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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
May 13, 2015**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, May 13, 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, and Mrs. Turner. Mr. Stoddard was absent.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Christine Johnson, Doug Johnson, Greg Millburg, Paul Borek, Frank O'Barski, Jim Luebke, Steve Reid, Dianne Leifheit, Dan Cribben, Jeff Whelan, Kevin Bunge, and Riley Oncken.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mrs. Turner and it was approved unanimously to bring Mr. Dan Cribben to the table to represent Finance Committee in the absence of Mr. Stoddard.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from April 8, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he, Mr. Jones, Mr. Bunge, and County Department Heads were in contact with the residents of Fairdale. All the residents have plenty of questions about the future of their properties after the April 9th tornado, but many are working together to stay in communication with all residents and find solutions for every issue they are faced with in the long-term recovery.

The Chairman also noted that the Long-Term Recovery Committee lead by Bill Nicklas has been working very well with DeKalb County in helping address all of the issues that are arising in Fairdale and Franklin Township as well as help coordinate funding through the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Vice-Chairman Jones and Board Member Kevin Bunge also commented on the status of the clean-up efforts in Fairdale and the remaining foundations of the destroyed structures.

Mr. Paul Miller took the opportunity to share that many of the buildings and land uses in Fairdale did not conform with one or more of the current zoning regulations of the agricultural, residential, business and manufacturing districts. As a consequence, efforts to rebuild and replace may be hampered if property owners are compelled to abide by current zoning regulations, or seek individual variations.

In an effort to facilitate the rebuilding of Fairdale, he will be working with the County Board to amend the zoning of the entire community. The Board's intent will be to rezone the Fairdale community to "Mixed Use Development". This planned development classification will enable the County Board to tailor zoning regulations to accommodate reconstruction, including as it does the flexibility to waive or eliminate otherwise applicable zoning rules and requirements, without compromising public health, safety, and welfare. The proposed rezoning application will include a lot-by-lot list of what are permitted uses. The application will also include various regulations such as minimum building setbacks from property lines that will be less restrictive than those that are currently in force for Fairdale.

In conjunction with rebuilding plans, environmental health practitioners are evaluating wells and septic systems. The DeKalb County Board and Health Department will be addressing a number of issues and exploring all possible options to identify solutions for the property owners.

The intent of the rezoning is to make it easier for property owners in Fairdale to rebuild what was there before the tornado struck. On June 18th a public hearing for the rezoning will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the DeKalb County Health Department, 2574 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, IL. On July 1st a special meeting of the Planning and Zoning Committee to consider the rezoning and recommendation of the Hearing Officer at the DeKalb County Legislative Center, 200 N. Main St., Sycamore, IL followed by a special meeting of the DeKalb County Board to take action on the rezoning by ordinance, also at the Legislative Center. Provided the County Board approves the rezoning on July 1, 2015 residents can begin to submit applications for building permits immediately under the new regulations on July 2nd.

TIGER GRANT RESOLUTION

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh shared with the Committee that the following resolution that is being presented to them is to Support the City of DeKalb's Department of Transportation's 2015 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program Application. The resolution would be to re-confirm the County's commitment of the land to build a new transportation facility and it would also provide full support to the submittal of the 2015 grant application.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT RESOLUTION

Executive Director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation, Mr. Paul Borek, met with the Committee to share information regarding an abatement incentive agreement that is being requested that the Board pass in order to help entice "Project Black Bear" to come to Park 88 in the City of DeKalb. Some facts about "Project Black Bear" Mr. Borek shared was:

- Construction of 987,000 sq. ft. building in Park 88, DeKalb.
- Fortune 100 company.
- There will be approximately 300 jobs.

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- Wages – at or exceeding \$14.00 per hour average wage.
- Investment – Approximately \$40 million in real estate.
- Generation of approximately \$1,200,000 in annual tax revenue to all taxing bodies after incentives expire.
- Projected DeKalb County annual tax revenue: \$123,000 after incentives expire.
- Site alternatives – Southeastern U.S. market.
- Timing –
 - Company authorizes consideration of Project Black Bear incentive during May and will make a decision in early June, 2015.
 - Construction would begin as soon as possible with earthwork in June.
 - Building shell would be completed during the winter of 2015-16.
 - Building will be completed during the summer of 2016.
- Tax Abatement is critical to selecting DeKalb vs. alternative Southeastern U.S. location.

He reiterated that the ten-year abatement program is in line with the proposed incentives that were created in the Enterprise Zone Application. He also stressed that the expedited process for this incentive is due to the competitive and quick decision the company is wanting to make in order to begin construction immediately.

The abatements are limited to this specific project for a term not to exceed ten years following completion and occupancy of the structure and are limited to 90% of the taxes in the first full tax year from the date of occupancy of the building; 80% of the taxes in the second full tax year thereafter; 70% of the taxes in the third full year thereafter; 60% of the taxes in the fourth full tax year thereafter; and 50% of the taxes in the fifth full tax year thereafter; 40% in the sixth full year thereafter; 30% in the seventh full year thereafter; 20% in the eighth full year thereafter; 10% in the ninth full year thereafter and 0% each year thereafter.

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

PRESENTATION ON PRECINCT CONSOLIDATION – DOUG JOHNSON

DeKalb County Clerk Doug Johnson joined the Committee to make an initial proposition to consolidate certain precincts in order to save money and provide more convenience to voters in DeKalb County. He explained that he would only be presenting his suggestions at this meeting but will be returning next month, after the Committee has had time to review and digest the information, with a resolution.

Mr. Johnson shared that there are currently 90 voter precincts in DeKalb County. Illinois Statutes provide that when you reach 800 voters, you should divide those precincts, and get them as close to 500 voters and no more than 800. DeKalb County currently has precincts that are well under the 500 threshold. The reason why Mr. Johnson is wanting to do this precinct consolidation now is cost, make it more convenient for voters that have long drives to polling places, and taking into consideration some of the current precincts have considerably low voter turn-out rates.

Mr. Johnson also went into more depth on a bill that are currently being passed by the Legislature that will be make it mandatory to have same-day registration on Election Day at all polling places. The only way for facilitate this, would be to purchase some new equipment and add staff to polling placing. He is projecting the cost to comply with this law to be about

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\$88,000. He also shared that additional costs will be associated with now having to have longer hours at Early Voting sites starting in 2016. Many of these costs have been considered with trying to consolidate precincts within DeKalb County. The estimated savings for election judges alone associated with the proposed consolidations would be about \$21,000. Mr. Johnson lastly shared that more information regarding information on his proposed precinct consolidations and maps are available on the County's website at:

<http://dekalbcounty.org/Elections/proposedprecincts.html>

SOBER LIVING HOME

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he and Mr. Hanson have been in contact with City of Sycamore Manager Brian Gregory and Mayor Ken Mundy regarding the Sober Living Home. After the City Council's May 4th Meeting, it had seemed that nothing much has changed and the Council still had many of the same concerns that they have expressed previously with regarding to a Sober Living Home being operated out of 491 E. State Street in Sycamore. Since that time, Mayor Mundy has distributed an email giving his support to a Sober Living Home at the proposed location and is also encouraging the rest of the Council Members to show their support.

Mr. Hanson added that he feels the County is in a good position with the terms that have been established in their Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sycamore and the Council is expected to vote on the Special Use Permit on May 18th.

STEPPING UP INIATIVE RESOLUTION

Chairman Pietrowski shared that this resolution coming from the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

The Stepping Up program's "Call to Action" to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in Illinois and across the country, to support a national initiative, and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in the Stepping Up program.

The Committee continued to review the resolution that was presented to them by the Chairman. He also noted that there was no costs at this time associated with this initiative.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Turner and it was moved unanimously by a voice vote to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.

FEES & REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO TORNADO RELIEF

County Treasurer Christine Johnson joined the Executive Committee to present a resolution that would make all appropriate and expedient measures to ease the burden of property owners that were affected by the April 9th tornado in Franklin Township, and to extend without penalty the due date for payment of DeKalb County property taxes for properties damaged by the April 9 storm to October 16, 2015.

The property owners will be sent a drafted letter explaining what is needed of them to extend the payment due date. The owners meeting these criteria shall make application for waiver of penalty for late payment of property taxes to the DeKalb County Treasurer/Collector on the form provided by that Office.

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

CREATION & APPOINTMENT OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE

Chairman Pietrowski reiterated that he first mentioned that he was interested in creating this task force last month in order to address emergency response issues associated with long-term recovery from disasters, and this element is not addressed in the Emergency Operations Plan.

Chairman Pietrowski continued that the tornado and storm damage of April 9, 2015 in the community of Fairdale in DeKalb County highlighted the need for a disaster recovery plan in order to establish a process to identify long-term recovery needs specific to each disaster, as well as the agencies, organizations, and persons best able to meet these needs, to authorize any temporary suspension of otherwise applicable local regulations to facilitate speedy recovery, to coordinate the efforts of regulatory and relief agencies and organizations (public and private), and to effectively deliver resources, goods, services, and funds necessary for long-term recovery from disasters. The Emergency Preparedness Task Force would address the long-term recovery of Fairdale and this Committee will gain valuable experience and insight into the elements, challenges and opportunities associated with disaster recovery, and the County should seek to incorporate the lessons learned into a Disaster Recovery Plan that is applicable to any declared disaster in the County.

The membership on this Emergency Preparedness Task Force would consist of the following sixteen individuals whose appointments, along with the Task Force itself, will expire on June 30, 2016: Mark Pietrowski, Jr. (Task Force Chairman) and Tracy Jones, Vice-Chairman DeKalb County Board, Dennis Miller as the DeKalb County ESDA Director, Dan Templin from the DeKalb County Community Foundation, Bill Nicklas, Long-term Recovery Committee, Paul Miller as the DeKalb County Planning and Zoning Director, Roger Scott as the DeKalb County Sheriff, Jane Lux as the DeKalb County Health Department Director, Donna Moulton as the Director of Community Action, Deanna Cada as the Director of Mental Health Board, Ken Andersen as a Director of the DeKalb County Building and Development Association, Matt Swanson as the President of the DeKalb County Building and Trades, Sara Echols from the American Red Cross, Mike Hernandez from Team Rubicon, George Gaulrapp from Com Ed, John Linderoth as DeKalb County resident.

It was moved by Mr. Jones, 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. **Building Board of Appeals:** Tom Taylor reappointed for a term beginning June 1, 2015 and expiring on May 31, 2020.
2. **DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board:** Jerry Helland appointed immediately to fill an open position until December 31, 2015.
3. **DeKalb County Sheriff's Merit Commission:** Kim Green appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of LaMetra Curry until November 30, 2020.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson 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 that they are forwarding a building permit fee waiver resolution to the full County Board. The resolution is to waive the Building Permit fees set forth in Section 14-3 of the DeKalb County Code for any and all reconstruction and repair associated with damage caused by the storm of April 9, 2015.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee shared at their recent meeting they hear from Ed Harvey regarding the DATA Fiber Network, Robin Brunschon Chief County Assessment Officer presented her annual report, and the Committee received their monthly reports from Ms. Mary Supple regarding the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Area Arts Counsel.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee reviewed four resolutions that the Committee is forwarding to the full County Board recommending their approval and shared information regarding some recent openings of long-term bridge projects.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared that the Committee received their usual Public Defender and Court Services Reports and also began preliminarily talking about the upcoming budget. The Committee is forwarding one resolution to the full County Board that is urging our representatives at the state and federal level to enact legislation to reduce arbitrary mandatory sentences, encourage judges to release non-violent, non-flight-risk detainees on their own recognizance, decriminalize "nuisance" offences, provide for the support of community-based mental health treatment alternatives to incarceration, and/or other such action that will reduce jail populations to include only those who pose real risks to themselves or the community.

Mr. Cribben, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee noted that the Committee unanimously approved to forward a temporary hiring policy resolution to the full Board recommending approval and they receive an annual report from Joan Hanson, Director of the Information Management/GIS Department. Mr. Cribben also shared that next month the Finance Committee will be receiving additional information about health insurance and FY 2016 budget directives.

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Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee reviewed that the Committee met at the Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve. She also reminded everyone that The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District will be hosting a public star party on Saturday, May 16th at Afton Forest Preserve. The Committee was also joined by Dan Nolan, Mark Chestnut and Curt Herman of the Shabbona Trail Committee.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee shared the Committee is forwarding five resolution to the full County Board this month. She reviewed the resolutions and shared that at the Committee's last meeting they also received an annual report from Veteran's Assistance Commission as well as discussed the Home Kitchen Act with the Health Department.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson 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 on April 22nd the first life was saved in DeKalb County through the use of a Narcan kit. The County's Narcan Program helped provide kits in all emergency vehicles to aide in the case of a drug overdose.

He also shared that Jane Lux, Health Department Administrator, recently received an Outstanding Alumni Award through NIU. He also added that the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center Operating Board approved to hire a replacement to Cathy Anderson, Administrator, who is retiring in September.

Mr. Hanson also touched more on long-term financial planning and how he is challenging the Department Heads per the Finance Committee to come with ways to save a possible \$2.6 million for the possibility of the County losing the Airline Fuel Sales Tax. He reiterated that this is a difficult task but they hope to have results by the end of June to share with the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hanson also shared the Keslinger Bridge ribbon cutting would be at 11 a.m. on May 18th as well as the Metro West State of the Counties Address.

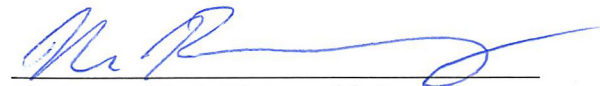
Lastly, as a reminder, most Committees will not be meeting in July, but the Chairman has called a Special County Board Meeting to be held on July 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary



Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.