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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
February 20, 2019

The DeKalb County Board met in regular session at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Clerk called the roll. Those Members present were 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, Ms. Linda Slabon, Mr. Paul Stoddard, Mr. Larry West, Mr. Jeff Whelan, Ms. Suzanne Willis, Mr. Tim Bagby, Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, and Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr. A quorum was established with all twenty-four Members present.

The DeKalb County Board observed a Moment of Silence to remember the five individuals killed, which included NIU student Trevor Wehner, alumnus Clayton Parks, at a the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, Illinois on February 15, 2019.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Ms. Willis 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

Mr. Luebke moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2019 County Board Meeting. Mr. Whelan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Pietrowski announced that on Tuesday, February 19th Lauren Underwood, Democratic Congresswoman from Naperville who represents the 14th District, hosted a Town Hall at the Sycamore High School.

Employee Service Awards for February 2019

Chairman Pietrowski recognized the following County Employees who were celebrating Service Awards in the month of February 2019: Five Years: Ray Nelson – Judicial; Ten Years: David Christiansen – Sheriff's Office, David Rivers – Sheriff's Office; Twenty Years: Kathleen

Lampkins – Circuit Clerk’s Office, Christine Arms – Information Management Office; Thirty Years: Denise Berkshire – Health Department.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR

Anne Marie Clark of DeKalb read an article from the Daily Chronicle to the County Board Members regarding the Executive Director of the Barn on Baseline, Roberta Shoaf, being charged with failure to provide veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering.

Angela Nielsen of Sycamore read an article from WLBK Radio DeKalb Illinois FM 98.9 AM 1360: *“The director of an animal shelter in Genoa is charged with animal neglect. 66-year-old Roberta Shoaf of Sycamore, who is the director of the Barn on Baseline Animal Shelter, has been charged with two counts of violating the owner’s duties in the Humane Care for Animals Act. Deputies say Shoaf failed to provide veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering. Deputies say the sheriff’s office received two complaints about the animal shelter, one in June of last year and the other last month. Shoaf turned herself into the DeKalb County Jail on Friday and was released after posting \$100. The Barn on Baseline has been under scrutiny since last summer when a group called Bert’s Brigade began raising concerns about the conditions of animals there. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has fined the facility \$500 for violating the Animal Welfare Act. The agency said the facility didn’t disclose a previous adoption of Bert, a chihuahua, and that there were no records showing Bert and two bulldogs were given veterinary care after becoming underweight.”*

Drew Alexander of Sycamore addressed the recent charges brought against the Director of the Barn on Baseline, Roberta Shoaf, as well as discontent with the Sheriff and the State’s Attorney’s attempts in investigating a complaint he filed under 2019-00397 and other matters that have been brought to their attention surrounding the Barn on Baseline and the DeKalb County Animal Welfare League. Mr. Alexander further requested that the DeKalb County Planning & Zoning Committee partake in a public review of the Barn on Baseline’s Special Use Permit.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended approval of the following appointments:

- a. **Rehab & Nursing Center Operating Board/Supportive Living Facility Board:** Pat Conboy and Steve Kuhn both appointed beginning March 1, 2019 to fill open positions until December 31, 2019.
- b. **Board of Health:** Rukisha Crawford appointed for a term beginning March 1, 2019 and expiring December 31, 2019.
- c. **E-911 Board:** Jeff McMaster appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Eric Hicks until December 31, 2019.

Motion

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

Voice Vote

The motion was carried unanimously.

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REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:14 p.m., Chairman Pietrowski opened a Public Hearing for the purposes of receiving public comments on CMN-RUS, Inc. (Metronet) request of approval for a cable franchise agreement to provide cable TV services to residences in unincorporated DeKalb and Sycamore Townships. The Chairman read: "*Cable television service is provided in unincorporated DeKalb County under franchises granted by the County Board. Each company that wishes to provide cable TV service must be granted a franchise following an application for approval. CMN-RUS, INC is requesting approval of a franchise to provide cable TV service to residences in unincorporated DeKalb and Sycamore Townships. Before approval of a new franchise can be granted, the application must be reviewed by a Committee of the County Board and subject to a public hearing.*" Chairman Pietrowski called for comments from the public regarding this matter.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Pietrowski closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Ordinance O2019-26: An Ordinance Granting a Cable Franchise Agreement to CMN-RUS, Inc.

Motion

Mr. Faivre moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves the provided Cable Television Franchise Agreement with CMN-RUS, Inc. (Metronet) effective immediately. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a voice vote on the motion as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Resolution R2019-07: Approval of a Local Agency Agreement for Barber Greene Road Safety

Shoulders

Motion

Mr. Plote moved the DeKalb County Board hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board to execute the appropriate Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation with the State of Illinois for certain improvements to 1.14 miles of Barber Greene Road, from Peace Road east to Somonauk Road, with said improvements estimated to cost \$165,000.00 with the local share to be estimated at \$33,000.00. Mr. Osland seconded the motion.

Roll Call

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

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Resolution R2019-08: Purchase Award for One Tandem Cab and Chassis

Motion

Mr. Plote moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby approves the lowest bid meeting specifications for the provision of the specified equipment to JX Peterbilt of Rockford, Illinois for a new Peterbilt 348 Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis in the total amount, after options and trade allowance, of \$93,568.00. Mrs. Emmer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution R2019-09: Award of Peace Road Aggregate Base for Right Turn Lanes at Brickville and Freed Roads

Motion

Mr. Plote moved the DeKalb County Board hereby approves the lowest bid meeting specifications to William Charles Construction Company, LLC from Rockford, Illinois for furnished excavation and aggregate base for right turn lanes on Peace Road at Brickville Road and Freed Road in Sycamore Road District in the amount of \$132,330.45. Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a roll call vote on the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice Chair Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, and Chairman Pietrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Resolution R2019-10: Authorizing the Execution and Amendment of a Federal 5311 Grant Agreement

Motion

Mr. Porterfield moved the DeKalb County Board hereby authorizes and directs the County Administrator to execute and file on behalf of DeKalb County a Section 5311 Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation, and amend such Agreement, if necessary, in order to obtain grant assistance under the provisions of Section 5311 for the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019. Ms. Slabon 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.

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Resolution R2019-11: Authorizing the Execution and Amendment of a Downstate Operating Assistance Grant Agreement

Motion

Mr. Porterfield moved that the DeKalb County Board hereby authorizes and directs the County Administrator to execute and file on behalf of DeKalb County a Downstate Public Transportation Operating Assistance Grant with the State of Illinois and amend such Agreement, if necessary, for the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019 in order to obtain grant assistance under the provisions of the Act. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Resolution R2019-12: Abating the Entire Property Tax Levy for the 2018 Tax Year for the 2010 Courthouse Expansion and Jail Expansion Bond Issue

Motion

Mr. Cribben moved the DeKalb County Board hereby approves that the \$1,281,834 property tax levy for the 2018 Tax Year (payable in 2019), which was levied for the retirement of the debt of (a) \$971,726 for the Build America Bond Issue and (b) \$310,108 for the Recovery Zone Bond Issue, is hereby abated in its entirety in the amount of \$1,281,834, and that a certified copy of this resolution should be filed with the DeKalb County Clerk within fifteen days. Vice Chairman Frieders seconded the motion as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a roll call vote on the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice Chair Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, and Chairman Pietrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution R2019-13: Abating the Entire Property Tax Levy for the 2018 Tax Year for the 2017 Jail Expansion Bond Issue

Motion

Mr. Cribben moved the DeKalb County Board hereby approves that the \$1,573,106.26 property tax levy for the 2018 Tax Year (payable in 2019), which was levied for the retirement of the debt of the County of DeKalb, Illinois General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017 (i.e. the Jail Expansion Bonds), is hereby abated in its entirety in the amount of \$1,573,106.26, and that a certified copy of this resolution should be filed with the DeKalb County Clerk within fifteen days. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski called for a roll call vote on the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice Chair Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, and Chairman Pietrowski. The motion carried unanimously.

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Claims – February 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 \$6,711,486.74. Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pietrowski asked for a roll call vote on the approval of the February 2019 Claims. Those Members voted yea were Mr. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice Chair Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, 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 – January 2019
2. Public Defender's Report – January 2019
3. Adult & Juvenile Monthly Reports – January 2019
4. Pretrial Report – January 2019
5. Sheriff's Jail Report – January 2019
6. Building Permits & Construction Reports – January 2019
7. Circuit Clerk's Six Month Report – January 2019
8. County Clerk & Recorder's Six Month Report – January 2019

Mr. Bagby 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

Mr. Stoddard requested that the County Highway Committee look into a Program that was implemented years ago that asked local farmers to leave rows of corn up to break the wind and snow from drifting onto County roadways.

Mr. Bagby shared that on February 26th, the DeKalb County Government, DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation/DCEDC, and ComEd are teaming up to host DeKalb County's first Economic Development Boot Camp. The event is geared towards municipal elected officials and economic development staff, to receive the tools necessary to effectively encourage economic development in your respective community. Panel discussions will feature expert insight from professionals at INTERSECT, Illinois, Site Selectors, Developers, and the Utilities industries.

Mr. Bagby additionally shared that there will be a State-wide Exam for the Board of Review on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the Lake County Building in Waukegan, Illinois. If anyone is interested in being appointed to the Board of Review, they need to take and pass the State-wide Exam.

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Mrs. Haji-Sheikh praised the County Highway Department and their staff for the excellent job keeping the County Roads safe during the many winter events that the area has experienced lately. Chairman Pietrowski and County Engineer Nathan Schwartz additionally cleared up rumors that the County is running out of salt.

Mr. Faivre announced that the Township Assessors contact information is now on the assessment tabs when an individual looks up their tax information on the County's Website.

Vice Chairman Frieders congratulated the Sandwich Community High School's Girl Basketball Team on their magical season so far. They have made history with their 32-0 season and have won the program's first-ever regional title.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh additionally shared that Northern Illinois University's rich history of women's intercollegiate athletics was on display the weekend of February 15-16 as part of Huskie Athletics' NIU Legacy Celebration. More than 60 Huskie student-athlete alumnae returned to campus for the two-day event, which recognized the contributions and accomplishments of women student-athletes from the pre-Title IX era (prior to 1981).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Mr. Faivre moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and Mrs. Emmer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously.

Douglas J. Johnson
DeKalb County Clerk

Mark Pietrowski, Jr.
DeKalb County Board Chairman