

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Forest Preserve District Commissioners at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
Sycamore, Illinois

SPECIAL
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT PROCEEDINGS
December 8, 2021

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Commissioners met in special session at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:55 p.m. President Frieders called the meeting to order and the Secretary called the roll. Those Commissioners present were Mrs. Kathy Lampkins, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Jim Luebke, Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb, Mr. Jerry Osland, Mr. Roy Plote, Mr. Craig Roman, Ms. Linda Slabon, Mr. Ellingsworth Webb, Mr. Larry West, Vice-President Suzanne Willis, Mr. Tim Bagby, Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Mary Cozad, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Mrs. Karen Cribben, Mr. Bill Cummings, Mr. Patrick Deutsch, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Mr. Steve Faivre, Mr. Tim Hughes, and President John Frieders. Ms. Kiara Jones was absent. A quorum was established with twenty-three Commissioners present and one absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Mr. Osland moved to approve the agenda as presented and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

President Frieders called for a voice vote to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion

Mr. West moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting. Ms. Slabon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

President Frieders asked for a voice vote on the approval of minutes. All Commissioners voted yea. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ordinance FP-O2021-01: Adoption of the Property Tax Levy for FY2022

Motion

Mr. Roman moved that the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Commissioners hereby approve to levy upon all the taxable property within DeKalb County, as assessed, for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021, and to be collected for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022, in the total amount of \$1,815,000. Ms. Little seconded the motion as presented.

Roll Call Vote

After some clarification from Forest Preserve Superintendent Terry Hannan, President Frieders asked for a roll call vote on the motion as presented. Those voting yea were Mrs. Lampkins, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Webb, Mr. West, Vice-President Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Cozad, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Deutsch, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Hughes, and President Frieders. All Commissioners present voted yea. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance FP-O2021-02: Annual Appropriation for FY2022

Motion

Mr. Roman moved that the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Commissioners hereby approve that the monies received by the County Treasurer from taxes and other revenues, for the use of the Forest Preserve District during the Fiscal Year starting January 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022, are hereby appropriated as set forth in the attached "Exhibit A" for the purposes necessary for the Forest Preserve District to carry out its responsibilities. Ms. Cozad seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

President Frieders called for a roll call vote on the motion. Those voting yea were Mrs. Lampkins, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Luebke, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Mr. Roman, Ms. Slabon, Mr. Webb, Mr. West, Vice-President Willis, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Cozad, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Deutsch, Mrs. Emmer, Mr. Faivre, Mr. Hughes, and President Frieders. All Commissioners present voted yea. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan provided some information regarding future events.

Ms. Linda Slabon, County Board Member, District 5, expressed that this was her last meeting. Ms. Slabon echoed her November 10th letter of resignation, and said her resignation comes amid several travel commitments which were pushed back into 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked County Elected Officials and staff for helping her learn the ropes of her seat. Ms. Slabon ended the evening by singing a hymnal, "This Is My Song" by Lloyd Stone. **Please see Exhibit A for her detailed speech.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. and Mr. Hughes seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

President Frieders called for a voice vote on the adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

Douglas J. Johnson, Secretary
DeKalb County Forest Preserve
District Commissioners

John Frieders, President,
DeKalb County Forest Preserve
District Commissioners

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December 8, 2021 From: Linda Slabon, DeKalb County Board Member, District 5

To: Chair John Frieders, DeKalb County Board
Vice Chair Suzanne Willis, DeKalb County Board
Brian Gregory, County Administrator, DeKalb County
Tasha Sims, Executive Assistant, DeKalb County
DeKalb County Board Members

I know you are eager to get home. Me too. But tonight is my last meeting and I asked John if I might say a few words.

In my letter of resignation -- emailed to you all back in November -- I thanked Brian Gregory, our County Administrator, Deanna Cada who is the Director of the Mental Health Board, and Sheriff Andrew Sullivan and the officers who participate in the DeKalb County Sheriff's Citizen Police Academy. These people, and others, serve this County with excellence.

But I missed commending two people who have helped me be a more responsible County Board Member. Derek Highland, Director of Community Development, took the time to explain to me some of the complex boundary issues and relationships between township, county and city. In my first year on the Board, he even took me on a driving tour of my District and we discussed the thorny challenges of who is responsible when property owners do not maintain their property. I have been impressed with his work -- especially recently -- as he navigates zoning, solar farm, and map re-districting issues.

The second person is Tasha Sims, our phenomenal Executive Assistant. There are not words enough to thank Tasha for her commitment, attention to detail, knowledge, kindness, diligence, sense of humor, and her everlasting patience, and cheerful responses to every single phone call or email request that I sent. It seems a rare thing in today's world to have a live call-back response within 24 hours, but Tasha got back to me every single time. DeKalb County is fortunate to have Tasha among our professional staff.

Finally, this gig -- serving as an elected official -- was not an easy gig for me. I did not work in business or government or education. As a minister and therapist my work for over 30 years has been conducting hundreds of funerals, weddings, worship services, and thousands of therapy sessions. Listening, healing emotional pain, raising questions that support equity, and providing respectful compassion -- that's my work. But no matter what our jobs are "out there", the work we do here includes listening, raising thoughtful questions, healing wounded feelings, and demonstrating respect and compassion for our people. I have regarded you as my colleagues. We may not always agree, but I trust that you will continue to care deeply about the health and safety of DeKalb County -- her land and her people. It has been an honor to serve.

This Is My Song Words by Lloyd Stone

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for all lands and for mine.