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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Special Forest Preserve Committee Minutes  
November 8, 2017**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Committee met in special session on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. Ms. Little was absent. A quorum was established with six Members present and one absent.

Others present were Terry Hannan and Gary Hanson.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Bagby, and it was carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**FY 2018 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION AND LEVY**

Chairman Brown provided the Committee with a brief overview of the budget process to date.

Mr. Hanson explained that at last week's Finance Committee Meeting as the budget was being finalized, a recommendation was made to ask the Forest Preserve District to change their property tax levy. The suggestion was to make the tax policy the same as the County's, which is to make sure the District realizes all the gains from both the legally approved cost-of-living adjustment and the gain from new construction. The idea was to apply this gain to the Sheriff's Law Enforcement resources as the Sheriff supplies patrols for the various Forest Preserves and the surrounding rural areas. It is anticipated that for 2018, this would add about \$60,000 to the Forest Preserve revenues which would then be designated to the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement. After just two years of applying this new strategy, a permanent full-time Sheriff's Deputy could be hired. This would be a true benefit to both the Forest Preserve and the Sheriff's Office.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh noted that she understood why Mr. Hanson was explaining and how much of an increase it would provide but she was not being convinced that it would provide a good enough benefit.

Mr. Hannan shared that in his 40 plus years with the Forest Preserve District, the Sheriff's Department has patrolled the forest preserves year-round, day and night, for safety for security at no cost to the Forest Preserve District. Only recently there has been a fee (about \$10,000 per year) as deputies patrol preserves Friday and Saturday evenings from April through October. As

Mr. Hanson explained, this would be a benefit to the Sherriff's Department, forest preserve staff and forest preserve visitors, Mr. Hannan expressed.

It was also clarified that on a \$200,000 home, this would cost an additional \$2.00 to a taxpayer but it would also provide additional safety and security for the County's forest preserves and rural County areas.

It was questioned what other Forest Preserve Districts do for security and Mr. Hannan shared that many District like (Kane, Will, Cook, etc.) have their own patrol staff and vehicles which would be a much bigger cost than is being proposed here.

Mr. Porterfield asked Mr. Hanson if he would recommend that once the Forest Preserve has done this for two years that the Forest Preserve continues to build-in a levy change for their own budget. Mr. Hanson answered that he would absolutely recommend doing that and if they think down the road the \$75,000 is ever in jeopardy, this levy increase would be how they would replace it.

**Mr. Porterfield moved to approve that the Forest Preserve District change their Property Tax Levy Policy (an increase of about \$60,000) and make it the same as the County's which is to make sure the District realizes all the gains from both the legally approved cost-of-living adjustment and the gain from new construction. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion and it was carried with two oppositions from Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and Mr. Roman.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Bagby and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Bob Brown

  
Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

**MAXIMIZING THE FOREST PRESERVE LEVY**

Levy Change	Year	Levy	One Year Change	Change from 2017
	2009	1,492,777		
	2010	1,477,622		
	2011	1,502,521		
	2012	1,502,319		
	2013	1,484,343		
	2014	1,471,151		
	2015	1,485,193		
	2016	1,485,402		
	2017	1,485,428		
	2018	1,485,000		

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OPTION**

3.7%	2018	1,540,389	54,961	54,961
3.0%	2019	1,586,601	46,212	101,173
3.0%	2020	1,634,199	47,598	148,771
3.0%	2021	1,683,224	49,026	197,796
3.0%	2022	1,733,721	50,497	248,293