

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission 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

**DEKALB COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**  
(July 31, 2014)

The DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) met on July 31, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Legislative Center, Gathertorium, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Commission members Don Pardridge, Rich Gentile, Les Bellah, Cheryl Aldis, Brian Gregory, Bill Beverley, Dawn Grivetti, Becky Morphey, Linda Swenson, Martha May, John Fischer, and Derek Hiland. Also in attendance were County staff members Paul Miller, Keith Anderson, Dan Berres, Greg Maurice and Rebecca Von Drasek.

- 1. Roll Call** -- *Commission members Misty Haji-Sheikh, Liz Peerboom, , and Anita Sorensen were absent.*
- 2. Approval of Agenda** -- *Ms. Aldis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hiland, and the motion carried unanimously.*

*Ms. May and Mr. Fischer arrived at 7:04 p.m.*

- 3. Approval of Minutes** -- *Ms. Aldis moved to approve the minutes from the May 29, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mr. Gentile, and the motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Gregory arrived at 7:08 p.m.*

**4. Animal Control Regulation - Presentation**

Ms Morphey welcomed Dan Berres and Greg Maurice from the DeKalb County Health Department.

*Ms. Swenson arrived at 7:11 p.m.*

Mr. Berres provided Committee members with a handout explaining Animal Control's responsibilities and authorities. Mr. Berres stressed the importance of local police enforcement in handling animal-related calls within each of the municipalities. He noted that there was a list of qualified wildlife trappers on the County's website, (<http://www.dekalbcounty.org/Health/environmental/pdf/wildliferemoval.pdf>).

The Committee briefly discussed with Mr. Berres if Animal Control personnel should be sworn officers. Mr. Berres responded that the infractions are often criminal and that sworn officers receive a good amount of law-enforcement training.

Mr. Bellah supported the enforcement of leash laws and other pet regulations.

Mr. Berres concluded by explaining that Animal Control should be called for aggressive strays or wildlife, and that local law enforcement should be contacted regarding local regulations for pets.

## **5. ISO Rating System**

Ms. Morphey welcomed Keith Anderson the DeKalb County Building Inspector.

Mr. Anderson gave a brief presentation on the ISO rating system. He explained that the ISO rating for building inspections is based on the adopted code standards, training of staff, and other features which are rated to determine the quality of the building enforcement. The intent of the rating is to be used for review of insurance rates for the given community. Mr. Anderson suggested that the cost to receive a better rating might not justify the expense.

Mr. Pardridge agreed with Mr. Anderson that he saw little benefit for the amount of overhead required to meet ISO standards.

Mr. Gregory observed that the City of Sycamore had found that the ISO ratings for the Fire Department had been beneficial for the City.

Mr. Gentile noted that in the City of Genoa that the ratings improvement had been resulted in some savings.

Mr. Miller suggested that the most recently written Building Codes are often not adopted immediately by Communities due to the cost of compliance. He suggested that at a future meeting the Commission could discuss adopted Building Codes within the County.

Mr. Gregory found it to be a benefit to review the checklists for the ISO standards when considering improving regulatory standards within the community.

## **6. Municipal Development Projects / Issues**

Ms. Morphey opened the floor for comment from the Commissioners. She reported that Somonauk had two new house starts.

Ms. Aldis discussed the Cortland mobile home park and steps the Town is taking to address the ongoing septic issues at the Cortland mobile home park.

Ms. Swenson noted that some of the commercial properties in Waterman were being filled in with residential uses. The Commission briefly discussed the importance of creating a vision for each community's downtown and the means of encouraging commercial, residential, and mixed uses.

Ms. May reported that the Village of Lee is waiting to receive a grant for upgrading the Village

water system.

Mr. Pardridge explained Shabbona is installing bike paths using grant funds and donations.

Mr. Gregory reported that the former Browns site has sold. He noted that the construction is on pace with last year for the City of Sycamore. The City had received a grant for a fire truck. He said that the City was treating excessive flows from the waste treatment plant with the approval of the IEPA. He concluded by encouraging Commissioners to contact their State representatives regarding the proposed changes to the water and sewer connections fees.

Mr. Bellah reported on a few proposed businesses in town, including a tattoo parlor and pizza place. He noted that there is a building moratorium in the Hickory Ridge subdivision while the lawyers resolve the responsible parties for the infrastructure. He also observed that Hines Lumber was doing steady business.

**7. Next Meeting Date** -- The Commission agreed that the next RPC meeting would be held September 25, 2014 at 7 pm in the Conference Room East of the Administration Building.

**8. Adjournment** -- *Mr. Beverley moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gregory, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Becky Morphey  
Chairman, DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission

RGV:rgv

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