

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
June 9, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium as well as via Zoom on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Tim Bagby (in-person), Ms. Rukisha Crawford (virtually), Mr. Steve Faivre (in-person), Ms. Dianne Leifheit (in-person), Mr. Roy Plote (in-person), Mr. Craig Roman (in-person), Vice-Chair Suzanne Willis (virtually), and Chairman John Frieders (in-person). Mrs. Laurie Emmer was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

Others present included Brian Gregory, Derek Hiland, Nathan Schwartz, Scott Campbell, Mary Cozad, Karen Cribben, Bill Cummings, Pat Deutsch, Tim Hughes, Kathy Lampkins, Maureen Little, Jim Luebke, Terri Mann-Lamb, Neill Mohammad, Jerry Osland, Linda Slabon, Larry West, and multiple member of the public.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Faivre moved to approve the Executive Committee Agenda as presented. Leifheit seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, 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 Mr. Plote and seconded by Mr. Bagby to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, 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

Mr. Brad Belanger of South Grove Township, representing Concerned Citizens of DeKalb County, addressed the Board regarding some proposed large-scale industrial solar projects within DeKalb County. He noted that when the Board adopted their Solar Ordinance it never addressed solar projects to the magnitude that are now being proposed. Some of the issues he has heard from citizens are construction issues, decommissioning, set-backs, property values, public safety, etc. Mr. Belanger added that he understood that when the Ordinance was created solar was a bit of a new, uncharted topic but now having heard from numerous residents in different areas of the County about their concerns regarding these industrial solar projects, he thinks it is time to take a moment and evaluate the County's Ordinance before it is too late. Mr. Belanger requested that the County Board to establish a period of assessment on commercial and industrial solar farms to allow the County to evaluate and make any necessary adjustments to the Ordinance. He additionally thanked Chairman Frieders' directive he presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting earlier in the evening to ask Planning & Zoning to discuss this topic at their next meeting.

Mr. Larry Forsberg, South Grove Township, expressed that he was shocked to learn about the proposed project. He echoed previous comments that he didn't think the County's Solar Ordinance took a project of this magnitude into consideration when it was being drafted. Mr. Forsberg expressed his concerns about the viability and future of the little unincorporated community of Clare if this project were to go through. He requested that the Planning & Zoning Committee consider establishing an assessment period on commercial and industrial solar projects in order to evaluate the current Solar Ordinance and evaluate what a project like this would do to a community like Clare.

Mr. Tim Hakes, Mayfield Township, expressed his concerns on what a potential solar farm of a large magnitude would do to an Ag Community like Clare. He suggested that a lot more investigation on the long-term affects of solar farms should be done before approving such a project.

Ms. Kathy Stelford, Sycamore Township, expressed that DeKalb County has some of the best farmland there is and questioned what the trade-off is for taking that much soil out of production.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Frieders recommended the approval of the following appointments:

- a. **Somonauk Fire Protection District:** Nycole Woody appointed immediately to fill the unexpired term of Edward Stahl until April 30, 2023.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission:** Suzanne Fahnestock (*Maple Park*) appointed until March 31, 2022; Bob Pritchard (*Hinckley*) appointed until March 31, 2024.
- c. **Regional Planning Commission - Alternates:** Dawn Wucki-Rossbach (*Maple Park*) appointed until March 31, 2022.

Mr. Bagby moved to forward to recommended appointments to the full County Board for approval. Mr. Roman seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, 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. Faivre moved to approve the Draft County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board. Ms. Leifheit seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Crawford and it was seconded by Mr. Plote to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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