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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
April 8, 2015**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium. Chairman Pietrowski called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Brown, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Gudmunson, Mr. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, and Mrs. Turner. All nine members were present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Christine Johnson, Marj Askins, Ruth Anne Tobias, Greg Millburg, Steve Reid, Jeff Whelan, Dianne Leifheit, Sandra Polanco, Frank O'Barski, and Riley Oncken.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Brown and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from March 11, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Pietrowski announced that he wanted to remove items 7. Executive Session and 8. Action Items from Executive Session from the agenda.

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski thanked Ms. Christine Johnson for her work in putting together the DeKalb County Legislative Agenda Forum that had taken place prior to the Executive Committee Meeting that evening. Those Illinois Legislators in attendance were Senator Dave Syverson, Representative Robert Pritchard, and Representative Tom Demmer.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

1. **Regional Plan Commission: City of Sandwich:** Les Redden appointed for a term beginning April 1, 2015 and expiring March 31, 2018.
2. **Board of Review:** Gerald Wahlstrom and Marlin Chaplin both reappointed for terms beginning May 1, 2015 and expiring April 30, 2017.
3. **Board of Review - Alternates:** Daniel Cribben, Robert Merriman, and Michael Miner all reappointed for terms that begin May 1, 2015 and expire April 30, 2016.
4. **Farmland Assessments:** Charles Payne reappointed for a term beginning May 1, 2015 and expiring April 30, 2017.

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

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTIVE FUND

Chairman Pietrowski noted that he first mentioned this resolution last month and wanted to bring it forward this month for the County Board to take into consideration. The resolution from the Board would urge the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly to reconsider their proposals to reduce funding for County Government and to responsibly fund County Government at levels that allow Counties to carry out their necessary and legally obligated duties and functions.

Mr. Frieders commented that he feels they need to support the movement to get the finances in the House and Senate in order in the State of Illinois. He added that everyone form of Government in the state needs to do some share of accomplishing that and he feels they should do something also. Mr. Gudmunson and Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Frieders comments.

The Committee took some additional time to discuss their interpretation of what the resolution is urging and looked closely at the proposed language. After talking through their concerns, the Committee agreed to stay with the original proposed language in the resolution.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and it was approved unanimously to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.

SOBER LIVING HOME

Mr. Hanson updated the Committee that were they left off, the Sycamore City Council voted again the Special Use Permit on March 2nd, but subsequently voted on March 16th to reconsider (4-3 vote) their previous decision thereby providing additional time for the County and the City to see if common ground could be found to satisfy Sycamore's concerns about the Sober Living Home that is proposed at property located at 491 E. State St. in Sycamore. He continued that both sides continue to meet in good faith to seek that common ground and identify any issues that the City may have regarding the Special Use Permit.

Mr. Hanson shared that they are at a point where they are faced with two choices. The City Council could next reconsider this issue on May 4th or they have another meeting May 18th. The DeKalb County Board Meeting in May is scheduled for May 20th so an option would be to give the County Board Chairman, in consultation with the DeKalb County Presiding Judge and the DeKalb County State's Attorney, to complete negotiations regarding various conditions and to further authorize him to sign all associated documents necessary. The other option is to put this issue off until next month and see if by then there will be any formal documents to consider. He added that the last time they waited, the City Council wanted the County to take action first.

Mr. Hanson also reviewed issues that the County and the City are looking at for completing an Intergovernmental Agreement. They include, but not limited to, provisions regarding the property being in a future re-development corridor, a financial contribution in lieu of property taxes, limitations regarding visitors, parking, and smoke at the residency, and meetings/ notices about the program operation to surrounding residents.

Some Committee Members expressed their concerns with some of the provisions that were discussed, but overall agreed to go with forwarding a resolution this month that would authorize Chairman Pietrowski to proceed with the necessary negotiations and/or signing of associated documents.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was approved unanimously to forward a resolution to the full County Board recommending 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.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee reviewed that they had a very short meeting and they have no business besides claims that they are forward to the full Board of Commissioners. She noted that they did go into Executive Session regarding land acquisition but they are going to continue talking at their next meeting. Mrs. Turner lastly recommended everyone to review their reports online to see other updates that Mr. Hannan gave to the Committee.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared that the Committee had a lengthy meeting and worked on trying to put together a resolution brought to them by Mr. Steve Reid regarding the reform of the criminal justice system. Many other guests to the Committee provided their input about mandatory sentencing and the criminal justice systems. The Committee was also joined by Representative Robert Pritchard who spoke on the issue as well. Mr. Frieders shared the Committee will continue their work on a resolution at their next meeting.

Mr. Jones, Chairman of the Jail Solutions Committee shared the Committee had an excellent meeting. They received a presentation from Mr. Dennis Kimme who reviewed the jail layout that was approved by the Board in 2012 and they also received another presentation from Gary Hanson outlining the Jail Expansion Financial Plan. Mr. Jones noted that Mr. Hanson would also be coming to the full County Board this month to present that same presentation to everyone.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee noted that the Committee was given a presentation from Mr. Tim Kearns regarding the County's insurance benefits. He will also be coming again next month to talk more about the 2018 Cadillac Tax and what the effects this tax will have on the County's finances. The Committee is also forwarding two reassignment of interest resolutions for the Protano properties in DeKalb as well as a resolution amending the County's Cafeteria Plan. They lastly spoke about Jail Expansion financing and obtaining a Financial Advisory to help begin the bond process.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Committee shared that they are forwarding a Special Use Permit for the County Animal Welfare League. The Committee also received an update regarding Evergreen Village.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee shared the Committee began their Senior Services Tax Levy interviews which will continue next week where they will finish and award the agencies with their allocations. There was also a Public Hearing held and a resolution being forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval regarding a Public Transportation Capital Assistance Grant for Voluntary Action Center.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared their meeting was cancelled to lack of business items but look forward to a full meeting in May.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee reviewed nine resolutions that the Committee is forwarding to the full County Board recommending their approval.

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 information regarding a situation at the County Jail regarding a sewer pipe backup believed to have been caused by the inmates.

Mr. Hanson also mentioned that he starting meeting today with the jail construction team to start ramping up the construction drawings which they are targeting for January.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.


Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary