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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Executive Committee Minutes
October 12, 2022**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. Those Members present were Mr. Tim Bagby, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Mrs. Laurie Emmer, Ms. Dianne Leifheit, Mr. Roy Plote, Mr. Craig Roman, Vice-Chair Suzanne Willis, and Chairman John Frieders. Mr. Steve Faivre was absent. A quorum was established with eight Members present and one absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Crawford and seconded by Mrs. Emmer, 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 Mr. Bagby and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Katherine Andraski, Kingston Township, read aloud and submitted her comments regarding the County's revised Solar Ordinance. She noted that the revised Ordinance is vague and does not address the setback requests for non-participating land owners. She also requested the Board slow down on moving forward with a Battery Ordinance until more discussion would be had regarding that topic separate from the Solar Ordinance. **Please see Exhibit A for detailed comments.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE AN ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND OPERATIONAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ILLUMINATE HC REGARDING THE SALE OF THE DCRNC

It was moved by Mrs. Emmer, seconded by Vice-Chair Willis and approved unanimously to forward to the Resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY \$7/HOUR NIGHT SHIFT BONUS FOR RNs EMPLOYED BY THE DCRNC

It was moved by Mr. Roman, seconded by Ms. Crawford and approved unanimously to forward the Resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ISSUE DISBURSEMENTS TO COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES FOR COMPLETED WATER, SEWER, AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND TO PRE-APPROVE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

It was moved by Ms. Leifheit, seconded by Ms. Crawford and approved unanimously to forward the Resolution to the full County Board recommending its approval.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Frieders recommended the approval of the following appointment:

- a. **Regional Planning Commission – Alternate:** Debbie Lang appointed immediately until March 31, 2025.

It was moved by Mrs. Emmer, seconded by Mr. Plote, and was approved unanimously to forward the appointment to the full County Board recommending its approval.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Ms. Crawford moved to approve the Draft County Board Agenda and to forward it to the full County Board. Vice-Chair Willis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Plote, seconded by Mrs. Emmer, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Frieders, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

Katherine Andraski
Kingston Township

Thank you for you for the work and time you put into watching over the county. I was hopeful when I heard last night's discussion about setbacks being in a ratio of three to one and the maximum height of solar panels being 12 feet. I was pleased the PZB addressed some of our concerns last evening.

But there are still items that need to be considered.

I am very concerned that both the county and Leeward were clueless about the Enbridge pipeline running right through the proposed Owens Creek site. The pipeline was not constructed to withstand the effects of stray voltage and representatives from Enbridge were not notified about this. That shows a stunning lack of planning on both parts.

Who is going to enforce this ordinance? Is there money set aside to police whether these industrial solar companies are following what has been ordained? I know Dean from Soil Conservation was concerned about this with regards to ground cover and noxious weeds. I am concerned about the fire hazard dry grasses and a misfiring solar farm might have. I am concerned about the ground and water table being polluted by cadmium and lead.

What about broken panels during construction? Will they be properly disposed of? Will anyone watch out for this? What about broken drain tiles? It was troubling that Leeward is saying they can't afford surveying these, but wouldn't they have to before building?

What about screening companies to make sure that they know what they are doing and aren't just taking advantage of the taxpayer subsidies? Amazon was badly burned by a solar company that improperly installed panels on their rooftops. This caused several electrical fires that cost Amazon in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. They also hired a company to check out the rest of the installations. That could happen here with dire consequences. Perhaps we should hire a similar company at the solar company's expense to make sure the work is done properly.

With the setback, why not measure them from people's door yards? Ours includes our barn, shed, chicken shed, house, lawn and paddocks. It's where we live and amounts to about two acres. Derek's diagram of how the 300 feet went to 100 feet was ugly and didn't make enough space for the non-participating landowner to enjoy their land. A large setback protects the homeowner from stray voltage and wind flipping and smashing panels into neighboring property. Maybe there could be some kind of radius? Perhaps give up setbacks from the roadways to accommodate nonparticipating landowners who are getting nothing, nada, zilch from these industrial solar plants surrounding them.

I know Dale's recommendation that there be public comment with regards to the final building permit on these large industrial projects was hurtful to Derek personally. But my gosh that's a lot of responsibility on one person's shoulders if something goes wrong. Is there any way that responsibility can be spread out?

To that end I urge you to slow down with this revision and make it right. I know there is pressure because the state might take away counties' rights to set ordinances, but we have an ordinance. This eminent domain bit has come up before and has not succeeded. Your responsibility is to the county and the taxpayers here. I also hope you separate batteries from the ordinance and consider the regulations Brad Belanger has presented. I urge you to carefully go through John Lyon's 43 points to tighten up the language of the ordinance. This is way too big a responsibility to the county, the ground, the water table, and the residents to rush through at next week's meeting which is also deciding the fate of the nursing home.