr. Stoddard moved to allow Chairman Pietrowski to attend the meeting electronically via conference phone. Mr. Plote seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Mr. Bagby 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. Little, seconded by Mr. Plote and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2018 meeting.**

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski was honored to announce he had been selected as one of the participants in the 2018 class of Jim Edgar Fellows. There were 40 individuals selected out of nearly 170 nominations. Participants were selected by a committee comprised of individuals from the public, private and academic sectors. The fellowship covered all expenses through an intensive five-day executive leadership training program on the campus of the University of Illinois. He added that he was making some excellent contacts where he was and hopes to bring back and apply the new skills he has learned. He also clarified that this is not costing the County any money and is all expenses paid by the Edgar Program.

One more item Chairman Pietrowski shared with the Committee was that DeKalb Sales Tax Agreement was in its final stages and the hope are it will be finalized with the City this month at their meeting.

*Chairman Pietrowski ended his electronic attendance via phone at 7:04 p.m.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Kathy Schertz of Sycamore addressed the Committee regarding The Barn on Baseline. Ms. Schertz provided a background of herself and the areas organizations she has helped and been involved with. She additionally shared that she came to the Committee for their help in holding Roberta Shoaf responsible for abuse and neglect of the animals that reside at The Barn on Baseline in rural Genoa, Illinois.

Mr. Drew Alexander of Sycamore additionally addressed the Committee regarding The Barn on Baseline. He also addressed his experience in engaging the County's Senior Leadership Team. He stated that he wanted the County Board to be aware of the County's organizational ineptitude. Much of what he detailed was his frustrations in trying to deal with Chairman Pietrowski and bring light to issues happening with The Barn on Baseline.

Mr. John Mataitis of Sycamore expressed his desire to have the County's Board of Review Hearings recorded and available online for public consumption much like the County Board Committees do.

## **VOTING MACHINE ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY**

Mr. Hanson on behalf of County Clerk & Recorder Doug Johnson explained that the Aurora Election Commission was dissolved via a referendum held in early 2018 and those responsibilities have now been absorbed by area counties that included their respective parts of that Commission, including Kane County. The ownership for some of the voting machines used by the Aurora Election Commission was transferred to the Kane County Clerk for handling additional election precincts, but more machines were transferred to Kane County than what is anticipated to be needed and now Kane County wishes to divest of the excess machines. The Kane County Clerk has offered to sell those machines to DeKalb County, noting that the machines have only been used in one prior election and that these are the latest machine models offered by the vendor and the machines have a normal selling price of around \$4,000. Mr. Hanson shared that the DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder has identified a need for 42 voting machines and has negotiated a price of \$2,200 per machine for a total cost of \$92,400. These funds would come from the County's Opportunity Fund.

**It was moved by Ms. Leifheit, seconded by Mr. Faivre and was approved unanimously to forward a resolution recommending the purchase of the 42 voting machines to the full County Board.**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

The following appointments were recommended for approval:

- a. **Clinton-Shabbona Drainage District:** Robert Buchholz reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- b. **Coon Creek Drainage District:** John Emerson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- c. **Normal Drainage District:** Scott Drake reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- d. **Shabbona, Milan, Union Drainage District:** Robert Mullins reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- e. **Somonauk-Victor Drainage District:** Wayne Nelson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.

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- f. **Union Drainage District #4:** Alan Wiesbrook reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- g. **Victor-Clinton Drainage District:** Richard Erickson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2021.
- h. **Somonauk Cemetery Association:** A.A. Burgin, Michael Mortell, Reid McAllister, and Scott Thorp, all reappointed for six-year terms beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2024. Dennis Stahl, appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Jack Morsch until August 31, 2021.
- i. **South Grove Cemetery Association:** Larry Driscoll, Richard Tindall and Jason Yakey, all reappointed for six-year terms beginning September 1, 2018 and expiring August 31, 2024.

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**

The Vice 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, Chair of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee did not have any actionable items for the August Meeting. He also shared that no bids were accepted for the proposed storage building due to the bids coming in way too high. So they are back to square one again to see how to get this project accomplished. Mr. Plote updated everyone on the current status of several County Highway Projects that are occurring right now and shared the Highway Committee spent some time discussing recent accidents along Route 23 that involved a county road crossing them. Specifically Perry Road and Chicago Roads wherein driver error plays a big role in the cause of these accidents.

Ms. Little, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee received an Annual Report from Ms. Gonzalez regarding the County Health Department. The Committee also addressed recent concerns regarding The Barn on Baseline and it was determined that the facility is under the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Ms. Gonzalez noted that the Health Department has not found anything with the facility not within compliance but she is still looking into everything.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items this month but they reviewed the Sheriff's Annual Report which is available online for everyone to view. She also noted that the Sheriff's Department is hoping that the new Digital Radio System will be operational by the end of the year. She also noted that the Committee received an overview of CASA from the Executive Director Jill Olson.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee met last week and covered three topics. They received the County's Annual Audit Report and Mr. Stoddard proudly announced and congratulated the County and Staff for being presented with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association for the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year in a row for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He also shared that Mr. Hanson provided the Committee with an overview of the City of

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DeKalb's proposal of another TIF District and how doing so would impact all the other taxing bodies including the County financially. Mr. Hanson and the Finance Committee shared similar concerns with the future proposal. Lastly, Mr. Stoddard shared that the Nursing Home Bond Issue is moving along and that there will be a Public Hearing at next week's full County Board Meeting regarding the Bond Issue.

Mr. Faivre, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee has forwarded and recommended four Ordinances for Solar Gardens. He also suggested that the Board Members keep in mind that just because they pass an Ordinance for a Solar Garden, the Developers would still need to go through and be approved at a State level before construction can begin.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee met last night and although they did not have a quorum, they received a guided tour from Dr. Michael Haji-Sheikh of Northern Illinois University's Microelectronics Research and Development Laboratory (MRDL) "Clean Room". Mr. Bagby reviewed that the Committee heard from Ms. Willis regarding a new candidate for the Business Incubator and some workshops that have been happening out at the Community Outreach Building. He also shared that the Committee would be hearing from Mr. Paul Borek next month on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report.

Additionally, Mr. Bagby, Vice Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared some forest preserve activities that occurred in May and June. He also announced that the Committee met in Special Session prior to the Executive Committee Meeting to sort out some details and amendments and then Committee approved to forward an Ordinance formally adopting a DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Code with an effective date of December 1, 2018 for the Code and January 1, 2019 for compensation.

**It was moved by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Faivre 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 began by sharing the TIF Joint Review Board is currently in recess to work out possible tweaks between taxing bodies.

Budgets were due in the Finance Office on Monday. There are about 80 cost center budgets, of which 28 are in the General Fund. Mr. Hanson is responsible for 11 of those budgets. It will take a couple of weeks to review and compile data and then start the process of trying to balance the budget.

The Jail Expansion is open and operating. There are still some loose ends with construction that are being addressed and they still have about 25 inmates housed in other counties.

The Public Hearing on the Nursing Home Bond Issue will be on the County Board Agenda next week. The 45 day period for requesting a referendum on that issue expired on August 6<sup>th</sup> with no

requests filed. Mr. Hanson noted that he still anticipates a bond issue before Spring of 2019 but it is very well likely it could be much later than that.

The Sheriff's Digital Radio System is waiting on final Federal approval. The hope is to go out for bid for the actual towers this fall.

Mr. Hanson shared that he and Sheriff Scott, on behalf of the County, put in a request to the E-911 Board for funding a new generator and a new UPS with a projected total of \$145,000 and that was approved last week.

He lastly shared that he is working on agreements with revising the County's Intergovernmental Agreement with DSATS to allow the Lead Agency to be changed from time to time, with the County taking it over for 2019. He is also continuing to work with the History Center for an agreement between them and the Joiner History Room for housing that in the new facility which should be open in mid-2019.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Stoddard and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.**

  
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Vice Chairman John Frieders

  
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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary