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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
February 10, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Brown, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Gudmunson, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Stoddard, and Mrs. Turner. Mr. Jones was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Jeff Whelan, Steve Reid, Ruth Anne Tobias, Dianne Leifheit, Sandra Polanco, and Kevin Bunge.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from January 13, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski sadly announced that as mostly Board Members had already known that fellow County Board Member Frank O'Barski had passed away Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Mr. O'Barski, of County Board District 10 (DeKalb), had battled colon cancer for several years. He was first diagnosed with the disease in November 2012, about the time he was first elected to the County Board. Chairman Pietrowski added that through his battle and his cancer resurfacing in 2014, and again in 2015, Mr. O'Barski rarely missed any Board or Committee Meetings.

The Chairman and many other Board Members shared their memories of Mr. O'Barski and shared what a great Member, friend, and man he was to all. He will be very missed. Chairman Pietrowski noted that he would like to have a bench made in Mr. O'Barski's honor and have it placed in the future Sycamore Forest Preserve.

The Chairman will officially declare the County Board District 10 seat vacant at next week's full County Board Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS & APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointment for approval:

- a. **Community Mental Health Board:** Sue Plote appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Thomas Kirts until December 31, 2017.

Chairman Pietrowski additionally 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. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding seven resolutions to the full County Board recommending their approval. He explained that the resolutions were a mix of Motor Fuel Tax allotments and awards for a purchase of a new tractor and various 2016 projects.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee has forwarded one Ordinance to the full County Board which is for a denial of a Special Use Permit to allow firearms training classes on a property in rural Milan Township. The Committee further discussed that this item has been through two Public Hearings and a few P&Z Committee Members expressed why they voted the way they did at the Committee level. Chairman Pietrowski stated that it was important to note that everyone should base their decision regarding this item on the facts, findings, and documented statements that were taken during the Public Hearings and not on additional phone calls and emails from other constituents.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee noted that the Committee has no actionable items but they received an update and report regarding the Abatement Program as well as started discussions regarding how the County may assist small businesses with regulatory compliance issues that they may have. Mr. Brown continued that the majority of the meeting regarded the work-in-progress with the County's Incubator Program which is currently in the policy & procedures stage.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared the Committee met and had a meeting almost entirely on the ongoing issue of the costs allocation method for the Communication's Center. The Committee formally voted to start charging the rural Fire Departments for their share of the Center based on CAD Events along with continuing to charge rural Police Departments with understanding that there will be a combined meeting of Administration Staff, the Sheriff, Fire Trustees, and Police and Fire Chiefs to formulate a contract that stipulates financial and operational considerations. The contract would then come back to the Law & Justice Committee and ultimately the full County Board for final approval.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee did is forwarding two annual abatement resolutions to the board recommending their approval along with a resolution that would amend the County's Fixed Assets Capitalization Policy.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, noted that the Committee did not meet due to a lack of agenda items.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding two resolutions proposed to them from the Communication Action Department for a new position and classification/hour changes for current positions. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh stressed that both resolutions for the positions state that there will be no County General Fund dollars utilized for either. She additionally provided information regarding a great strategic planning session that was administered by the Community Action Department as well. Lastly Chairperson Haji-Sheikh noted that she has invited Northwestern to next month's meeting to talk more and to further answer any questions that were not previously answered at their last visit.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Emerson and it was carried unanimously to approve the County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board for approval.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson announced that at last month's meeting the Board approved to authorize the State's Attorney to file a lawsuit in order to obtain state reimbursements for salaries and that money has come in last week so there will be no lawsuit filed.

On Monday night the City of Sycamore Planning Commission approved all the zoning, vacations, easement, and consolidation plats for the Jail Expansion Project. They will then go before the City Council next Monday.

Mr. Hanson shared that the recent news release that was sent out regarding the Economic Summit included a survey that he encouraged everyone to view and that link is additionally on the County's Website. Chairman Pietrowski additionally asked everyone to share and help spread the word of the survey.

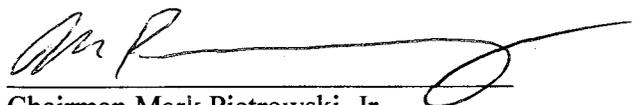
He also shared that at the next Finance Committee Meeting the Committee will have their first look at some FY 2017 Budget issues and how big of a challenge it is going to be to reach a balanced budget.

Lastly, he noted that Mr. Paul Miller is heading union negotiations with the County's three AFSCME groups. This represents about 215 employees throughout the Sycamore Campus, Nursing Home, and Health Department. The County is hoping to get multi-year contracts with all of those if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary


Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.