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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
October 8, 2014**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Jeffery Metzger called the meeting to order. Members present were Mrs. DeFauw, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Gudmunson, Mr. Reid, Mr. Stoddard, Mrs. Turner, and Mr. Whelan. All nine members were present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Ruth Anne Tobias, Dianne Leifheit, Bob Brown, Mark Pietrowski, Greg Millburg, Anthony Cvek, Misty Haji-Sheikh, Frank O'Barski, Jane Lux, Sandra Polanco, Riley Oncken, and Christopher Porterfield.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Fauci, seconded by Mrs. DeFauw, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2014 meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Hanson asked to remove items #10: Executive Session and #11: Action Items from Executive Session from the agenda.

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Metzger announced that he received word today that the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse approved the County's Narcan Program. He expressed that he was very excited about that news and he also shared that the training is all coming together for the program. An email was received from KishHealth Systems today that revealed they are not only providing the first 100 doses of kits, they are now also going to fund the refills in two years from now.

Chairman Metzger also shared that about a month ago he received an email from Representative Pritchard regarding the Chicago Metro Metal Consortium Manufacturing Community. Initially only a handful of communities were invited to be a part of the consortium and Mr. Pritchard inquired to why DeKalb County was not a part of this. Chairman Metzger shared after doing some further research on this well-kept secret, he was able to contact Kane County and Cook

County and a letter was sent to him today noting that DeKalb County is now part of the Chicago Metro Metal Consortium.

An article was passed around that briefly described what the Chicago Metro Metal Consortium is: *The newly minted Chicago Metro Metal Consortium Manufacturing Community will be eligible for a share of \$1.3 Billion in federal funding for workforce development, research, infrastructure, international trade and capital access. Federal funding could support existing economic development strategies, including training workers at community colleges and mapping the local supply chain to identify gaps.* Chairman Metzger noted that their next meeting is November 20th in Chicago and he will be attending that meeting and will report back to the Committee with additional information.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Metzger recommended the following appointments for approval:

1. **Housing Authority of DeKalb County:** Donna Moulton reappointed for a term beginning November 1, 2014 and expiring October 31, 2019.

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

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Vice Chairman Mr. Stoddard shared that the Ad Hoc Rules Committee will be meeting the following evening to discuss reapportionment rules as well as other amendments to rules.

Mr. Stoddard also informed the Executive Committee about the resolution that is being forwarded to the Full County Board regarding adopting the East Branch of the South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed-Based Plan as an amendment to the Stormwater Management Plan. He continued to explain that The East Branch of the South Branch Kishwaukee River (including the Virgil and Union Ditches) Watershed Plan is a product and a process composed of input from many individuals and organizations. The Watershed Plan is designed to create a collective impact on the water quality, the management of stormwater and the overall quality of life of those who live and work within or who are otherwise affected by this watershed. The main purpose of the resolution is to set goals and later talk about implementing these goals to improve the overall quality of the regions watershed. He also stated that the resolution does no commit any mandates or any money at this point, it is a plan and something to be working towards. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh also commented to her support of the Watershed Plan and encouraged the rest of the Board Members to review the plan and vote in favor of the purposed resolution. The Committee also had additional discussions on the long process that this plan has endured and will continue to.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee, announced that the Highway Committee will be brining one resolution to the Full County Board for consideration for a resurfacing project on East County Line Road on Route 64. Mr. Gudmunson also announced that about three weeks ago the Committee took their Bus Tour of 2014 Projects around DeKalb County. He noted that it was a beautiful day for the tour and they were able to see many projects.

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Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared that at their last Committee meeting was largely dedicated to discussing the Sheriff's Communication Center, and with a collaborative effort from the Rural Police Chiefs, the Sheriff, and Administration they are hoping that next meeting will bring a better solution for the future allocation structure of the Communications Center. There will also be a large number of budget appeals that will be assessed next meeting.

Mr. Whelan, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee met the previous night and had a busy agenda. They are bringing one resolution forward to the full board regarding a tax abatement request from Right Pointe Corporation in the City of DeKalb. The Enterprise Zone was a large topic of the evening as well, and had an extensive talk with Mr. Paul Borek on what is to come in the weeks ahead to be ready for turning in the Enterprise Zone Application by the end of the year. Mr. Borek also shared that he is in need of volunteers to attend various city council meetings and school board meetings through the month of October and part of November in order to help get the word out about what this Enterprise Zone could do for DeKalb County. Mr. Hanson announced that if anyone would be available or interested in volunteering to please get in touch with him after the meeting. He also noted that Ms. Armstrong from the DeKalb County Convention and Visitor's Bureau gave a report to the Committee along with Alex Nerad from the Egyptian Theatre and Ms. Mary Supple.

Mrs. DeFauw, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee did an employee evaluation of Ms. Donna Moulton, Director of Community Action Department. The entire Committee gave her outstanding compliments and gave her a great rating on her performance as a Department Head. Ms. Jane Lux, Public Health Administrator joined the Committee to propose two ordinances to forward onto the County Board for approval. The first one was revisions to the Food and Food Establishments Code which was updated due to changes in the State and Federal codes and the fact that it had not been revised since 1979. Ms. Lux also proposed the Smoke & Tobacco Free Worksite Policy and Mrs. DeFauw announced that since there has not been much time for this item to be reviewed or digested by the County, they would like to push this ordinance to the November County Board Meeting. The Executive Committee spoke briefly on the Smoke-Free Policy and specifically the part about an employee not being able to smoke in their own vehicle on county campuses. Ms. Lux was present to help answer questions and provide any additional information regarding the proposed policy.

Ms. Fauci, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, announced that the Committee was updated on a recent meeting with members of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Board who granted \$200,000.00 toward the purchase of Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve. Also the DCCG have begun planting at the new Forest Garden site where there have been approximately 100 + plantings at the site so far. Ms. Misty-Sheikh noted that the Seeds of Change Company had donated \$20,000.00 to the DCCG following a Facebook Challenge. The \$20,000.00 was used for the plantings, some of which will be on county land. The Forest Preserve Committee also discussed their FY 2015 Budget. She lastly noted that on November 1st there will be a Miller Cabin Dedication at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Reid, Chairman of the Finance Committee, shared that the Committee will be bringing two non-controversial policy resolutions to the Full County Board to approve. The main part of the meeting was spent talking about the budget. The Committee was not happy with the Administrations \$400,000 reductions to the budget, so there is now a motion to direct

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Administration to find at least \$100,000 in savings which can also be one-time cost savings to this fiscal year's budget.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee shared information regarding the two ordinances that P&Z is forwarding to the Full County Board for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the County Board Agenda as Amended and to forward it to the Full County Board for approval.

FY 2015 BUDGET APPEAL APPLICABLE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Metzger announced that there was one budget appeal applicable to the Executive Committee from Ruth Anne Tobias regarding the County's Membership in Metro Counties.

Mrs. Tobias shared that the County has been a member of Metro-Counties for close to 20 years. The Metro Counties of Illinois is a government sector lobbying association in Illinois. It is one of three Illinois chapters of the National Association of Counties. The other two are the Illinois Association of County Board Members and the United Counties Council of Illinois. Mrs. Tobias shared that the membership is useful to the County because they not only focus on what is helpful the County Governments but also to prevent things from happening that are harmful the County Governments and she provided the Committee with some items that Metro Counties worked on the past year. The membership due have previously been \$3,300 annually and were scheduled to go up to \$6,300, Mrs. Tobias suggested to Metro Counties that DeKalb County could pay \$4,300 and they have agreed to that. So she proposed to the Executive Committee that the County maintain their membership the Metro Counties at the lower \$4,300 rate.

Chairman Metzger expressed he felt there was many members that were scared to lose that lobbyist because the County does currently pay for a lobbyist and the County needs as much lobbying as they can. Mrs. Tobias agreed and shared that many larger Counties have their own lobbyists. DeKalb County also is a member of the Illinois Association of Counties, who are lobbyist, but they mostly focus on programs that Counties can participate in.

Mr. Cvek noted that they are not lobbying specifically for DeKalb County issues and because the County does have the duplication with lobbyists, he felt there were better ways of spending the money and more creative ways for lobby for the County.

Mr. Reid moved to approve the appeal and Ms. Fauci seconded the motion.

Mr. Frieders expressed that he feels with the County's budget considerations, the County Board is going to need to take a tough stance against appeals and felt frustrated that the first appeal that comes before them, the Committee is wanting to approve it.

Mr. Cvek noted that it would beneficial to hear from Mr. Hanson himself because it was a staff recommendation that they take this membership out of the budget, and he was interested in the rational to why. Mr. Hanson answered that he recommended to remove the annual membership in order to stay under 1.3% increase that were established for the FY 2015 Budget parameters. And when he looked at the Illinois Assoc. of Counties and compared it to Metro Counties, he chose to eliminate the membership that was going to cost more, not because he really wanted to.

Mr. Hanson also noted that at one point it was asked if this amount could be taken out of the Opportunity Fund because it is making an investment, which is something that could be considered if this appeal were to be approved.

Mr. Reid moved to call the question. Ms. Fauci seconded the motion and it was carried by a majority of votes.

Chairman Metzger asked for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the appeal. Those voting yea were Mrs. DeFauw, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Reid, Mr. Stoddard, Mrs. Turner, and Chairman Metzger. Mr. Frieders, Mr. Gudmunson, and Mr. Whelan were opposed. The motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEW FOR DEPARTMENTS REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hanson noted that this time if anyone had any questions regarding the budget for the two departments that report to the Executive Committee he would be happy to answer them. There were no additional questions from the Committee.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator, Gary Hanson, announced he has spent a majority of his time working on the budget this past month and he wanted to emphasize that at the Law & Justice Committee coming up on October 20th is where the majority of the budget appeals will be discussed and a lot of them have to do with staffing issues. It will be a very important meeting and one that many may have an interest in attending.

Also as an FYI, the County will be hosting the End Polio Now projection on the Courthouse Law which will be from October 17th – 20th sponsored by the local Rotary Club.

The Mental Health Board has endured a couple of surprise resignations lately, and yet another one will possibly be coming forward by the end of the year. That would potentially change 5 out of the 9 Board Members. At the same time they are still moving forward with finding a new Executive Director. Mr. Hanson noted that he advised them to wait until the new Board is formed, but the remainder of the members wanted to keep moving forward.

Lastly, Ms. Tasha Stogsdill gave a demonstration to the Executive Committee on how any Board Member could be able to electronically attend a meeting by phone or through the Zoom Program that can be used through a computer or smartphone devices. A card was passed out for all Board Members with telephone information and instructions on how to contact the Administration Office and attend a meeting electronically.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

Chairman Jeffery L. Metzger

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