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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
June 10, 2015**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. 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, Christine Johnson, Doug Johnson, Nathan Schwartz, Robin Brunschon, Greg Millburg, Paul Borek, Jeff Whelan, Frank O'Barski, Sandra Polanco, Dianne Leifheit, Steve Reid, Jim Luebke, Ruth Anne Tobias, Chris Porterfield, Riley Oncken, and Kevin Bunge.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from May 13, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Emerson and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski mentioned that everyone will be receiving more details regarding Project Black Bear later in the meeting. He also shared that he and Vice-Chair Jones will be speaking at an Afscome event tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. in DeKalb. The event is geared towards the importance of public service.

Chairman Pietrowski lastly mentioned two upcoming Metro West events that will be happening nearby. The first one was the Legislative Barbecue & Session Review, June 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Elburn Lions Community Park, Elburn IL. The other event shared was the Metro West Golf Outing which will be held Wednesday, July 22nd at Phillips Park Golf Course in Aurora, IL.

PRECINCT CONSOLIDATION – DOUG JOHNSON

DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder Doug Johnson presented to the Committee his proposed resolution and consolidation considerations to the current DeKalb County election precincts. Mr. Johnson reviewed that he was present at last month's meeting to give an initial presentation of the changes he is proposing. Since that time, he has reached out for input from political parties and Board Members. He shared that he has made a few changes since last month's meeting in order to accommodate some additional concerns that were expressed to him. Along with the consolidation, the proposed resolution is also renaming precincts so they are consecutive again.

There were large maps around the conference room that illustrated an original map and updated maps that have what Mr. Johnson is now proposing in his resolution he is bringing to the Committee for consideration. The Illinois statute states that precinct consolidations must be done at June County Board Meetings.

Mr. Johnson reiterated his reasons for bringing these consolidation recommendations to the Board now. The big driver for this, he shared, was to save money and provide more convenience to the voters of DeKalb County. Mr. Johnson took some additional time to share the large costs associated with voting and how more costs are going to be imposed on them with upcoming changes in legislation that have to do with early voting and same-day voting registration.

Chairman Pietrowski explained a proposed amendment in Cortland that would move all of CO06 into CO01. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh also expressed a concern she had with the DK01 combining with DK10 and also changing their polling place. She proposed an amendment to allow DK01 (now combined with DK10) to continue to use Hillcrest Covenant Church as their polling place.

Mr. Jones moved to forward a resolution to the full County Board recommending Mr. Johnson's proposed precinct consolidations in addition to the two amendments discussed in Committee. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Stoddard asked Mr. Johnson for a spreadsheet that showed the number of voters per precinct currently and in the proposal. Mr. Johnson noted that he would be happy to email that information out.

METRA RAIL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he had recently spoke with Representative Robert Pritchard at a Memorial Day Mayor's Breakfast regarding the Metra Rail. Prior to now, Representative Pritchard did not feel that it was the right time but now when he approached the Chairman he noted that it was the right time to explore this avenue.

Chairman Pietrowski continued that Ms. Mary Supple was currently engaging individuals from City of DeKalb, Town of Cortland, City of Sycamore, NIU, Representative Pritchard, Representative Demmer, and any County Board Members that may be interested in participating. The goal is to have an informal meeting in order to decide if this is a project everyone wants to be on board with right now. If the informal meeting is successful, Chairman Pietrowski noted that he would bring a formal resolution for creation of the Committee/Task Force to the Board for a vote.

PROJECT BLACK BEAR ABATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Hanson reviewed that last month the County Board approved an economic development project incentive agreement resolution that would enter into a ten-year tax abatement incentive program for Project Black Bear within Park 88 in the City of DeKalb. He continued that since that time, the project has evolved and it has been announced that Project Black Bear is the 3M Company. They are also now asking for a five-year abatement as opposed to the ten-year abatement due to less constraints. Mr. Hanson added that before the Executive Committee was a new resolution for their consideration to accept the five-year property tax abatement incentive

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program as outlined for the 3M Company for the property east of their existing site on Macom Drive within the City of DeKalb.

Mr. Hanson also explained that the 3M Company was also looking at building this new facility in Atlanta, Georgia. If that had happened, they mostly likely would also have moved some of their existing operations and employees down there as well. So to have 3M build their new facility here, not only adds to the area but keeps existing residents here as well.

Mr. Borek assured that 3M has committed to building here in the City of DeKalb contingent of all eight taxing bodies approving the abatement incentive agreement.

Mr. Borek and the Committee continued to discuss 3M's proposed construction timeline as well as possible uses for 3M's existing buildings that they will be vacating. The Committee was also clarified that the 250 jobs would include some of the existing positions that 3M is already employing in their other buildings.

Mr. Stoddard mentioned that the pervious Black Bear Project resolution that the County Board approved mentioned wages and he noted he would like to also see wording in this resolution to reflect the average of \$14 per hour wage rates.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh made a motion to forward the 3M Abatement Request Resolution to the full County Board recommending approve with the addition of the wage rate language. Mr. Frieders seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously by voice vote.

ESTABLISHMENT OF JURY FEES

Mr. Hanson shard that Illinois Public Act 98-1132, effective June 1, 2015, has made provisions for rates of pay for Jurors, for reducing the size of civil juries from 12 to 6 members. The Public Act also stipulates that County Board shall establish an additional fee for each alternate juror when requested for civil cases.

The Chief Judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit is recommending that the Jury Fee for civil cases should remain at \$212.50 per case that an additional \$25 should be charged for each alternate juror that is requested.

It was moved by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Frieders and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

1. **Community Services Administrative Board:** Eileen Dubin, Sylvia Ibarra, Dawn Littlefield, Ken Mundy, and Monica O'Leary all reappointed for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2015 and expiring June 30, 2018.
2. **DeKalb County Convention & Visitor's Bureau:** Maureen Little and Mary Supple appointed beginning July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016.

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3. **General Assistance Appeal Board:** Mark Pietrowski, Amy Mathey, Eric Johnson, and Norm Troeger all appointed for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2018.
4. **Stormwater Management Committee:** Paul Stoddard, Kevin Bunge, Patricia Vary, Mark Bushnell, Les Bellah, and Tom Thomas all appointed for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2017.
5. **Chief County Assessment Officer:** Robin Brunschon reappointed for a four-year term beginning July 20, 2015 until July 20, 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.

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.

Mr. Emerson, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Committee shared the Committee is forwarding two ordinances and a resolution to the full County Board. He briefly reviewed the items that included an amendment to a Special Use Permit for Aurora Sportsmen's Club in Clinton Township, an amendment to the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance regarding permitted Roadside Stands, and approving and adopting the twenty year update to the DeKalb County Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Emerson shared that the Committee also discussed the Fairdale reconstruction and are all in agreeance that there a solution for everyone. Lastly, he shared that everything is moving along well with Evergreen Village Mitigation Project.

An announcement was made as a reminder that the Fairdale Rezoning Public Hearing will be held June 18th at 7 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room in DeKalb.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee noted at their last meeting they had a full agenda which included a presentation from Carrie Zethmayer regarding Foreign Trade Zones. They were also joined by Debbie Armstrong, who presented the DeKalb County Convention and Visitor's Bureau annual report, as well as received updated about the DeKalb Area Arts Council from Mary Supple. Mr. Brown continued that Ms. Supple also provided details regarding economic development projects and Chairman Pietrowski updated the Committee on an upcoming Economic Summit he is putting together. Mr. Borek spoke regarding the Economic Summit as well.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee reviewed the one resolution that the Committee is forwarding to the full County Board regarding realignment of salary ranges and compensation for Supervisory Employees at the Highway Department. County Engineer Nathan Schwartz was also present to provide additional information and answer any questions regarding the salary realignments. He shared they were also provided with the proposed equipment replacement and the programmed construction project plans for 2016.

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Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee met last week and they were joined by Mr. Tim Kearns to talk more regarding the County's health insurance and the future impact of the 2018's Cadillac Tax. Mr. Jim Scheffer's also presented his annual Facility Management Office report. Mr. Stoddard also shared that the Committee is forwarding two resolutions to the full County Board recommending approval for the approval of a Financial Advisor for the Jail Expansion Project and approving the hiring of two positions within the County for a Payroll Specialist and a Lead Assistant Network Technician. Lastly, the Committee approved the FY 2015 Budget Calendar Process and Parameters.

Mr. Jones shared that he would like to reconsider approving IMO's Lead Assistant Network Technician position and asked if the Executive Committee would consider splitting the Finance Committee's Resolution R2015-57 into two separate resolutions for the full County Board to consider instead of lumping them together into one resolution. Mr. Jones shared that after the Finance Committee Meeting he had put more thought into filling IMO's position and he would personally like to deny that position due to the County's current budget situation. He also noted that he would feel more comfortable with evaluating whether the position should be filled after the FY 2016 Budget has been approved.

Mr. Hanson commented that the problem with looking at positions piece meal, is that you are not looking at all positions in the County and prioritizing them. When doing this, you may be taking out a position that is higher priority than another that may be slightly less.

Mr. Jones moved to split Resolution R2015-57 into two resolutions. Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee noted that the Committee Meeting fell on the Memorial Day Holiday and there was no pressing business items to discuss, so the meeting was cancelled.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee reviewed that the Committee met at the Afton Forest Preserve and had a pretty basic meeting. She also advised everyone she reviewed their packets to see pictures in the Forest Preserves Monthly reports showing how busy the trails have been so far. She also shared that the Committee discussed weed control within Evergreen Village and lastly she shared information regarding the new bike path that will be going in by the Sycamore Middle School.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee shared the Committee received information regarding the Stepping Up Initiative from Mental Health Board Director Deanna Cada. They were also joined by Ms. Amanda Christensen Regional Superintendent of Schools and she shared what her and her office do. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh also shared that next meeting the Committee will be reviewing the Home Kitchen Act again with Public Health Administrator Jane Lux.

Mr. Jones, Chairman of the Jail Solutions Committee shared that at the full County Board Meeting he and Mr. Hanson will be presenting the Jail Expansion Project's construction and financing package. He also clarified that even after the package recommendation, the Committee will continue to meet and focus on jail population reduction.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Emerson and it was carried unanimously to approve the County Board Agenda as amended and to forward it to the full County Board for approval.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hanson shared that the County closed on the Sober Living Home located at 491 E. State Street in Sycamore on Friday, May 29th and thanked everyone who worked behind the scenes to help with the Special Use approval successful with the City of Sycamore.

He also shared that the River Valley Workforce Investment Board recently approved a new service provider for DeKalb County. For many years First Institute was has been the provider and now the new provider will be Kishwaukee Community College. Mr. Hanson noted that this is a very controversial item for First Institute who is losing a very large contract. This change will become effective July 1st.

Mr. Hanson also shared that Ideal Industries recently broke ground for their new facility within the City of Sycamore. He also shared information regarding a meeting he attended with the City of DeKalb and Egyptian Theatre representatives. He also touched on that Fairdale Tornado victims can now qualify for a small business administration loan program and news release are currently going out regarding those.

Mr. Hanson also announced that the County's Chief Building Inspector has unexpectedly resigned late last week. Employment Ads have been put out but the position will still need to go through County Board for approval. He also added in the interim they have contracted out to a company who the County has previously used in the instance an inspector is needed.

On a personal note, Mr. Hanson shared that he completed his third year in the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Credential Program.

As a last reminder, on July 1st there will be a Special Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Special County Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.



Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary