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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Committee of the Whole Minutes  
November 12, 2020**

The Committee of the Whole of the DeKalb County Board virtually met via Zoom on Wednesday, November 12, 2020. Chairman Mark Pietrowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those Members virtually present via Zoom and/or by phone were Mr. Tim Bagby, Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Mrs. Karen Cribben, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Mr. Steve Faivre, Vice-Chairman John Frieders, Mr. Tim Hughes, Ms. Kiara Jones, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Jim Luebke, Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb, Mr. Jerry Osland, Mr. Roy Plote, Mr. Chris Porterfield, Mr. Craig Roman, Ms. Linda Slabon, Mr. Paul Stoddard, Mr. Larry West, Mr. Jeff Whelan, Ms. Suzanne Willis, and Chairman Mark Pietrowski, Jr. Mr. Tracy Jones was absent. A quorum was established with twenty-three Members present and one absent.

Others present included Gary Hanson, Derek Hiland, Pete Stefan, Sheriff Scott, Lt. Jim Burgh, Hannah, Chuck Coulter, Greg Millburg, Sheila Santos, Donny Adams, Kyle Carlson, Kathy Lampkins, WLBK, and the Daily Chronicle.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Mr. Whelan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Cribben seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice-Chair Frieders, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members present voted yea. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Ms. Crawford moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Porterfield seconded the motion as presented. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice-Chair Frieders, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Pietrowski. All Members present voted yea. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Mark Charvat of DeKalb addressed the Committee in regards to the proposed TIF Agreement with the City of DeKalb. He commented that the Agreement stinks and does not make the County whole from the money that was stolen from the City of DeKalb over the years. He suggested that the Board vote to deny the Agreement.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Pietrowski commended the County Clerk's Election's Office for their professionalism in facilitating the 2020 General Election. There was a huge voter turn out and the COVID

pandemic added to the already very busy day. He also congratulated all of the candidate who put themselves out there and ran for a public office.

## **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

### **IGA for City of DeKalb TIF District**

Mr. Hanson reviewed the background material that was distributed in the Committee Packet prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hanson further reviewed that the Joint Review Board (JRB) for the City of DeKalb's Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Districts has recommended that each of the Taxing Bodies within the TIF District approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for reconciling issues that have arose through the years with TIF Districts #1 and #2. The IGA stipulates that an annual surplus will be declared by the City of DeKalb which will serve to off-set excessive monies used by the City of DeKalb over the years for administrative expenses. The IGA also mandates that the City of DeKalb will take measures to assure the various taxing bodies who are a part of the TIF District that monies are used appropriately for the purposes of a TIF District.

The IGA also releases the City of DeKalb from certain liabilities that is in exchange for the surplus declarations and accountability provisions. The County determined that the provisions in the IGA are a fair and reasonable way to resolve the various issues that have arose over the years and that this is being accomplished without protracted litigation.

### **Reports from Committee Chairs**

Mr. Faivre, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Committee, shared the Committee will have three Ordinances coming to the Board for consideration. Two of them are solar gardens for Whiskey Acres and the other is for a Zoning Text Amendment regarding the keeping of chickens on residential lots. The Committee met prior to the meeting and only had a few minor corrections to the proposed Ordinance that will be going to the full County Board.

Mr. Plote, Chair of the County Highway Committee, shared that the Committee is recommending approval one Resolution for the utilization of MFT Funds for 2021 General Maintenance Projects. He also shared that since the weather has been so great still, the Highway Department has been able to finish up more projects. The salt storage shed is also coming along well.

Mrs. Emmer, Chair of the Economic Development Committee shared that the Committee was presented with a request from DCEDC and forwarded an Ordinance to the full County Board recommending the approval of a Boundary Modification to the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone for Conserv FS in the Village of Waterman.

Mr. Porterfield, Chairman of Health & Human Services Committee shared that the Committee had not items for Board consideration but they received an update on the Senior Tax Levy. They also received a report from Kishwaukee United Way's Executive Director Gretchen Sprinkle who provided them with an updated ALICE Report. Mr. Porterfield suggested that the Board Members view the whole report as well as the update on the County's Website under the Health & Human Services Committee Page. The Committee noted that it may be a good topic for the Committee of the Whole to review in the future.

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Ms. Leifheit, Chair of the Law & Justice Committee, shared the Court Services Office was informed by the Office of Justice Programs, that the application submitted by DeKalb County Government for an award under the funding opportunity entitled BJA FY 20 Improving Community Supervision Outcomes Through Swift, Certain, and Fair Responses was approved in an amount of \$750,000.

Ms. Leifheit additionally shared that her Committee was going to have a little show-in-tell presentation. Sheriff Scott and Lt. Burgh shared the entire patrol division has been issued Kustom Body Worn Cameras and they are operational. Segment one of the Body Worn Cameras occurred August 17th – 21st with the training of the deputies and distribution of 14 of the cameras. The second segment of training and distribution was between September 21st – 25th when 12 additional cameras were put into operation.

The Committee of the Whole was able to see three different videos that were taken by Deputies out in the field to see how clear the cameras in the day and at night. Lt. Burgh also explained that the redaction of the video is taking 6-10 times longer than they had originally anticipated the amount of storage is significantly larger as well but the Deputies love having the cameras and the Department is appreciative for the Board's support with the program.

Mr. Bagby, Chairman of the Finance Committee, shared that the Committee has forwarded a Resolution to approve a line-of-credit for the Voluntary Action Center and another to rescind Resolution R2012-78, which was to reserve land for a future transportation facility. The Committee is also forwarding the FY 2021 Levy and Balanced Budget Ordinances to the Board.

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Operations Committee, shared the Committee is forwarding an Award Resolution to the Commissioners to approve a 100-year-old culvert replacement on the Great Western Trail. They too are forwarding their FY 2021 Levy and Appropriation Ordinances to the full Board of Commissioners recommending their approval.

Mr. Hanson briefly reviewed multiple items that the Executive Committee will be reviewing for possible Board consideration following the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Those items include: Approval of the City of DeKalb TIF IGA, Approval of the Board's 2021 Meeting Schedule, Release of Executive Session Minutes, Approval of AFSCME Labor Contract Extension, and Approval of the County Employee Handbook.

### **County Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Gary Hanson explained that when the Jail was initially planned and designed, it did not include a basement. We eventually decided to bid that as an alternate item -- - actually two alternates one for each half of the basement. Construction bids, as well as the interest rate we got on the Jail Bonds, all worked to our favor --- so not only could we do part of a basement, we were able to construct a full basement. This fulfilled our goal to always include storage in the buildings we construct.

The Jail Storage allowed us to prepare for the future. While the need to actually start filling the space is not critical, what it does in the short-term is to allow us to store records closer to the offices that need the records. The intent now is to bring back records from remote storage into the Jail space. Remote storage includes space at the Highway Building, the Community Outreach

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Building, and the Maintenance/Storage Building that is a separate building on the back-side of the Nursing Home. As we free up the remote storage, that gives space to grow for the offices on those campuses. The Jail space will likely be used by the Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, State's Attorney and Public Defender. There is also storage in the basement of the Legislative Center that may be freed up for the offices in the Legislative Center and the Administration Building. A domino effect happens as we move records around, but the idea is to keep them as close as practical to the users of those records. Having a full basement in the new Jail will really accommodate needs for a great many years.

Mr. Hanson did a little show-in-tell of his own and showed the Board Members photos of the 22,000 square foot Basement Jail Storage areas and cages.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Mr. Whelan seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Vice-Chair Frieders, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Jones, Ms. Leifheit, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Stoddard, Mr. West, Mr. Whelan, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Pietrowski. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

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Chairman Mark Pietrowski

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary