

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
September 14, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, September 14, 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, Jeff Whelan, Suzanne Willis, Steve Reid, Marjorie Askins, Sandra Polanco, Jim Luebke, Tim Bagby, Chris Porterfield, Kevin Bunge, Ruth Anne Tobias and Peter Tobias.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Frieders, seconded by Mr. Emerson and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from August 10, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Mr. Gudmunson moved to strike item #7: Placement of County Board Committee Meeting Recordings on the County's Website. Mr. Frieders seconded the motion.

Chairman Pietrowski clarified that this is an item Mr. Stoddard requested be placed on the agenda as a discussion item only at this time.

Chairman Pietrowski asked for a roll call vote on the amendment to strike item #7 off the agenda. Those voting yea were Mr. Emerson, Mr. Frieders, and Mr. Gudmunson. Those voting nay were Mr. Brown, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, Mrs. Turner, and Chairman Pietrowski. Motion failed.

The motion to approve the agenda as originally presented was approved unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Condolences were expressed and Celebration of Life information was relayed to Board Members regarding the DeKalb County Community Action Director Donna Moulton's husband who recently passed away.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **Squaw Grove Drainage District:** Ed Cowan appointed for a three year term beginning September 1, 2016 until August 31, 2019.
- b. **DeKalb County Public Building Commission:** Charles Shepard reappointed for a five year term beginning October 1, 2016 until September 30, 2021.
- c. **Kane Kendall DeKalb Workforce Development Board:** Paul Borek, Joanne Kantner, and Mary Wright all reappointed for terms beginning October 1, 2016 until September 30, 2018.
- d. **Regional Planning Commission:** Bryan Rhodes (Village of Malta) appointed for a three year term beginning immediately and expiring March 31, 2019.
- e. **Regional Planning Commission – Alternate:** Robert Croyl (Village of Malta) appointed for a three year term beginning immediately and expiring March 31, 2019.

It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Jones and it was approved unanimously by voice vote to forward the recommended appointments to the full County Board for approval.

PLACEMENT OF COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING RECORDINGS ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE

Mr. Stoddard shared that much of the business that is conducted by the County Board is done so at the Committee level and the paper/press seldom cover those meetings and since County Board Members are public servants, he feels strongly that they should be doing their work in the eyes of the public. He continued that even though the County is not obliged to post the recording of the Committee Meetings, people and the press may not be able to come and observe, but if it does not cost the County much this may be a good way to increase the Board's visibility and let the public know that they are doing. Mr. Stoddard reiterated that he thinks it would be a good idea to stream all County Board Committee Meeting video or audio recordings on the County's website.

It was clarified that the meeting minutes are posted on the County's website but Mr. Stoddard shared that he feels a member of the public would get a better understanding of what is going on by listening to the actual audio of the meeting.

Mr. Hanson explained that County Board Committee Meeting minutes are posted on the County's website as soon as they are done with a disclaimer reading: "Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the _____ Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes." This was done in order to post the minutes faster instead of waiting until they are approved the following month.

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The Committee discussed the difference between being able to watch a meeting with additional video capabilities as opposed to just hearing the audio. Like reading the minutes, some audio content may come across with the wrong intent and watching someone's facial expressions may give you a better sense of what the person is actually thinking or feeling.

Mr. Frieders shared and many agreed that he thinks the public has an obligation to show an effort in wanting to know what is going on. The County can make it as simple as it wants but the public still has an obligation to show an interest. He continued that they need to meet the requirements that are set forth by the statutes and rules but after that it is up to the public to come to the meetings if they so please or read the minutes that are posted on the County's website. He stated that everyone is given an opportunity to speak to the Committee and participate with them during the meeting and that is extremely important but reiterated that they have to want to and want to come to the actual meetings.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh noted that it would be interesting to obtain the data on how many individuals are clicking on the minutes on the County's website. Mr. Hanson noted that he would gather some current data to share with the Board if they so choose to know how many individuals watch the County Board Meetings or click on County Board-related materials on the County's website.

Mr. Gudmunson shared that during Committee Meetings he has noticed throughout the years that even timid Board Members will speak up more. The meetings are recorded and the minutes are taken and it seems to Mr. Gudmunson that if they were to add more, not saying it would be wrong, but that it may deter County Board Members from speaking out or providing their opinion on issues at the Committee Meetings and less discussions would be had.

Chairman Pietrowski clarified that all County Board Committee Meeting audio recordings are able to be obtained by any individual by a Freedom of Information Action (FIOA) request. He also noted that anyone who may not be able to read the minutes are also able to request an audio version of the meetings. The Chairman explained that the debate would be whether or not the Board would like to place all recordings on the County's website or just continue to allow individuals to FOIA or request certain audio recordings as desired.

The Committee and other Board Members in attendance continued to discuss and share their views on whether or not it would be advantageous to post their meeting recordings online. There were many Members that did see an advantage to posting the recordings while others stood on the grounds that the minutes are posted and any member of the public is open to come to any meetings they so choose.

In the instance that the Board did decide to post meeting audio recordings, the group discussed if there should be a limit on the amount of time that the audio is available online. Ms. Polanco shared that she was curious what the State's Attorney's opinion would be on having the meeting recordings online. They also discussed the possibilities of the audio being hacked and edited or only certain sound bites being used which could really take away the actual intent of a statement.

Chairman Pietrowski wrapped up the discussion and asked if this was a topic that the Board would like to continue to explore or to bring back next month for a decision to be made.

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Mr. Stoddard moved that the Executive Committee bring back the item of placing County Board Committee Meeting recordings on the County's website next month and that a definitive vote be made. The motion failed with a lack of a second to the motion.

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 that the Committee is continuing to wait for additional information provided by the Health Department in order to decide whether or not to bring the Public Health Tax Levy Referendum back to the full County Board. Public Health Administrator Lisa Gonzalez is scheduled to return at the October 3rd Committee Meeting with additional data. It was added that there is also a consideration out there of changing the October meeting time.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee has no actionable items to bring forth this month but the Committee will be having their annual County Highway Projects Tour on Tuesday, September 20th. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the County Highway Department and everyone is welcome.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding an Ordinance to approve a Special Use Permit for a propane storage Agribusiness at 24330 Five Points Road in Mayfield Township. Mr. Emerson additionally referred to Ms. Willis who provided the Committee with the results of research she had done and professional knowledge she has regarding the safety of propane storage facilities and flammable gasses. Ms. Willis shared that her profession expertise comes from her career as an Experimental High-Energy Physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Fermilab.

Mr. Emerson additionally provided a summary of a recent Boone/ DeKalb/ Ogle Counties University of Illinois Extension meeting.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee reported that the Committee has not actionable items this month but at their next scheduled meeting on September 26th the Committee will be taking a tour of the Sober Living Home in Sycamore. This is in order for the Committee to obtain a first-hand look at the home and address any on-going issues that are there. He welcomed all County Board Members to join the tour.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee provided a summary of their last meeting which included an annual report from Debbie Armstrong on the DeKalb County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and an update from Alex Nerad regarding the DeKalb County Area Arts Council.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Finance Committee will be forwarding ten delinquent property tax sale resolutions to the full County Board recommending their approval as well as a resolution to place the FY 2017 Budget on file for public inspection. Mr. Stoddard additionally briefed that as anticipated the FY 2017 Budget is a harsh budget but it is also a balanced budget. There are some cuts in the budget and some hard decisions to make. He also noted that the appeal process is the same as years prior and appeals will be accepted until September 30th.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, shared that the Committee had their last meeting at the Somonauk Library in Somonauk and they voted to forward two resolutions to the Commissioners. One being to place the Forest Preserve District's Budget on file, which she highlighted is the same as last year, and another resolution that will award a bid to Curran Contracting for improvement work that needs to be done at the Sycamore Forest Preserve. She also provided information to the Committee regarding bike path improvements that are being done in Somonauk.

It was moved by Mrs. Turner, 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 shared that he has had a busy month working on the FY 2017 Budget and multiple FOIA requests.

He also shared that work is continuing on the Jail Expansion Project. The foundation is in place and the building of the basement is in the works. The construction of the precast panels are going to be started next week in the hopes of them arriving towards the end of October. He also shared that there will be 3D Modeling done of the entire jail in order to map all of the electric, plumbing, and HVAC. This is being done in order to look for conflicts so that any changes can be made prior to installation.

Chairman Pietrowski has been instrumental in getting some Mental Health and Active Shooter classes set up for County Staff and those will be taking place next month, Mr. Hanson shared.

Lastly, Mr. Hanson shared that application for the Planning Director close September 23rd. So far there are seven applications with more to be expected.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary


Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.