DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois  

COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
January 16, 2019  

The DeKalb County Board met in regular session at the Legislative Center’s Gathertorium on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Clerk called the roll. Those Members present were Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Ruskisha Crawford, Mr. Dan Cribben, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Mr. Steve Faivre, Vice Chairman John Frieders, Mrs. Misty Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Tim Hughes, Mr. Tracy Jones, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Jim Luebke, Mr. Jerry Osland, Mr. Roy Plote, Ms. Sandra Polanco, Mr. Chris Porterfield, Mr. Craig Roman, Mr. Paul Stoddard, Mr. Larry West, Mr. Jeff Whelan, Ms. Suzanne Willis, Mr. Tim Bagby, and Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr. Ms. Linda Slabon was absent. A quorum was established with twenty-three Members present and one absent.

Chairman Pietrowski asked Mr. Campbell to lead in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA  

Motion  
It was moved by Mr. Osland and seconded by Mr. Roman to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote  
Chairman Pietrowski called for a voice vote to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  

Motion  
Ms. Crawford moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2018 County Board Meeting and the December 3, 2018 County Board Organizational Meeting. Mr. Whelan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote  
Chairman Pietrowski asked for a voice vote on the approval of both sets of minutes. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS  

Chairman Pietrowski shared that prior to the County Board Meeting that evening, the new DeKalb County Website was officially unveiled. The Ad Hoc Website Review Committee (Mark Pietrowski, Marjorie Askins, Tim Bagby, Laurie Emmer, Steve Faivre, Jerry Osland, Jeff Whelan, Suzanne Willis) first met July 27, 2017 to reevaluate County’s prior Website, came to consensus that a new layout would be beneficial with emphasis on: “Mobile responsiveness was a very high priority item that was desired as well as being ADA accessible and compliant. Simplifying the home page was suggested as well as having the entire website more of a high picture, low text format.” An RFP was sent out on October 2017 and the County received 25 Proposals nationwide. The bid was awarded to Tritenhause Designs of Sycamore and the Website Development Team consisted of Wendy Tritt & Jeramie Hendricks of Tritenhause Designs and Sheila Santos, Bruce Hamilton, Lisa Sanderson of DeKalb County Government.
Employee Service Awards for December 2018

Chairman Pietrowski recognized the following County Employees who were celebrating Service Awards in the month of December 2018: Five Years: Michael Teboda – Judicial, Holly Norell – Rehab & Nursing Center, Susan Kauffman – Rehab & Nursing Center; Ten Years: Whitney Marsh – Sheriff’s Office, ChristieAnne Turok – Circuit Clerk’s Office; Fifteen Years: Diane Chappell – County Clerk & Recorder’s Office, Mary Ann Criscione – Sheriff’s Office; Twenty Years: Daniel Berres – Health Department (Animal Control).

DeKalb County Public Defender Tom McCulloch presented Assistant Public Defender Mr. Robert Carlson with a twenty-five year Employee Service Award.

Employee Service Awards for January 2019

Chairman Pietrowski additionally recognized the following County Employees who were celebrating Service Awards in the month of January 2019: Robert Merriman – Board of Review, Aaron Ralls – Sheriff’s Office; Ten Years: William Colvin – Community Outreach Building; Twenty Years: Geralynne Kunde – County Clerk & Recorder’s Office (Elections); Twenty-Five Years: Patricia Chilton – Health Department.

Chairman Pietrowski paid special tribute to Mr. Dennis Miller for his thirty-five years of service to DeKalb County as DeKalb County Coroner and DeKalb County Emergency Services & Disaster Agency Coordinator.

Chairman Pietrowski, County Administrator Gary Hanson, and the entire County Board paid very special tribute to DeKalb County Sheriff Roger A. Scott for his fifty years of service to DeKalb County at the Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Hanson and Chairman Pietrowski presented Sheriff Scott with two special gifts that were obtained through donations from County Board Members and County Department Heads.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR

Anne Marie Clark of DeKalb addressed the County Board regarding The Barn on Baseline (aka: DeKalb County Animal Welfare/Adoption Center) being found guilty of two sections of the Animal Welfare Act. She additionally requested that the County Board:
• Create a “real” contract between DeKalb County Government and Malta Vet that speaks to all obligations and responsibilities between the parties to ensure that animals transitioning through DeKalb County Animal Control and Barn on Baseline are adequately protected and remain so until properly adopted.
• Formalize the relationship between DeKalb County Government and Barn on Baseline to ensure that certain standards of care are met, maintained and consist with the language of the Animal Welfare Act.
• Mandate regular and unannounced inspections of the Barn on Baseline to ensure that no person or animal is placed in harm’s way.

Jim Clark of DeKalb reiterated Ms. Clerk’s previous comments and previous calls to action that have been made by Mr. Drew Alexander regarding the Barn of Baseline.

Ms. Amy Linskey of Genoa presented to the County Board stories of neglect and violations happening at The Barn on Baseline.

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APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended approval of the following appointments:

a. **Board of Health:** Jessica Harrill, JD appointed for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021; Patricia Faivre appointed as of January 1, 2019 to fill out the unexpired term of Tiara Huggins until December 31, 2020; and Derryl Block and Heather Breuer both reappointed for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021.

b. **County Board Ad Hoc Rules Committee:** Tim Bagby, Scott Campbell, Steve Faivre, John Frieders, Dianne Leifheit, Mark Pietrowski, Jeff Whelan, and Sue Willis all appointed immediately until November 30, 2020.

c. **Community Services Block Grant Administrative Board:** Maureen Little appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Reid until June 30, 2020.

**Motion**

It was moved by Mr. Faivre and seconded by Mr. Porterfield to approve all of the recommended appointments as presented.

**Voice Vote**

The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE**

**Ordinance O2019-01: An Ordinance Granting a Variation to Allow the Re-establishment of a Nonconforming Residence in Sycamore Township**

**Motion**

Mr. Faivre moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to grant a Variation to allow the re-establishment of a nonconforming single-family dwelling on a 37-acre property located at 28752 Moose Range Road, in Sycamore Township, provided that the petitioners submit a building permit to rebuild the existing residence or for the construction of a new residence within two years of the County Board’s approval of this request. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

**Motion to Amend**

Ms. Willis moved to amend Mr. Faivre’s motion by replacing two years with the word indefinite. Mr. Faivre seconded the motion but after further discussion among the Board Members and Community Development Director Mr. Hiland, Ms. Willis and Mr. Faivre agreed to change the amendment to replace two years with five years.

**Vote on Amendment**

Chairman Pietrowski called for a roll call on the amendment to change the two year provision to a five year provision. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis and Chairman Pietrowski. Mr. Roman and Mr. Bagby opposed. The motion carried with twenty-one Members voting yea and two nay.

**Vote on Motion as Amended**

The original motion as amended was approved unanimously by voice vote.
Motion

Mr. Faivre moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves the following Ordinances:

**Ordinance O2019-02: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on the Twombly Road in DeKalb Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (DK-18-32) requested by MCJ Investments for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 19.64 acre solar garden on property located on the south side of Twombly Road, in DeKalb Township (P.I.N.: 08-16-200-013).

**Ordinance O2019-05: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Tower Road in Shabbona Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (SH-18-40) requested by AES DevCo NC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 14.03-acre solar garden on the east side of Tower Road, in Shabbona Township (P.I.N.: 13-05-100-002).

**Ordinance O2019-06: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Tower Road in Shabbona Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (SH-18-41) requested by AES DevCo NC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 12.85-acre solar garden on the east side of Tower Road, in Shabbona Township (P.I.N.: 13-05-100-002).


**Ordinance O2019-10: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Farm for Property Located on Preserve Road in Clinton Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (CL-18-47) requested by Cypress Creek Renewables Development for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 30-acre solar farm on the southeast corner of Preserve and Kane Roads, in Clinton Township (P.I.N.: 14-19-100-004).

**Ordinance O2019-11: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Crego Road in Afton Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (AF-18-48) requested by SolarStone Illinois, LLC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 13.8 acre solar garden on the east side of Crego Road, in Afton Township (P.I.N.: 11-12-100-014).

**Ordinance O2019-12: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Crego Road in Afton Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (AF-18-49) requested by SolarStone Illinois, LLC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 13.8 acre solar garden on the east side of Crego Road, in Afton Township (P.I.N.: 11-12-100-014).

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Ordinance O2019-17: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Wolf Road in Kingston Township. Approval of a Special Use Permit (KI-18-54) requested by Forefront Power for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 16.8-acre solar garden on the south side of Wolf Road, in Kingston Township.

Ordinance O2019-18: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Wolf Road in Kingston Township. Approval of a Special Use Permit (KI-18-55) requested by Forefront Power for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 16.8-acre solar garden on the south side of Wolf Road, in Kingston Township.


Ordinance O2019-20: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Larson Road in Cortland Township. Approval of a Special Use Permit (CO-18-57) request by SolarStone Illinois, LLC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 14.70-acre solar garden, known as Sycamore Solar Project #1, in the southwest corner of the intersection of Larson Road and State Route 64, in Cortland Township (P.I.N.: 09-01-300-006).

Ordinance O2019-21: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Larson Road in Cortland Township. Approval of a Special Use Permit (CO-18-58) request by SolarStone Illinois, LLC for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 14.3-acre solar garden, known as Sycamore Solar Project #2, immediately south of Project #1 at the intersection of Larson Road and State Route 64, in Cortland Township (P.I.N.: 09-01-300-006).

Voice Vote

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Motion

Mr. Faivre moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves the following two Ordinances and Mr. Plote seconded the motion:

**Ordinance O2019-03: Approval of a Special use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located on Genoa Road in Kingston Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (KI-18-36) requested by Nexamp, Inc. for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 14.45-acre solar garden on property located on the northeast corner of Genoa and Melms Roads, in Kingston Township (P.I.N.: 02-03-400-005).

**Ordinance O2019-04: Approval of a Special Use Permit for a Solar Garden for Property Located Genoa Road in Kingston Township.** Approval of a Special Use Permit (KI-18-37) requested by Nexamp, Inc. for the construction and operation of a 2-megawatt, 19-acre solar garden on the northeast corner of Genoa and Melms Roads, in Kingston Township (P.I.N.: 02-03-400-005).

Motion to Amend

Mr. Hughes shared that Nexamp, Inc. held a meeting on behalf of Genoa Road Solar I, LLC and Genoa Road Solar II, LLC without neighbors that had voiced concerns at the Public Hearing regarding two solar garden project proposed on an approximately 140 acre parcel of land located near 53150 Genoa Road, DeKalb County, Illinois. With Mr. Hughes in attendance Nexamp has agreed with Neighbors to make concessions to alleviate concern and ensure a successful installation of the proposed solar gardens. The Board Members were passed out letters from Nexamp (attached) and Mr. Hughes called upon Community Development Director Derek Hiland to review those changes and how it would affect the Ordinance before them.

Mr. Hiland shared that due to the meeting and the changes that were agreed upon by both parties, within Ordinances O2019-03 and O2019-04, #12 would be changed from: “A landscape plan detailing all of the landscaping to be installed with the project shall be submitted for review and approval by the DeKalb County Community Development Director.” to now: “The petitioner shall add a single row of evergreen shrubs located around the perimeter of the proposed fence line surrounding the solar system. The shrubs shall be maintained so that they will not exceed eight (8) feet in height, and so that the roots of the shrubs do not interfere with the existing drain tiles. A landscape plan detailing all of the landscaping and screening to be installed with the project shall be submitted for review and approval by the DeKalb County Community Development Director prior to the issuance of any building permits.” He added that there would additionally be a new #17 which would read: “The petitioner shall hire a technical expert to conduct an analysis to evaluate and prove the proposed solar garden will not cause impacts to the existing high-speed internet providing service to abutting properties, prior to the issuance of any building permits. Additionally, the petitioner shall provide the County with a reasonable contingency plan prior to the issuance of any building permits outlining how high-speed internet service would be restored in the event the solar garden unexpectedly interrupted the existing high-speed service.”

Mr. Hughes moved to amend the motion to incorporate the revised #12 and the addition of #17 on both Ordinance O2019-03 and O2019-04. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

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Resolution R2019-02: Entering an Agreement of Understanding with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Maintenance and Construction

Motion
Mr. Plote moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to enter into an Agreement of Understanding with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to construct or maintain highways or sections of those DeKalb County highways financed in whole or in part with any funds received from the State except Federal-aid funds, without approval or supervision of IDOT and further authorizes the Chairman of the Board to execute the appropriate documents entering into said agreement. Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion.

Voice Vote
A voice vote was taken on the motion as presented and was approved unanimously.

Resolution R2019-03: Approval of an Engineering Agreement for Johnson Road Box Culvert in Mayfield Road District

Motion
Mr. Plote moved the DeKalb County Board hereby approves to enter into an engineering agreement with Wendler Engineering Services Inc, of Dixon, Illinois for certain Engineering Services associated with improvements to the Box Culvert carrying Johnson Road over Lee Slough Creek, in Mayfield Road District in the total amount of $4,427.50 and further authorizes the Chairman of the Board to execute the appropriate Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Wendler Engineering Services, Inc. for said project. Mr. Osland seconded the motion.

Voice Vote
Chairman Pietrowski called for a voice vote on the motion as presented. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Cribben, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Resolution R2019-04: Selecting DeKalb County Convention & Visitors Bureau as the County’s Agency of Record for Tourism Promotions

Motion
Mr. Bagby moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby selects the DeKalb County Convention & Visitors Bureau as DeKalb County’s Agency of Record for Tourism Promotions for the Illinois Office of Tourism for the 2019 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019). Ms. Polanco seconded the motion.

Voice Vote
The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Resolution R2019-05: Approval of a Loan to Voluntary Action Center

Motion
Mr. Porterfield moved the DeKalb County Board does hereby authorize the County Treasurer and the Finance Director to take the appropriate steps to make cash available from available County funds and allow the Voluntary Action Center to borrow funds, at no interest for up to 24 months, in advance of normal payment cycles, using the Senior Services Tax Levy Program as collateral, in amounts up to the total of (a) 100% of a Senior Services program grant allocation appropriated by the County Board and not yet withdrawn, and (b) 95% of an expected future Senior Services program grant allocation (assuming the future grant amount will be the same as the current grant amount), only if said collateral, the Senior Services Tax Levy, has been levied by the County Board. Ms. Little seconded the motion as presented.

Voice Vote
The Chairman called for a voice vote on the motion as presented. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution R2019-06: Approval of Community Action Transition

Motion
Mr. Porterfield moved that the DeKalb County Board does hereby (1) recognize the termination of the arrangement with the Community Mental Health Board to manage the Community Action Department when a new grant recipient is named and thanks said Board and Director for the excellent job they have done since August of 2017, (2) concurs with the Health & Human Services Committee in the divestment of the Community Action Department because of concerns of sustainability and that increased management costs will detract from the dollars that could be made available to provide direct services to the community, and (3) endorses the DeKalb County Family Service Agency as a viable long-term entity in the community to receive Community Action Block Grant dollars so that those grant dollars stay in the local community and work to directly serve the citizens of the County. Mr. Luebke seconded the motion.

Voice Vote
The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Claims – December 2018

Motion
Mr. Cribben moved to approve the payment of claims for last month, and the off cycle claims paid during the previous month, including all claims for travel, meals, and lodging, in the amount of $7,189,087.48. Mrs. Emmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote
Chairman Pietrowski asked for a roll call vote on the approval of the December Claims. Those Members voted yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

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Claims – January 2019

Motion

Mr. Cribben moved to approve the payment of claims for this month, and the off cycle claims paid during the previous month, including all claims for travel, meals, and lodging, in the amount of $7,360,072.98. Mr. Plote seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski asked for a roll call vote on the approval of the January 2019 Claims. Those Members voted yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, and Chairman Pietrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of County Officials

Motion

Mr. Cribben moved to accept and place on file the following Reports of County Officials:
1. Cash & Investments in County Banks – November & December 2018
2. Public Defender’s Report – November & December 2018
3. Adult & Juvenile Monthly Reports – November & December 2018
4. Pretrial Report – November & December 2018
5. Sheriff’s Jail Report – November & December 2018
6. Building Permits & Construction Reports – November & December 2018

Mr. Roman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

The Chairman requested a voice vote to accept the Reports of County Officials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

DeKalb County Engineer Nathan F. Schwartz, P.E. presented the Annual County Highway Committee Report to the full County Board. Mr. Schwartz provided a PowerPoint presentation that depicted all of the projects that the County Highway Department were involved with in 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Mr. Osland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. and Mr. Whelan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously.

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