

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes  
March 9, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Outreach Building's Conference Room West in DeKalb, Illinois. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Brown, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, and Mrs. Turner. Mr. Emerson and Mr. Gudmunson were absent. A quorum was established with seven Members present and two absent.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Jeff Whelan, Dianne Leifheit, Suzanne Willis, Greg Millburg, Steve Reid, Jim Luebke, Chris Porterfield, Sandra Polanco, and Ruth Anne Tobias.

**It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Mrs. Turner to bring Mr. Luebke to the table to represent the County Highway Committee. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Gudmunson arrived shortly after though and joined the Executive Committee.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Mr. Frieders, seconded by Mr. Stoddard and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from February 10, 2016.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner 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 shared that he, Mr. Paul Borek and Mr. Gary Hanson recently attended DeKalb High School to speak with students about County Government and elections.

The Chairman additionally gave a brief update on a recent meeting that outlined the potential impact that a County-wide school facility sales tax would have on County finances. He noted that the Finance Committee received a more in depth update on the outcome of that meeting but wanted everyone to be aware of the lingering potential affects.

## **APPOINTMENTS & APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **DeKalb County Board Member: District 10:** Suzanne Willis appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term until November 30, 2016.
- b. **County Board Committee Assignments:** Suzanne Willis appointed immediately to the P&Z Committee and the County Highway Committee until November 30, 2016.
- c. **County Highway Committee Vice-Chairman:** Jim Luebke appointed immediately until November 30, 2016.
- d. **Planning & Zoning Committee Vice-Chairman:** Steve Faivre appointed immediately until November 30, 2016.
- e. **Regional Plan Commission:** Elizabeth Peerboom (Village of Maple Park), Derek Hiland (City of DeKalb) both reappointed for three-year terms beginning April 1, 2016 and expiring March 31, 2019.
- f. **Regional Plan Commission – Alternates:** Kathleen Curtis (Village of Maple Park) reappointed and Ellen Divita (City of DeKalb) newly appointed for three-year terms beginning April 1, 2016 and expiring March 31, 2019.
- g. **Board of Review:** John Guio reappointed for a two-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2018.
- h. **Board of Review – Alternates:** Daniel Cribben and Michael Miner both reappointed for terms beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2017.
- i. **Farmland Assessments Review Board:** Kent Wesson reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- j. **Fairdale Light District:** Shannon Bellah-Lee reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- k. **Somonauk-Victor Drainage District:** Charles Kessler appointed immediately until August 31, 2017, Wayne Nelson appointed immediately until August 31, 2018, and Barry Smith appointed immediately until August 31, 2019.
- l. **DeKalb Sanitary District:** Dennis Collins reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- m. **Cortland Community Fire Protection District:** Robert Coyle reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- n. **DeKalb Community Fire Protection District:** Gerald Latimer reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- o. **Genoa-Kingston Fire Protection District:** David Huffman reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- p. **Hinckley Community Fire Protection District:** Allen Bark reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- q. **Kirkland Community Fire District:** Michael Stott appointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- r. **Malta Community Fire Protection District:** Gary Olsen reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- s. **Shabbona Community Fire Protection District:** Robert Frazier reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- t. **Somonauk Community Fire Protection District:** Mark Tuttle reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.
- u. **Sycamore Community Fire Protection District:** John Weberpal reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.

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- v. **Waterman Fire Protection District:** Edwin Bowman reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2016 and expiring April 30, 2019.

**It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was approved unanimously by voice vote to forward the recommended appointment to the full County Board for approval.**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**

Chairman Pietrowski 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.

Vice-Chairman Jones shared that the Planning & Zoning Committee has forwarded one Ordinance to the full County Board and is recommending the approval of a Special Use Permit for the operation of an in-home Daycare in Sycamore Township. He noted that the Special Use Permit was pretty straight forward and it was unanimously approved to recommend the approval of it at the full County Board Meeting. He additionally shared that the Committee had a good discussion regarding possible text amendments to the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance for agriculturally related businesses and other business friendly odds and ends.

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 two of the resolutions had to do with MFT allotments, four of them were related to awarding bids for projects, and the last was an equipment purchase. The Executive Committee additionally discussed consolidating these resolutions at the full County Board due to the length of time it takes to read each resolution and take a roll call on each. Lastly, Mr. Gudmunson noted that County Engineer Nathan Schwartz would be providing his Annual County Highway Presentation during the full County Board Meeting.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee noted that the City of DeKalb has been named as one of 15 Semi-finalist in the America's Best Community competition and the Committee received a presentation about the competition. Mr. Dan Kenney provided an update on the status of a Regional Food Hub within the DeKalb area. Mr. Alex Nerad presented a resolution that the Committee unanimously approved to forward to the full County Board regarding the support of Arts, Cultural, and Entertainment (A.C.E.) Corridor within the City of DeKalb. The Committee additionally approved to forward a resolution to the full Board authorizing the Chairman to participate in a seven county regional plan commission involving DeKalb, Boone, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. Lastly, Mr. Brown shared that the County's Incubator Program was in the policies and procedures stage.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh notes some concerns regarding the proposed DeKalb Arts, Cultural, and Entertainment (A.C.E.) Corridor resolution. She noted that she would like a map attached to the resolution that outlined the Corridor and a possible word change. It was determined that she would be able to make those amendments at the full County Board Meeting if she still chose to.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared the Committee met and received an update regarding the Sober Living Home from Drug/DUI Court Coordinator Michael Douglas. He briefly outlined that the project has hit a few large barriers but is projected to be operating within a few months. Mr. Frieders additionally reminded anyone that was interested in attending that they are holding a Dispatch Meeting on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> with the hopes of finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement with the rural Fire Protection Districts for the share in the costs of the Sheriff's Communication Center.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee discussed the dedication of a bench and a Sycamore Tree for former County Board Member Frank O'Barski at the new Sycamore Forest Preserve. She additionally noted that Peggy Doty and Connie Handel have also presented a report on the 2015 activities at the NREC noting that over 5000 students have been served by the Natural Resource Center staff through their environmental education programs. Mrs. Turner shared that Mr. Hannan reported on recent complaints he has received of people coming out of the brush on the Great Western Trail and frightening trail walkers. After some research he discovered that these individuals appear to be geo-caching. The Executive Committee took some time to discuss in more detail what geo-caching was. Lastly, Mrs. Turner reported that the Committee forwarded one resolution to the full Board of Commissioners for the FY 2015 year-end budget appropriations.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee had a very informative and good presentation from Joe Dant and Mike Kokott from Northwestern/KishHealth Systems. They were in attendance to provide a community update since the merger of the hospital and answer any additional questions the Committee or community in attendance had. The Committee additionally received the Mental Health Board's Annual Report and Mrs. Haji-Sheikh shared some recently good news from the Veteran's Assistance Commission. Lastly, she reminded everyone that in April they will be having two meetings for the Senior Services Tax Levy.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee unanimously approved to forward a resolution for the FY 2015 year-end budget appropriations. He also shared that the Committee received their first look at the upcoming FY 2017 Budget as well as received the news that in order to meet their balanced budget goal for FY 2017, they would be looking at having to cut around \$900,000. Mr. Stoddard reiterated to the Members that it is going to be a very challenging budget process this coming year. He lastly shared that the Committee was given an overview that if the School Districts try to place a County-wide 1% sales tax referendum on the 2017 ballot, the airlines would walk which could be a potential \$2.5 million loss to the County's General Fund. Those who attended the recent school meeting seemed to be optimistic that there wasn't enough backing to go forward with the referendum but wanted everyone to be aware of the possibility either way.

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson 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 started with elaborating on the school sales tax issue. He added that he feels it was well worth their efforts to attend the recent meeting to provide the other side of the story to the school districts in order to inform them about the impact of the loss of the airline fuel sales tax.

The Jail Expansion bidding schedule has been put off one month until the jail planning team can tie up some loose ends before bids are opened. The site work bids have already been approved and that work will continue while they plan to move forward with the second bid package. Mr. Hanson also added that the job trailer is now in place and the utility work will hopefully be starting very soon.

During the month Mr. Hanson shared that he and Donna Moulton met with former Board Members and Habitat for Humanity President, Anthony Cvek, to discuss some ideas he brought forward regarding Habitat's future goals and to open the door for potential partnership opportunities.

Mr. Hanson shared that because he and Mr. Stefan do believe the FY 2017 Budget process is going to be a challenge, they have started meeting regularly to go line-by-line through the budget line items to look for potential cuts to meet the Board's goal.

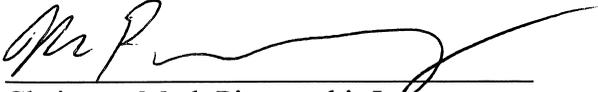
Nathan Schwartz and Mr. Hanson have been involved in some background work to meet with local Legislators to make them aware of the Board's State Legislative Agenda and specifically the local gas tax item.

Lastly, Mr. Miller informed the Committee that he received an email announcing that DeKalb County is being awarded for the 2015 Best Mitigation in the State of Illinois Award for the Evergreen Village Project by the Illinois Association of Flood Plain Managers.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

  
Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.