

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
September 9, 2015**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Wednesday, September 9, 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. Frieders, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoddard, and Mrs. Turner. Those absent were Mr. Emerson and Mr. Gudmunson. A quorum was established.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Paul Miller, Sandra Polanco, Jim Luebke, Steve Reid, Jeff Whelan, Ruth Anne Tobias, Dianne Leifheit, and Marj Askins.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Turner and moved unanimously to invite Mr. Frank O'Barski to the table to represent the Planning and Zoning and County Highway Committees in their Chairman's absences.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Turner and it was moved unanimously to approve the minutes from August 12, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chairman presented no additional comments under this item.

RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Hanson noted that this resolution was a semi-annual housekeeping item that would be to release and executive session minutes that are no longer needed to be kept confidential in nature.

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

ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION REFERENDUM

Ms. Christine Johnson provided the Committee with an overview of what electrical aggregation is and the history of the County's previous referendum from 2012. It was explained that the supply component of electrical service is what can be subject to a referendum. The Committee continued to discuss the matter and ask questions to become more educated on the topic. Ms. Johnson noted that if the County Board were wanting to put an electrical aggregation referendum

on the ballot for the March 2016 Primary Election, the last day to do so would be January 7, 2016. A majority of the Committee agreed that they would like to see additional information regarding electrical aggregation with respect to numbers of residents and prices in order to decide if placing a referendum on the ballot would be worth it for rural county residents.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Pietrowski recommended the following appointments for approval:

- a. **Cortland Fire Protection District**: John Longeville appointed immediately until April 30, 2018.
- b. **Workforce Investment Act Board**: Caprice Perez, Mike Milano, and Gary Evans all reappointed for two-year terms beginning October 1, 2015 until September 30, 2017.
- c. **Forest Preserve Committee Vice-Chairman**: John Emerson to fill the unexpired term of Riley Oncken until November 30, 2016.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mrs. Turner 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.

Vice-Chairman Jones noted that the Jail Solutions Committee is in their winding down phase. The next meeting the Committee is going to be reviewing the updated jail expansion plans and learning more about the bonding procedures.

Mr. Frieders, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee shared the Committee has forwarded a resolution authorizing DeKalb County to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County to continue multi-systemic therapy services for juveniles and their families utilized by the Court Services Department. He continued to briefly explain the program and clarified that the funding is coming from the Probation Services Fund.

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee briefed that the Committee received their period reports regarding the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Area Arts Council by Ms. Mary Supple. He also added that the Committee tabled a request for funding the IHSA Football Championship Games in order to better understand the County's FY 2016 Budget before making a decision. Lastly, he added that they received an update regarding the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone.

Mr. O'Barski shared that at the suggestion of Chairman Gudmunson, the County Highway Committee met at Victor Township Hall for their last meeting. The Committee was able to meet several local officials and toured local highway projects around the south-part of the County.

Mr. O'Barski also shared that at the Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting will be bringing forward a recommendation to approve an Ordinance for a Special Use Permit regarding a spiritual camp. The Committee also discussed and recommended forwarding a resolution to the full County Board granting employee merit bonuses related to the Evergreen Village Mitigation Project. Mr. O'Barski noted that the funding for these bonuses would be allocated from revenues

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that were generated when the County was operating the Mobile Home Park before its closure last year. Lastly, Mr. O'Barski noted that the large extent of the last P&Z Meeting was the Committee discussing the County's future land use planning for business and general zoning code administration.

The Executive Committee took some additional time to discuss and understand what the Planning & Zoning Committee was working on regarding their future land use ideas and amending the zoning code. Mr. Frieders also expressed his concern with the idea of granting merit bonuses to employees. He noted that doing something like this isn't fair to other county employees. Mr. Paul Miller reiterated that the funds for these bonuses are not coming out of the County's General Fund.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Finance Committee shared that the Committee had a Bonds 101 training session presented by Speer Financial, Inc. The Committee is also forwarding two resolutions for delinquent property tax sales and the main topic of the meeting was the FY 2016 Administrative Budget Recommendations. Mr. Stoddard shared that the budget did meet the Finance Committee's goal not to exceed a Fund Balance utilization of \$400,000 and the Committee and Administration reviewed the budget recommendations and unanimously approved to forward a resolution to the full County Board recommending placing the FY 2016 Budget on file.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, noted that the Committee met at Miller-Ellwood Cabin last week and it was beautiful night and a nice time to see prairie and wetlands that are around there. She also read a letter from an Assistant Professor from NIU thanking Mr. Hannan for keeping all of the Forest Preserve so nice. Mrs. Turner noted that many college and younger aged students utilize many educational aspects of the County's Forest Preserves. Lastly, she shared that the Committee is working on some land acquisitions and noted that the Committee is forwarding a resolution to the full Board of Commissioners in order to place the FY 2016 Budget on file for public inspection.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Chairman of the Health & Human Services Committee shared the Committee did not meet last month but updated the Executive Committee on many local projects that are happening in the community from departments or organizations that report to her Committee.

It was moved by Mr. O'Barski, seconded by Mrs. Turner 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 the DeKalb County Nursing Home received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The new Nursing Home Administrator, Bart Becker, will be starting September 16th and Cathy Anderson agreed to stay on a few extra weeks to assure a smooth transition.

The Economic Summit is beginning to take form. Mr. Hanson noted that the agreements have been signed. NIU has their internal meetings on the project and now we are looking to get a meeting together with all the partners to get Step One started and develop a master timeline.

Mr. Hanson shared that the exterior design has been finalized for the Jail Project. He continued that they are currently over budget, but he has been told this is normal for this stage of the process. The Jail Solutions Committee will have an additional update next week and will talk more about financing options.

The Economic Development Committee at their next meeting will be deciding on possible funding for the IHSA Football Championship Games, which is Thanksgiving weekend.

Planning & Zoning Committee is starting a discussion on what possible code changes may be desired to define and create a “business friendly” environment. Mr. Miller will be sharing some of the history and values of our Comprehensive and Zoning Plans at an upcoming meeting of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation and will be encouraging their participation in this discussion.

Also, the FY 2016 Budget Questions & Answer Forum will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room East on September 16th prior to the full County Board Meeting. He encouraged all Board Members to attend, if able. The entire budget is available on the County’s website and the appeal process is open through the end of September.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr.



Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary