

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes  
November 10, 2015**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Tuesday, November 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. Frieders, Mr. Gudmunson, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, and Mrs. Turner. All nine Members were present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Jeff Whelan, Dianne Leifheit, Marjorie Askins, Jim Luebke, Frank O'Barski, Sandra Polanco, Chris Porterfield, Ruth Anne Tobias, Kevin Bunge, Steve Reid, and Maureen Little.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Mr. Frieders, seconded by Mr. Jones and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from October 14, 2015.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski shared that he had the opportunity to speak at the NIU rally prior to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation's Annual Dinner. Several Board Members were in attendance as well as nonprofits, students, and NIU faculty. The purpose of the rally was to try and voice concerns regarding the Illinois State Budget that has yet to be approved.

The Chairman also shared that on November 5<sup>th</sup> a Community Economic Crisis Meeting was hosted at the County's Gathertorium. With DeKalb County's Nonprofit Community struggling because of the budget impasse in Springfield, it has triggered a funding crisis among nonprofit organizations in DeKalb County causing staff layoffs, skipped payroll and programs to close. The meeting was aimed to join together local nonprofit leaders and residents to help become part of the solution to help residents who are going to suffer the most.

Chairman Pietrowski noted that from that meeting a resolution was prepared urging Illinois State Leaders to release Non-General Fund Revenues payable to local social services, the university, Kishwaukee College, and governments within DeKalb County. The resolution was not prepared

in time to have it appear on tonight's agenda so Chairman Pietrowski suggested that the Committee could review the draft resolution text now and meet again prior to the full County Board Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> to have this item added to November's full County Board Agenda.

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft text of the resolution. Some minor suggestions were made. Mr. Gudmunson also indicated that he would like to see that MFT Funds were also added to language of the document.

**There was unanimous consent from the Committee to have a Special Executive Committee Meeting at 6:45 on November 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the full County Board Meeting.**

### **LONG-TERM DIASTER RECOVERY PLAN**

Mr. Paul Miller reviewed that on May 20, 2015 the County Board approved resolution R2015-53 that formed the Emergency Preparedness Task Force. The Task Force was charged with the responsibility to draft and submit to the County Board for approval a Disaster Recovery Plan, said Plan to be a supplement to the DeKalb County Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Miller further reviewed that the draft plan was sent out to all County Board Members in October for review. He noted that no additions, subtractions, or comments were made regarding the draft document that was presented so at this time the County Board is being asked for adopt the Plan.

Chairman Pietrowski noted that this is the first Disaster Recovery Plan of its kind in the State of Illinois. The hope is that other governments or local municipalities will take this Plan and use it as a guideline to possibly adopt something similar.

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Jones and was approved unanimously to forward the resolution and Plan to the full County Board recommending its 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 the Planning & Zoning Committee shared that the Committee had no items of business being forwarded to the County Board this month but noted there was very lengthy conversations regarding a Special Use Permit request for an approval of a gun club, in the form of firearms training classes, on property located on Anderland Road in Milan Township. The issue was ultimately send back for another Public Hearing which will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee noted that the Committee did have a sufficient amount of business to meet, so their November meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared the Committee is forwarding one annual resolution to the full County Board for the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor. The fee is \$24,000 which is the same amount as last year and has already been budgeted for. He additionally encouraged Board Members to attend the Committee's meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> because they will be discussing the Communication Center Fee proposals again and having invited all of the rural fire and police departments to attend as well.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee has many items that are being forwarded to the full County Board. He reviewed that the Committee approved one budget appeal that had been forwarded to the for the FY 2016 budget which was an increase in salary for the Planning & Zoning Department's Chief Building Inspector. Additionally the Committee approved and forwarded the FY 2016 Levy and Budget Ordinances and two court fee increases and one court fee repeal. Another very important item that is being forwarded is the Jail Expansion Project Financial Outline and Official Intent Resolutions. Mr. Stoddard stressed that this is the last chance for anyone to object to the jail expansion project and that this resolution provide a go-ahead to start the bid process and signing of contracts to keep the project going in a timely matter. Lastly, the Committee is forwarding the resolution that is setting salaries for certain Elected Officials: County Board Members (Chairpersons and all) as well for the Coroner and Circuit Clerk.

Chairman Pietrowski additionally expressed that his feelings regarding salaries for Elected Officials. Due to fairness and difficult budget times, he expressed that Elected Officials should lead by example, even when it may not be fair, and should not be taking any salary increases at this time.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the County Highway Committee shared that the Committee is forwarding one Ordinance and four resolution to the full County Board. He reviewed those items with the Committee and noted that the last resolution, Approval of Engineering Agreements, will be voted on at a Special County Highway Committee Meeting taking place at 7 pm on November 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the full County Board Meeting. Mr. Gudmunson additionally briefly touched on the issue of the State of Illinois withholding MFT Funds.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, noted that the Committee is forwarding two Ordinances for the Levy and Annual Appropriation along with two resolutions for the Afton Forest Preserve Wetland Banks protection and the Forest Preserve District's Cafeteria Plan Amendment. Mrs. Turner also announced that the FPD was awarded a 50% grant which added up to \$122,000 awarded from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for the Conro Property which was recently purchased. She noted that Mr. Hannan has done a tremendous job writing and personally lobbying in order to be awards so many grants for the County and its Forest Preserves.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson of the Health & Human Services Committee expressed her appreciation to Chairman Pietrowski for holding the Nonprofit Crisis Meeting because that is such an important topic right now. She additionally shared she is continuing to work with outside agencies to help get their story told in hopes to help with their difficult time due to the State Budget impasse. Lastly Chairperson Haji-Sheikh briefed the Committee on the Illinois 211 program presentation that her Committee was presented with at their last meeting.

**It was moved by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Haji-Sheikh and it was carried unanimously to approve the County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board for approval.**

#### **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Pietrowski encouraged everyone to brainstorm in order to come up with any specific legislative agenda items that they would like to see forwarded this year. He additionally encouraged members to review last year's agenda in case there is something that someone would like to see forwarded again.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Paul Miller reminded that the Economic Development Summit will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a morning session from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. and an evening session at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the County held their first ever Retirement Breakfast. The event was well attended and overall very appreciated. A special thank you went to Lisa Sanderson from the Administration Office for the coordination and planning of the successful event.

Two letters from citizens were recently submitted to County Administrator Gary Hanson. The two letters were for the appreciation of Cathy Anderson and the entire nursing home staff and the other letter outlined the great work done by Tammy Anderson and the DeKalb County Veterans Assistance Commission.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. Hanson attending a local Poverty Summit and Mr. Miller shared some alarming statistics regarding poverty within DeKalb County.

The new parking lot located on the southeast corner of the Sycamore Campus is scheduled to be done by Thanksgiving. Elliot & Wood Inc. came in as the lowest bidder but County Engineer Nathan Schwartz is providing the general contracting work for the project which is saving money. Mr. Miller additionally shared information regarding potentially implementing some watershed projects in conjunction with these new parking lots.

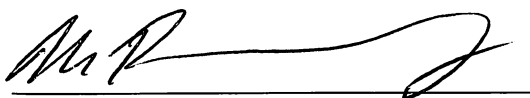
Lastly, the DeKalb Public Library is offering private tours of the Library Expansion before its official opening to the public. Mr. Hanson has been asked to put a tour together, so the Board Members were told to be on the look-out for that invitation in late November, early December.

Mrs. Turner noted that the County Board Holiday Party is tentatively scheduled right now for Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at her house in Sycamore.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

  
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Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.

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