

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
April 14, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board virtually met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m. Those Members virtually present via Zoom and/or by phone were Mr. Tim Bagby, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Mr. Steve Faivre, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Roy Plote, Mr. Craig Roman, Vice-Chair Suzanne Willis, and Chairman John Frieders. Ms. Rukisha Crawford was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

Others present included Brian Gregory, Derek Hiland, David Berault, Becky Springer, Brad Belanger, Nathan Schwartz, Scott Campbell, Mary Cozad, Karen Cribben, Bill Cummings, Patrick Deutsch, Mrs. Lampkins, Ms. Little, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Mohammad, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, and Mr. West.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Plote moved to approve the Executive Committee Agenda as presented. Mr. Roman seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mrs. Emmer and seconded by Mr. Bagby to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 1602

Illinois Senate Bill 1602 was proposed by Illinois Senator William Cunningham. The Bill would amend the Counties Code. Provides that there shall be at least one public hearing during which public comment shall be taken regarding the application for siting approval or a special use permit for a commercial wind energy facility. Provides that the public hearing shall be noticed and commence not more than 45 days after the filing of an application for siting approval or a special use permit for a commercial wind energy facility. Provides that the county board shall make its siting decision not more than 30 days after the conclusion of the public hearing or the conclusion of the special use permit hearing by the zoning board of appeals. Removes a provision that allows any part of a county zoning ordinance pertaining to wind farms that is in effect before August 16, 2007 to continue in effect notwithstanding the provision of the Section. Provides that a county with an existing zoning ordinance in conflict with the provisions shall amend such zoning ordinance to be in compliance within 120 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Specifies setback requirements, blade tip height limitations, and sound limitations. Provides that a county may not place any restriction on the installation or use of a

commercial wind energy facility, except by adopting an ordinance that complies with the provisions, and may not establish siting standards for supporting facilities that preclude development of commercial wind energy facilities. Limits home rule powers. Defines terms. Makes other changes.

Mr. Gregory proposed a draft Resolution to the Committee as requested in response to the proposed Senate Bill. He reviewed the Resolution that outlined that Counties throughout Illinois have developed and refined ordinances and requirements to enhance investments and opportunities for employment with unique zoning specifics of these areas, and in many cases these opportunities have included clean energy projects such as nuclear, wind and solar. The Board has determined that they are the appropriate entity to support the needs, interests, and safety of its residents due to direct feedback and understanding of the County's needs, while State officials or industry leaders directly involved with the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) who do not reside in these counties may not be aware of the most relevant and current information. The Board also feels the need for regulations governing the location, construction, installation, and operation of wind energy systems.

Senate Bill 1602 regarding wind energy systems proposes to amend the Counties Code by adding requirements for commercial wind energy facilities that will reduce the minimum required separation from a non-participating dwelling to less than required in the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance and thereby lessen protections for County residents in the event that any future wind farm is proposed in DeKalb County. The Bill would relinquish authority to make these fine determinations of needs for a county to others who do not reside in the community.

This proposed Resolution would oppose Senate Bill 1602 and stands with our residents' right to make decisions in land-use planning for the legacy of our communities, areas and future generations.

There was a suggestion to add the wording: or similar bills and implications to the draft Resolution in order to incorporate any other Bills that may be coming down the pike that may also relate to taking local control of zoning and land use affairs away from Counties.

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Mr. Plote to forward the Resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Ms. Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Frieders recommended the approval of the following appointments:

- a. **Board of Review:** Daniel Cribben and John Linderoth both reappointed for two-year terms beginning June 1, 2021 and expiring May 31, 2023.
- b. **Board of Review - Alternates:** Ryan Cardinali and Don Thomas both reappointed beginning June 1, 2021 and expiring May 31, 2022.
- c. **Farmland Assessments Review Board:** Charles Payne reappointed for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2021 and expiring April 30, 2024.
- d. **Regional Planning Commission:** John Sauter (*Sycamore*) and Laurie Wilson (*Shabbona*) both appointed for three-year terms until March 31, 2024.

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- e. **Regional Planning Commission - Alternates:** Maggie Peck (*Sycamore*) and David Simpson (*Shabbona*) both appointed for three-year terms until March 31, 2024.

Mr. Faivre moved to forward to recommended appointments to the full County Board for approval. Mr. Bagby seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Roman moved to approve the Draft County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board. Vice-Chair Willis seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. All Members voted yea. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Plote moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of purpose of discussing pending or imminent litigation as provided for in 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11) at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Faivre seconded the motion and it carried by a 8-0-1 roll call vote. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. None were opposed and Ms. Crawford was absent. Motion carried.

The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Roman and it was seconded by Vice-Chair Willis to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chairman John Frieders

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary