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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes  
August 1, 2016**

The Health & Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Monday, August 1, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building's Conference Room East in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Ms. Little, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh. Mr. Porterfield was absent. A quorum was established with 5 members present and 1 absent.

Others that were present included Bart Becker, Lisa Gonzalez, Gary Hanson and Gary Winschel.

**APPROVAL OF THE MIINUTES**

**It was moved by Mr. Whelan and seconded by Ms. Askins to approve the minutes from June 6, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Ms. Little and seconded by Mr. Whelan to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hanson suggested that the "Sale of Property" item scheduled for Executive Session could be moved to the open portion of the meeting. Ms. Little moved to amend the agenda and schedule the "Sale of Property" item within the open portion of the meeting. Mr. Whelan seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.**

*Jeremy Perrotta arrived at 6:32pm.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh mentioned that Fox Valley Older Adult Services received a donation from the Sandwich Fair Board.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH TAX LEVY REFERENDUM**

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh reviewed the action that took place during the June County Board meeting, in which the Public Health Tax Levy Referendum (R2016-44) resulted in a Referral Back to Committee for re-evaluation of the levy amount with the intent of presenting the referendum to voters on the April 2017 ballot.

Mr. Whelan referenced the concern Mr. Faivre had raised during the June County Board meeting of better defining the amount of funding that is needed. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh stated that the initial proposal called for \$650,000.00, as this amount would provide funding to Public Health without increasing the current level of tax. Mr. Hanson added that this option is no longer available, since the County Board did not vote in favor of submitting the proposition to the voters at the November General Election. Mr. Hanson mentioned that if the proposition is presented on the April 2017 ballot, the wording on the ballot will be unchanged.

*Mr. Porterfield arrived at 6:34pm.*

Ms. Lisa Gonzalez, Public Health Administrator stated that the Board of Health met last Tuesday and during that meeting, Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the recent Health & Human Services Committee action, as well as the action taken by the County Board in June.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the Board of Health would like to see the proposition added to the April 2017 ballot.

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh inquired with Ms. Gonzalez on the amount of funding that is needed. Ms. Gonzalez stated that based on the recommendation of County Board members, the Health Department is re-examining the trend data, especially the data related to grant funding. She mentioned that although the Health Department anticipates a continued decrease in grant funding, it is difficult to project at what rate the funding will decline and that the objective is to sustain the programs which are currently funded by grants.

Mr. Hanson clarified that the opportunity to pass the levy ahead of the referendum has been lost since the proposition will not be presented to the voters in November. He stated that not having the levy in place will make this a harder sell to the voters in April because of not being able to guarantee a levy amount.

Ms. Gonzalez mentioned that the Health Department is awaiting feedback from County Board members on the detailed information needed to make the decision on placing the proposal on the April ballot. She stated that once this feedback has been received, they will work as quickly as possible to provide the information. Ms. Gonzalez also mentioned that working through the budget process has provided her with an opportunity to confirm the reality that has been presented, in terms of the current level of financial hardship that the Health Department is experiencing. Ms. Gonzalez stated that she is concerned about the Department's ability to sustain current programming.

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Mr. Hanson stated that the submission deadline for the April ballot is January 17<sup>th</sup>, so the matter will need to be decided by the County Board during the December meeting. Ms. Gonzalez emphasized that there is a significant amount of work to be done, in terms of an education and awareness campaign and requested that a decision be made on this matter as soon as possible.

Ms. Askins reminded the members that the Board of Health has asked for the Committee's support of the referendum and that as the Health & Human Services Committee, she feels it appropriate that the Committee provide this support.

Mr. Porterfield emphasized that it's the role of the Committee members to do what's in the best interest of the County and that he feels that maintaining public health is in the best interest of the County. He stated that since the proposal will not appear on the November ballot, it needs to be presented to the voters in April.

Ms. Askins inquired about the possibility of tabling the item for a month to allow time for the Health Department to respond to the requests for information submitted by the other County Board members. Mr. Hanson stated that it would be most practical to bring the item to the County Board in November or December.

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh confirmed with the members that the desire of the Committee is to add the Public Health Tax Levy Referendum item to next month's Health & Human Services Committee meeting agenda and to extend invitations to the other County Board members to attend that meeting.

Mr. Whelan stated that he'd like to explore the possibility of having the proposal added to the November ballot, as he feels the referendum would have a better chance of passing. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh reminded Mr. Whelan that the wording on the April ballot would be the same as what would be presented on the November ballot. Mr. Whelan confirmed his understanding that if the item appears on the April ballot, there wouldn't be an opportunity for the County Board to set the tax amount via a levy.

**Ms. Askins moved that the Public Health Tax Levy Referendum item be added to next month's Health & Human Services Committee meeting agenda and that the Committee extend invitations to the other County Board members to attend that meeting.**

**Mr. Porterfield seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 members voting yes and 1 member voting no.**

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh asked if there were any additional questions or concerns relative to the Public Health Tax Levy Referendum. Ms. Gonzalez reminded the Committee that she is awaiting specifics from the County Board members on what information is needed from the Health Department. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh suggested that a letter could be sent to the County Board members requesting this information and inviting them to attend the September Health & Human Services Committee meeting. Mr. Hanson agreed to send the letter and suggested that Chairperson Haji-Sheikh could also mention the request during the August Executive Committee meeting.

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## **SALE OF PROPERTY**

Mr. Bart Becker, Administrator of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center (DCRNC) and Gary Winschel, Director of Fiscal Services for Management Performance Associates, Inc. presented information on the property at 226 S. Brown Street in Genoa that the County has acquired. Mr. Becker explained that a former DCRNC resident was not able to pay for care provided by the DCRNC and that the resident had incurred a significant amount of debt. Mr. Becker stated that the DCRNC worked with the family to maintain the individual's DCRNC residency and a deal was made to acquire the individual's property in Genoa. He said that the County paid the property taxes and has acquired the house. Mr. Becker explained that the former resident has passed away and that the County hopes to sell the house quickly and recover as much of the resident's \$107,000 debt as possible. He said that the County has received an offer of \$72,300 and that the County has invested approximately \$22,000 in taxes and maintenance of the home. Public Aid had valued the property at \$113,000, and the County may be able to recover additional funds once the house is sold for \$72,300. All funds recovered through the sale of the property will be applied to the outstanding debt.

Mr. Winschel explained that acquiring property in this manner is not the usual practice of the DCRNC and that a 30-60-90-day policy has since been implemented. Mr. Winschel added that the DCRNC currently works with the State's Attorney's office to get any debt under control very quickly.

Mr. Whelan asked for confirmation that the property is sellable and that an offer to purchase has been received. Mr. Winschel responded that the house has been power-washed, the grass has been mowed and that the interior of the home was cleaned and garbage removed. Mr. Winschel added that there are several repairs that are needed to the house that won't be made by the County. Mr. Becker added that the property will be sold "as is".

Mr. Porterfield asked for clarification of the Committee's role vs. the DCRNC in this situation. Mr. Hanson responded that the DCRNC is a sub-part of the County and that the County is the entity that owns the property.

Mr. Porterfield asked if the County has a policy that applies to management of acquired property. Mr. Hanson responded that it is unusual for the County to purchase residential structures and if a house is acquired by the County, it is typically demolished. Mr. Winschel added that the County did secure temporary insurance for the subject property to minimize risk exposure.

Mr. Porterfield stated that his concern is regarding the loss of property value that may have taken place due to deterioration of the house following the County's acquisition of the property. Mr. Winschel explained that the County has owned the house for only a couple of months and that the County arranged for the property to be cleaned and maintained with the objective of selling the property as soon as possible.

**Mr. Whelan moved that the County move forward with the sale of the property located at 226 S. Brown Street in Genoa, IL for the selling price of \$72,300.00. Mr. Reid seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.**

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**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh stated that an alternate date needs to be determined for the September Committee meeting, as the first Monday of September falls on Labor Day.

**Mr. Whelan moved that the next Health & Human Services Committee meeting be scheduled for Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Ms. Askins seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Little moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Askins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**



Christie Klein, Recording Secretary



Misty Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson