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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
September 12, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, September 12, 2018, in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Tim Bagby, Mr. Bob Brown, Vice Chairman Mr. John Frieders, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Roy Plote, and Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr. Those absent were Mr. Steve Faivre, Ms. Maureen Little, and Mr. Paul Stoddard. A quorum was established with six Members present and three absent.

Mr. Dan Cribben, Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee and Ms. Marjorie Askins, Vice Chair of Health & Human Services Committee also sat at the table to fill-in for their Committee's absent Chairpersons.

Others present included, Gary Hanson, Pete Stefan, Nathan Schwartz, Rick Amato, Jim Hutcheson, Lisa Bergeron, Steve Reid, Sandra Polanco, Suzanne Willis, Jeff Whelan, Laurie Emmer, Tim Hughes, Craig Roman, Chris Porterfield, Misty Haji-Sheikh, Michael Haji-Sheikh, and numerous other members of the public.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Vice Chairman Frieders and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2018 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Marie Clark of DeKalb spoke regarding troubles she has had trying to contact two specific County Board Members. She additionally shared that she was seeking guidance from the Board on how to deal with what she described as violations to The Barn on Baseline's Special Use Permit along with abuse and neglect of animals at that facility.

Mr. Drew Alexander of Sycamore additionally addressed the Committee stating there are allegations of animal abuse & neglect - administrative and criminal ongoing related to The Barn on Baseline. He has been trying to work with DeKalb County to review the situation and to specifically look at the Special Use Permit that was granted in 2015 given that the Family Pet Care Center (FPCC) is not operating within the parameters of the permit. Mr. Alexander has said that the County has gone out of its way to make this next to impossible. Hiding behind attorney/client privilege, providing limited FOIA access, refusing to bring this up at the P&Z Committee meetings. He additionally outlined troubles he has had meeting with County Board District 2 representatives Tim Hughes and Maureen Little.

Following Mr. Alexander's comments, County Board Member Steve Reid noted that he was offended by some personal attacks that Mr. Alexander had made towards fellow Board Members Mr. Hughes and Ms. Little.

Mr. Hughes addressed some of the comments that Mr. Alexander had made towards trying to meet with Ms. Little and him. Mr. Alexander further addressed correspondence he has previously had with Mr. Hughes and reiterated that he wants the Special Use Permit for the FPCC reviewed and that he will continue to be back to discuss these issues with the Board and County staff.

Ida McCarthy of Sycamore presented allegations of illegal activity and violations that are occurring at the Barn on Baseline in Genoa Township.

John Nielsen of Sycamore shared that he was a former employee of the Barn on Baseline and presented allegations of mistreating of animals and employees, OSHA and EPA violations that he witnessed during his time working at the Barn on Baseline.

Angela Nielsen echoed her husband's comments and noted that she listened to terrible stories her husband told over his five years of working at the Barn on Baseline.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski commended the Sandwich Fair Association and all those involved who made this year's Sandwich Fair a great event. Vice Chairman Frieders additionally spoke on the success of the Fair and spoke highly of all those who worked hard to make the Fair what it is.

The Chairman additionally announced and invited everyone to an Open House to honor former DeKalb County Board Chair and Illinois State Representative, Bob Pritchard, and his career in public service. The event will take place at the DeKalb County Government Legislative Building, Gathertorium, 200 N. Main St., Sycamore, prior to the full County Board Meeting. The event is free and open to the public starting at 5:30 p.m. A special recognition will be presented right after the start of the County Board Meeting around 7:00 p.m.

CITY OF DEKALB SALES TAX IGA

DeKalb County State's Attorney Rick Amato shared that earlier in the afternoon between some representatives of the County and the City of DeKalb to further work out an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide for the continuation of previously approved sales tax sharing, as well as for the County's participation in various road projects in the City of DeKalb. Mr. Amato noted that there are still a few outstanding issues that are being addressed and the hope is that those will be cleared up before the full County Board Meeting next week. Chairman Pietrowski also noted that there were no guarantees that they will reach an understanding but all remain very hopeful.

Mr. Hanson reviewed that the County and the City entered into Intergovernmental Agreements on October 20, 1993 and May 24, 2004, which collectively address the approximately 138 acres of real property located generally adjacent and south of Barber Green and adjacent and east of Route 23 (Sycamore Road) in DeKalb County, Illinois. It was understood and agreed to by the City and County that this Addendum to the Intergovernmental Agreements of October 20, 1993 and May 24, 2004 is being entered into as an addition to the previously agreed to terms and

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conditions and such prior terms and conditions, including the previously agreed to 40-year term of applicability, shall continue to be in full force and effect to the extent they are not specifically withdrawn or amended herein. The subject Intergovernmental Agreements of October 20, 1993 and May 24, 2004, continue to operate so as to mutually benefit the City and County, and so the parties wish to re-affirm their dedication to their sales tax sharing agreements as well as provide for some further mutually beneficial elements at this time, most of which involve road projects that are captured in the attached Agreement.

Ms. Askins moved to forward a resolution to the full County Board directing the Chairman to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of DeKalb regarding sales tax sharing with the understanding that if an agreement does not get reached with the City before the full County Board Meeting then the resolution will be pulled. Mr. Plote seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were recommended for approval:

- a. **DeKalb County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board:** Misty Haji-Sheikh and Derek Hiland reappointed immediately until June 30, 2019.
- b. **DeKalb County Nursing Home Foundation Board:** Robert Higdon (*Sycamore*), Jim Hupke (*DeKalb*), Carol Evans (*Sandwich*), and Judy Royer (*Hinckley*) all newly appointed for terms beginning December 1, 2018 and expiring November 30, 2021.
- c. **DeKalb County Public Building Commission:** Cheryl Nicholson reappointed for a five-year term beginning October 1, 2018 and expiring September 30, 2023.
- d. **Kane, Kendall, DeKalb Workforce Development Board:** Joanne Kantner and Paul Borek reappointed for two-year terms beginning October 1, 2018 and expiring September 30, 2020; Stephanie Mendez appointed to fill the unexpired term of Duff Seyller beginning October 1, 2018 and expiring September 30, 2019.
- e. **Squaw Grove Drainage District:** Bill Pfau reappointed immediately for a three-year term expiring August 31, 2021.
- f. **Victor-Adams Drainage District:** Brian Miller reappointed immediately for a three-year term expiring August 31, 2021.

It was moved by Ms. Leifheit 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

Chairman Pietrowski 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 has forwarded five items for the full County Board's consideration. He outlined each of the items with the Executive Committee as well as announced that the Committee will be have a Special Meeting on Monday, September 24th for their Annual Bus Tour. He also shared that the Committee discussed and reviewed the crashes at Illinois Route 23 and Chicago Road and new DSATS functions that are being transferred to the County from the City of DeKalb during 2019.

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Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee received the bid results from the Somonauk to Sannauk Trail and even though they have forwarded two possible bid options to the full Board, they will be meeting prior to the full Board of Commissioners Meeting to finalize details regarding the bid price. The Committee also unanimously approved placing their FY 2019 Budget on file for public inspection. Lastly, Mr. Brown invited everyone to join the Northwest Suburban Astronomers (NSA) on September 15th at Afton Forest Preserve for an evening observing stars and planets.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee received the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report from DCEDC's Paul Borek. He encouraged Board Members to take a look at the full report and provided them with a brief overview. They additionally extended a current Business Incubator tenant's lease for six months while the Committee continued to review the application process and lastly, an Ordinance was forwarded to the full County Board to adopt a Predictable Fee Schedule for the DeKalb County's Recorder's Office in order to fill a State mandate.

Ms. Askins, Vice Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee did not meet in the month of September.

Mr. Cribben, Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee forwarded six Delinquent Property Tax Sale resolutions recommending their approval, along with accepting a three-year proposal for auditing services, authorizing membership into the Intergovernmental Personnel benefit Cooperative for the County's insurance, and placing the FY 2019 Budget on file for public inspection.

Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items this month but they did receive and review the findings of an audit that was conducted regarding a recent letter that was received noted that a state agency has suspended its grant payments to the DeKalb County Mental Health Court until the County pays back \$9,000 in misappropriated funds. The Sober Living Home Budget was also reviewed.

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

CITY OF DEKALB TIF #3 UPDATE

Mr. Hanson shared that last Friday, was the reconvened meeting of the Joint Review Board to consider the City of DeKalb's proposal for a new TIF District, TIF #3. In addition to himself, Chairman Pietrowski was able to attend to help underscore the importance of this meeting. It initially looked like this would be a very contentious meeting as many concerns had been brought up with how TIF #1 and TIF #2 has been spending money and continues to do so. The City was pushing forward with their proposal saying things would be different with TIF #3.

This changed abruptly the day before the meeting. The attorney for the DeKalb School District, on behalf of the School Board, issued a letter to the Joint Review Board outlining very specific and pointed concerns with DeKalb's proposal. The letter does an excellent job of summarizing the concerns that many of the taxing bodies have been discussing over the last couple of months.

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The meeting ended up being very short. The DeKalb School District encouraged the Joint Review Board to take another 30 days to give time to further sort through the data of the past TIF Districts. They asked that the time also be used to look to the future, not to oppose TIF #3, but to find ways to structure a secondary agreement among taxing bodies to give assurance of full accountability in the future. The Joint Review Board also wants to address what many of us feel were inappropriate expenditures of the past and how the taxing districts may now receive reimbursement. We are to meet again in the next 30 days at a time to be determined, Mr. Hanson shared.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson presented the Committee with his County Administrator's Report. He began by sharing he has been very busy this past month with the County's Budget, City of DeKalb's TIF issue, City of DeKalb's Sales Tax IGA, and the County's health insurance.

In addition, the Nursing Home Expansion Project will be going out to bid next week and those will be due October 16th. The Sheriff is also bidding out the towers for the Digital Radio System at this present time and will be due October 11th.

Mr. Hanson lastly shared that he recently had a meeting with County Department Heads and the DeKalb County History Center in order for the Department Heads to become more familiar with the types of things they should be archiving that will have long-term interest to the community. The items that would be held by the History Center are different than the items that the County statutorily must keep as a public record.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Vice Chairman Frieders and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.



Chairman Mark Pietrowski



Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary