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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes  
October 12, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. 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, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, Mrs. Turner, and Chairman Pietrowski. A quorum was established with all nine Members present.

Others that were present included: Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Terry Hannan, Greg Millburg, Jeff Whelan, Maureen Little, Steve Reid, Ruth Anne Tobias, Sue Willis, Jim Luebke, Chris Porterfield, Dianne Leifheit, Marjorie Askins, Tim Bagby and Virginia Sherrod.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from September 14, 2016.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the agenda as presented.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he hosted a DeKalb County Government booth at Cortland Fest over the past weekend and met with residents to let them know the wide variety of services the local government provides. There was a craft stations for kids and suckers to give out as well as brochures and other materials that were gathered from various County Government Departments. He added that his plan is to try and arrange for a booth at each community festival in DeKalb County in 2017 as outreach and another way to connect Local Government with residents.

## **RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

Mr. Hanson shared that pursuant to provisions of 5 ILCS 120/2.06, the Executive Committee is charged with executing a periodic review of the minutes and verbatim recordings of all closed meetings held more than eighteen months ago by the DeKalb County Board and by Appointed Committees of the Board. He explained that the four sets of minutes listed on the proposed resolution no longer required confidential treatment and that those minutes could be released for public inspection and the verbatim recordings of those meetings could be destroyed in accordance with Illinois Open Meetings Act.

**It was moved by Mr. Frieders, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and it was approved unanimously to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.**

## **FY 2017 BUDGET**

### **Budget Appeals, if any**

There were no FY 2017 Budget Appeals for any County Departments that report to the Executive Committee.

### **Committee Questions & Review of Departments' FY 2017 Budgets**

There were no specific questions asked about any department's budgets that report to the Committee.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointment for approval:

- a. **Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb:** Ronald Bemis reappointed for a five year term beginning November 1, 2016 and expiring October 31, 2021.

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Brown 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**

The Chairman next 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.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee shared information that the Committee obtained from Public Health Administrator Lisa Gonzalez regarding the proposed Public Health Tax Levy Referendum. She added that the Committee has no actionable items this month for the Board Meeting but at their next Committee Meeting they will be deciding whether or not to bring forward the decision to place the Tax Levy Referendum on the April 2017 ballot. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh encouraged all Board Members to come to the next meeting to make sure any outstanding questions regarding the referendum are answered.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding three items for consideration this month. He reviewed that there will be a Zoning Amendment for a piece of property located in Shabbona Township, a Special Use Permit for a gun club to accommodate trap shooting in unincorporated Kingston Township and he shared that the Committee met in an all-day special session to interview candidates for the Planning Director Position. Mr. Emerson shared that the Committee unanimously agreed on an individual and that they were being contacted. The Committee will take formal action on the appointment of the DeKalb County Planning Director just prior to the full County Board Meeting next week.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding a resolution to the Board for the replacement of the County's oldest piece of snow removal equipment. The 1980 Fair snow blower is used to remove snow during consecutive severe snow events. Only one bid was received for this letting and was submitted by Bonnell Industries, Inc. from Dixon, Illinois. Their bid was for \$121,467.00, with a trade allowance of \$6,200.00 for the County's 1980 snow blower. The final cost to the County would be \$115,267.00. Additionally there will be a resolution for a supplemental engineering agreement for the Somonauk Road Bridge. Since the approval of the original agreement the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has determined that threatened species have been confirmed to be in the vicinity of the proposed project and additional steps need to be taken to protect the Slippershell mussel. Mr. Gudmunson added that the finding of this mussel has delayed the bridge construction about a year and will require the expenditure of an additional \$13,310.00.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee reported that the Committee is forwarding one resolution from the Sheriff to the Board for the authorization and execution of an Air Support Mutual Aid Agreement and the existence and formation of Air-One by Intergovernmental Cooperation. He explained by entering into this formal agreement it would provide the County with air support services and resources which may be needed during certain natural or man-made occurrences, emergencies or disasters that exceed the resources, equipment and/or personnel of a single given public agency. Mr. Frieders added that the Committee and several Board Members toured the Sober Living Home and will be discussing the future of the project and the condition and future of the home at their next meeting along with FY 2017 Budget appeals.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee provided a summary of their last meeting which included a report from DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation Director Paul Borek who spoke about county development, the Enterprise Zone, and workforce development. Mr. Brown also explained that the Committee will be hearing a budget appeal from the Assessment's Office at their next meeting.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Finance Committee received the FY 2015 Audit presentation at their last meeting and he additionally added that a reoccurring theme with these audit reports that he has noticed in the past several years is the excellent job that the County's Finance Directors have been doing. DeKalb County is among a small number of Counties whose finances are in good shape and that are very well documented and so Mr. Stoddard thanked Mr. Pete Stefan and Mr. Gary Hanson for having done such a great job throughout the years. Mr. Stoddard also added that the Committee will be forwarding and recommending the adoption of a Health Plan Affordable Care Act Grievance Procedure Policy.

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Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, noted that Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan was present to provide an explanation and history of two land acquisitions that are being forwarded to the full Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hannan explained that the Haines Property \$8,000 price per acre plus 1% simple interest is *very* reasonable and that Afton Forest Preserve was purchased on contract in the early 1970's (bank mortgage) at a much higher interest rate. Also the Haines Land of 63 acres is buildable land with a beautiful prairie, stream and Kishwaukee Rover frontage and access from Wolf Road in Kingston. To compare nearby buildable land, In 2010 the appraisal for the 43 acre buildable land formerly the Sparks property (now Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve) was \$11,600 per acre and was negotiated down to \$9,255 an acre. In 2016 the Haines offer per acre including the 1% simple interest is much less. A 50% grant from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation was awarded on the 23 acre Sparks property (Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve). The non-buildable and no access land (Conro) was \$6,100 per acre. (50% grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation was awarded), this is now called "Swanson Grove" after Nancy (Conro) Swanson's family who always wanted "part of their land to be a park".

Mr. Hannan continued to share that the Nelson land was appraised at \$7,600 an acre and offered 10% more because that is what Rex Nelson wanted with the 'First Right of Refusal' gift on a future additional 41 acres. He added that we are still 50% grant eligible with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation with the 10% higher amount and he will apply for a 50% grant. Mr. Hannan added it is a great opportunity to have all these landowners Sparks, Conro, Nelson and Haines all willing to sell land adjacent to each other and help complete the "**Haines Creek Conservation Corridor**" and all of these lands ranked very high in the Forest Preserve Land Acquisition Evaluation process. Lastly, all the Forest Preserve land holdings in DeKalb County including these two acquisitions make up less than ½ of 1% of the total land in DeKalb County.

Additionally, Mr. Hannan noted that the shelters are getting started at the Sycamore Forest Preserve. The Sycamore Lion's will be contributing roughly \$8,000.00 to the District and will have one shelter named Sycamore Lions Shelter. The second shelter will be dedicated to the VFW veteran's and they have indicated they may fundraise for that as well. Mr. Hannan commented that road widening and parking improvements and trail work, picnic shelters, electrical work is in progress.

**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 presented the Committee with his County Administrator's Report which included him sharing details about a recent Active Shooter Training that was held for County employees and announced that there will also be an upcoming Mental Health First Aid class for employees to participate in.

The Jail Expansion wall panels are expected to arrive the last week of October. There are about 160 panels and will take about four months to get them all erected along with the steel. The construction site will also be starting to winterize soon. Mr. Hanson also shared that the Jail Contracts, the City of Sycamore and he met to go over safety conditions surround the expansion project during Pumpkin Fest.

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Mr. Hanson additionally shared that Enbridge has provided a potential date of Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to host a tour of their pump station in Waterman.

Mr. Hanson also shared with the Committee that he recently attended the 3M ribbon cutting in DeKalb and that former Public Building Commission Secretary Mary Simons retired at the end of September and that longtime County Board/Economic Development Coordinator Mary Supple will be retiring at the end of November.

Lastly, he reviewed that November 16<sup>th</sup> will be the last County Board Meeting for the outgoing Board Members and they will be recognized that evening and invited to say a few words if they so wish. Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the County Board Organizational Meeting where the new Board will be sworn in and Chairmen will be elected. It was also suggested that there would be no regular County Board Meeting in December but instead Anita Turner and Ruth Anne Tobias would host the annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Also in December, at a date to be determined, would be a Committee Orientation Night. All Members in attendance agreed to that schedule.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**

  
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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

  
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Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.