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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
August 11, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Tim Bagby, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Mr. Steve Faivre, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Roy Plote, Mr. Craig Roman, Vice-Chair Suzanne Willis, and Chairman John Frieders. A quorum was established with all nine Members present.

Others present included Brian Gregory, Scott Campbell, Mary Cozad, Bill Cummings, Pat Deutsch, Kiara Jones, Kathy Lampkins, Terri Mann-Lamb, Neill Mohammad, and multiple members of the public.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Roman, seconded by Ms. Crawford and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Plote, seconded by Ms. Crawford and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tracy Jones, Mayfield Township, stated that he is a participating landowner in the proposed Owens Creek, LLC Solar Development. Mr. Jones, who is a former County Board Member, noted that he was part of the process in authoring the Solar Energy Ordinance for the County. Limits were discussed but when the question was proposed on why would they limit a good thing, the discussions ended and no limits were put into the Ordinance. Mr. Jones further explained to the Board why he did not think a county-wide acreage limitation was necessary.

Mr. Kevin Adelman, Leeward, addressed the Board regarding the potential county-wide acreage limitation for Solar Energy Systems. He expanded on his comments from the Committee of the Whole Meeting about there already being natural and market limits on industrial solar farms.

Mr. Larry Forsberg, South Grove Township, expressed why he believes that land should not be taken out of agricultural production and turned into solar farms. He also discussed property values and decommissioning and insurance policies associated with industrial solar farms.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS COUNTY-WIDE ACREAGE LIMITATION

After several discussions at Planning & Zoning Committees surrounding Solar Energy Systems and a possible limit. The Executive Committee was proposed the follow language as an addition to the current Solar Energy Ordinance:

Sec. 53-E-12A. Solar Energy Systems
New Language

9. Acreage Limitation, County-Wide

In an effort to balance the County's heritage of rich farmland with the emerging solar energy system technology, the DeKalb County Board has imposed a county-wide limit of _____ total acres or the total maximum acreage in completed special use applications made to the County's Community Development Department on or before January 1, 2022, whichever is less, county-wide for the purposes of solar energy systems as the primary use; meaning commercial or industrial solar gardens and farms. This limit does not apply to ancillary uses such as panels installed on rooftops or on farms for the purpose of powering that particular property. The Planning and Zoning Committee will review the acreage limitation at its regular meeting in January, 2024 and make a recommendation to the full DeKalb County Board.

**The Planning and Zoning Committee discussion centered on 8,000-10,000 acres as the limit.*

Mr. Faivre, Chair PZC, expressed that he agreed with previous comments regarding there being natural limitations/restraints on these large solar projects. He added that if the public needed a number to feel secure, he thought the limit should be about 15,000 acres at the lowest.

Vice-Chair Willis provided her comments on why she did not think it was a good ideal to have a county-wide acreage limit on solar.

Additional discussions ensued regarding whether or not to have a limit and if so, what that limit would be set at.

Mr. Bagby moved to insert a county-wide limit of 8,000 total acres for commercial or industrial solar gardens and farms. Mrs. Emmer seconded the motion.

Ms. Leifheit moved to amend the county-wide limit from 8,000 to 10,000 total acres for commercial or industrial solar gardens and farm. Mr. Plote seconded the motion.

Chairman Frieders called for a roll call vote on the amendment to amend the county-wide limit from 8,000 to 10,000 total acres for commercial or industrial solar gardens and farm. Those voting yea were Ms. Crawford, Mr. Faivre, and Mr. Plote. Those opposed were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Roman, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. The motion failed.

Mr. Faivre moved to strike "or the total maximum acreage in completed special use applications made to the County's Community Development Department on or before January 1, 2022, whichever is less, county-wide". Mr. Plote seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, and Chairman Frieders. Those opposed were Mr. Roman and Vice-Chair Willis. The motion carried.

The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion as now amended. That would be to forward the following wording to the full County Board recommending its approval:

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Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Plote, Vice-Chair Willis, and Chairman Frieders. Mr. Roman was opposed. The motion carried with eight Members voting yea and one opposed.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Frieders recommended the approval of the following appointments:

- a. **DeKalb County Sheriff:** Andrew Sullivan appointed immediately to fill out the unexpired term until November 30, 2022.
- b. **Regional Planning Commission:** Terri Voitik (*Lee*) and Todd Latham (*Sandwich*) both appointed until March 31, 2024.
- c. **Stormwater Management Committee:** Kevin Bunge, Paul Stoddard, Todd Latham, Patricia Vary, Zak Gill, and Mark Bushnell all reappointed for two-year terms until June 30, 2023; Jan Melton appointed immediately to fill an unexpired term until June 30, 2022.
- d. **General Assistance Appeal Board:** Jim Hanson, Amy Mathey, Randy Bourdages, Garry Smith, and John Frieders all reappointed for three-year terms until June 30, 2024.
- e. **Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb:** Ronald Bemis reappointed for a five-year term beginning November 1, 2021 and expiring October 31, 2026.
- f. **DeKalb County Public Building Commission:** Kevin Bunge appointed to fill the unexpired term of Michael Larson until September 30, 2025.
- g. **Somonauk Cemetery Association:** A. A. Burgin, III, Gerald Lundeen, Howard Rosenwinkel, Pat Schuh, Dennis Stahl, and Roy Wahlgren all reappointed for six-year terms beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2027.
- h. **South Grove Cemetery Association:** Henry Burgweger, Barbara Koehnke, and Tiffany Rauman all reappointed for six-year terms beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2027.
- i. **Coon Creek Drainage District:** John Emerson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- j. **Clinton-Shabbona Drainage District:** Robert Buchholz reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- k. **Normal Drainage District:** Scott Drake reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- l. **Shabbona, Milan, Union Drainage District:** Robert Mullins reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.

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- m. **Somonauk-Victor Drainage District:** Wayne Nelson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- n. **Squaw Grove Drainage District:** Bill Pfau reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- o. **Union Drainage District #4:** Alan Wiesbrook reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.
- p. **Victor-Clinton Drainage District:** Richard Erickson reappointed for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2021 and expiring August 31, 2024.

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Ms. Crawford and approved unanimously to forward the appointments to the full County Board recommending their approval.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Plote moved to approve the Draft County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board. Mr. Roman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Emmer, seconded by Ms. Crawford, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Frieders, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary