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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
August 10, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Brown, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Gudmunson, Ms. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, Ms. Turner and Chairman Pietrowski. All nine members were present.

Others that were present included Marjorie Askins, Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Dianne Leifheit, Jim Luebke, Sandra Polanco, Chris Porterfield, Stephen Reid and Jeff Whelan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Gudmunson and seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Mr. Gudmunson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski welcomed the members back from the summer recess.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

It was moved by Mr. Frieders and seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve the following appointments:

- Jo Ellen Charlton and Linda Swenson to the Regional Plan Commission
- Tim Holdeman and Joe Misurelli to the Stormwater Management Committee
- Carl Dumoulin to the Coon Creek Drainage District
- Leonard Anderson to the Clinton-Shabbona Drainage District
- Steven C. Simpson to the Shabbona Milan Union Drainage District #1
- Michael Rosenwinkle to the Union Drainage District #4 (Victor Township Drainage)
- Steve Storey to the Normal Drainage District #13
- Valarie Redmond, Julio Hernandez and Joshua Hall to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Administrative Board

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Chairman Pietrowski requested a report from each of the Committee Chairpersons.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee stated that the committee met last Thursday and that the committee has three items to move forward to the County Board.

Mr. Gudmunson outlined that the first item (R2016-49) is a bid award approval for a new service truck, a new tandem steel drum vibratory roller and a new Bobcat all-wheel steer loader.

Mr. Emerson inquired if the new service truck was a replacement vehicle and Mr. Gudmunson responded that it is an addition to the fleet and that the second vehicle will allow the County to better respond to multiple service needs.

Mr. Gudmunson reviewed Resolution R2016-50 for the approval of Township Bridge Program Funds for the Melms Road Bridge in Genoa Road District. He also reviewed Ordinance O2016-07 that will establish a 25mph speed zone in Fairdale, by request of the community.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh thanked Nathan Schwartz, County Engineer and the crew that completed the work on the Coltonville Road bridge. She mentioned that she has heard several compliments from the community and that it's nice to have Coltonville Road re-open to traffic.

Mr. Gudmunson mentioned that he will be speaking with Mr. Schwartz regarding adjustments that may be needed to the guard rails near the bridge. Mr. Gudmunson stated that the guard rails may be extended to increase coverage on the shoulder near the bridge exit points.

Mr. Gudmunson mentioned that there was significant dialogue during the Highway Committee meeting about the Bobcat purchase and that after further thought, he recommends striking this item from the resolution. He explained that the Bobcat that is currently in the fleet has less than 1,000 hours on it and has a significant amount of life left. Mr. Gudmunson feels that since the current Bobcat is in good shape, the purchase of a new machine is not required at this point. Mr. Hanson suggested that the item be addressed during the August 17th County Board meeting and Mr. Gudmunson agreed.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee stated that the committee has two ordinances and one resolution to move forward to the County Board. Mr. Emerson reviewed Ordinance O2016-08, Special Use Permit for a dog daycare in Sandwich Township. He also reviewed the amendment to the Special Use Permit (O2016-09) for the fertilizer business that's located on State Route 34 in Sandwich. Lastly, Mr. Emerson outlined Resolution R2016-54, appointing Kevin Hickey to the position of interim Planning Director, Building Officer, Plat Officer and Zoning Administrator as of September 1, 2016 at a rate of \$48.00 per hour.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee mentioned that although he has no actionable items to review, he does have some updates he'd like to share. Mr. Brown stated that during the August 2nd meeting, Melissa Henriksen of the NIU Center for Governmental Studies shared that the presidents of NIU and Kishwaukee College, as well as other individuals within the county, will be engaged as part of the ongoing economic development visioning program. Mr. Brown mentioned that a gathering of economic stakeholders and partners from

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across the county is planned for late August. Mr. Brown reminded the Executive Committee members that the DeKalb County Community Foundation has a \$20,000.00 grant available for communities to assist them in the implementation of their economic development strategies. He stated that a letter outlining the terms of the grant is scheduled to be sent to communities by the end of August with an application deadline of October 1st. Mr. Brown added that several municipalities have already expressed interest in applying for the grant and that there appears to be a significant amount of enthusiasm for the program.

Mr. Brown also mentioned that Mary Supple, DeKalb County Economic Development Coordinator provided an update to the Economic Development Committee announcing the ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for the Business Incubator on August 17th. Mr. Brown mentioned that Ms. Supple has contacted several NIU deans and has invited them to bring their students to the incubator to participate in the business development process.

Mr. Brown reviewed events scheduled for 2017, including the State High School Football Championship that will take place at NIU and the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Golf Tournament that will be hosted by NIU at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove. Mr. Brown mentioned that he hopes these events will generate a significant amount of business and interest in DeKalb County.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh suggested the inclusion of NIU department chairpersons in bringing students to the Business Incubator. Mr. Brown responded that he will bring that suggestion forward to Ms. Supple.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee mentioned that the committee met at the end of July and has one resolution to move forward to the full County Board. Mr. Frieders outlined that Resolution R2016-48, authorizing the intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for the provision of Multi-Systemic Therapy to juveniles and their families, will allow this program to continue an additional year.

Mr. Frieders also mentioned that the Law & Justice Committee received an update on the pretrial program, which has yielded very positive results in terms of cost-savings and effectiveness. Mr. Frieders mentioned that there are staffing needs in this area and that this will be a topic during the upcoming budget process. Mr. Stoddard mentioned that increasing the staffing level in this program is a good investment.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee reviewed the details of Resolution R2016-56, "Property Sale Approval". Mr. Haji Sheikh explained that property was acquired by the county from a former resident of the Rehab & Nursing Center who has since passed away. She stated that the former resident had incurred a significant financial debt with the Center and the county acquired the property as part of an agreement with the family to settle the debt. Ms. Haji-Sheikh reviewed that the county has received an offer of \$72,300.00 for the property, which will only partially cover the outstanding debt. She mentioned that the county hopes to recover additional funds through Public Aid once the sale of the property has been completed, as the property is being sold for an amount lower than the original estimated value.

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Ms. Haji Sheikh also provided an update on the tax referendum for the Health Department and stated that Ms. Lisa Gonzalez, Public Health Administrator will be participating in the next Health & Human Services Committee meeting that's scheduled for September 12th.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh requested that the committee members contact Ms. Gonzalez prior to the meeting on the 12th to provide her with any questions they may have. Ms. Haji-Sheikh stated that Ms. Gonzalez will then be prepared to address any questions or concerns the committee members may have regarding the referendum.

Mr. Jones inquired about the difference between the estimated value and the selling price of the property acquired by the Rehab & Nursing Center. Mr. Hanson and Ms. Haji-Sheikh clarified that the estimated value figure was several years old and that the property is in poor condition.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee mentioned that the committee met last week and that there are two fairly routine delinquent property tax sale resolutions that will be brought to the County Board. Mr. Stoddard also referenced Resolution R2016-53, which authorizes listed banks and credit unions as depositories of public funds in the custody of the DeKalb County Treasurer.

Mr. Stoddard reviewed Resolution R2016-55, which authorizes an increase to the starting salary range of the Building Inspector. Mr. Stoddard stated that the county contracts with a local engineering company to handle building inspector responsibilities and that the county is still considering whether or not to hire a permanent Building Inspector. Mr. Stoddard mentioned that the county's current salary range for this position is \$10.00 lower than the salary in neighboring counties. He stated that the committee is proposing a \$3.00 increase to the Building Inspector salary range so the county will be able to attract qualified applicants in the event the county decides to begin recruiting for the position. Mr. Jones added that the proposed \$3.00 per hour increase is less than what was discussed last year and is reasonable.

Mr. Stoddard also reported that the Finance Committee received an update from the county's health insurance consultant and that overall, the county has improved from last year, in terms of the overall cost associated with the program. Mr. Stoddard mentioned that medical claims are down a bit from last year and that prescription claims are up. He stated that the county is considering a 10% increase in premiums, as medical costs continue to increase nationally. Mr. Stoddard mentioned that this increase would be lower than increases proposed in prior years. He also stated that the "Cadillac tax" that was discussed last year has been put on hold however, another tax is likely to surface in its place.

Mr. Stoddard reviewed that the County Board will be presented with two months' worth of claims to be paid, since there wasn't any activity during the summer recess.

Ms. Turner, Chairperson of the Forest Preserve Committee stated that the committee met on July 26th and witnessed a wonderful presentation by Genoa-Kingston students. Ms. Turner mentioned that the students presented as part of a class in which they are to review possible solutions to a particular problem. Ms. Turner explained that the problem the students chose was

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to connect the Genoa and Kingston bike trails. She stated that the students identified the need to develop the trail as many of the students walk along Route 72 or on the railroad tracks when traveling between the two locations. Ms. Turner stated that the students have written letters to land owners and plan to conduct fund-raising activities to complete the trail. Mr. Turner stated that it was wonderful to witness the energy and level of involvement the students have and that the presentation was excellent. Ms. Haji-Sheikh added that the students have been invited to present at an upcoming County Board meeting.

Ms. Turner reviewed that the Forest Preserve Committee met in Executive Session on the subject of a land acquisition. She also mentioned that the county will need to obtain permission from the Federal Emergency Management Agency before completing work on the new Sycamore Forest Preserve. Ms. Turner stated that she is hopeful that the forest preserve project will remain on schedule and that the grand opening will likely occur during the week of Halloween.

Mr. Porterfield asked if the bike paths are patrolled by law enforcement. Ms. Turner responded that the Sheriff's Department does patrol the forest preserves and that the patrol includes the bike paths. She stated that she was unsure of the details. Ms. Haji-Sheikh mentioned that she knows the Peace Road path is patrolled regularly. Mr. Whelan relayed a compliment he had received from a county resident who is very pleased with the beautiful new park in the area that was once Evergreen Village.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh motioned to approve the County Board Agenda as presented and Mr. Gudmunson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson provided an update on the county jail project. He stated that work has begun on the foundation and he expects this work to take several weeks. Mr. Hanson mentioned that a second wall panel has been added to the construction site and that it provides an opportunity to view the building color and surface design. He stated that landscaping has started in all areas surrounding the foundation and that Exchange Street will be ready to be re-open to traffic, once the county completes adjustments to roadway transition pieces, which is approximately a half day of work. Mr. Hanson mentioned that once the work has been completed, the decision of when to open Exchange Street will be with the City of Sycamore.

Mr. Hanson stated that progress continues on the Sober Living Home. He outlined that the agreement has been finalized with the general contractor and he hopes work on the site will begin soon.

Mr. Hanson also mentioned that the county judiciary has received funding for mental health programming, which will include the addition of staff and the need to relocate records storage in the courthouse from the lower level to the third floor to provide additional office space. Mr. Hanson stated that increased security measures are being implemented within the courthouse due to a recent threat that was received by one of the judges.

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Mr. Hanson stated that he and Mr. Schwartz recently attended a Great Lakes Basin Railroad meeting in Rockford. Mr. Hanson explained that the meeting was hosted by a consultant group that hopes to assist municipalities by educating and equipping them to secure the best possible deal for their entity. Mr. Hanson added that the railroad plans do not currently involve land in DeKalb County however, he is monitoring the progress of the project as there is always a possibility DeKalb County could be included as part of an alternate rail route.

Mr. Hanson mentioned that he is working with Paul Miller to ensure there are no gaps during his transition. Mr. Hanson asked Ms. Johnson to provide information on Mr. Miller's farewell event. Ms. Johnson stated that there will be an open house for Mr. Miller on Friday, August 26th and that invitations will be sent via email. Ms. Johnson also mentioned that the gathering will be a low-key event, per Mr. Miller's request.

Mr. Hanson concluded by stating he will be taking some vacation time during the week of August 22nd.

Chairman Pietrowski mentioned that a National Night Out event was held August 5th in DeKalb in the Target parking lot. He mentioned that there were many representatives of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department in attendance, along with the State's Attorney and several community organizations, including Tails and Safe Passage. Chairman Pietrowski stated that the educational event was very well attended and that it demonstrated the friendliness of our Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh stated that it was brought to her attention by Mr. Luebke that the Veterans Assistance Commission is in need of volunteer drivers. Mr. Luebke requested the Committee's assistance in getting the word out that drivers are needed to provide county veterans with transportation to and from medical appointments.

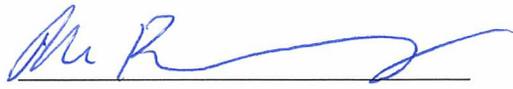
Chairman Pietrowski mentioned that the Rehab & Nursing Center employees have ratified their labor contract and that the new contract is a five-year agreement.

Mr. Stoddard inquired about the possibility of posting audio recordings of committee meetings online so that information can be more easily accessible to the public. Chairman Pietrowski and Mr. Hanson agreed that this item should be included on a future meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Turner moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Ms. Haji-Sheikh. The motion carried unanimously.



Christie Klein, Recording Secretary

Mark Pietrowski, Chairman

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