

*DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois*



***SPECIAL***  
**COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS**  
**September 27, 2023**

The DeKalb County Board met in Special Session at the Legislative Center's Gathertorium on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Chair Willis called the meeting to order, and the Clerk called the roll. Those present were Board Members Savannah Ilenikhena, Kathy Lampkins, Maureen Little, Jim Luebke, Terri Mann-Lamb, Joe Marcinkowski, Stewart Ogilvie, Jerry Osland, Roy Plote, Amber Quitno, Ellingsworth Webb, Tim Bagby, Scott Campbell, Mary Cozad, Patrick Deutsch, Laurie Emmer, Vice-Chair John Frieders, Ben Haier, Rhonda Henke, and Chair Suzanne Willis. Those Board Members absent were Michelle Pickett, Chris Porterfield, Rukisha Crawford, and Meryl Domina. A quorum was established with twenty Members present and four absent.

Ilenikhena led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion

It was moved by Emmer and seconded by Mann-Lamb to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion to Amend

Vice-Chair Frieders moved to add an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing probable or imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) after Public Comments. Webb seconded.

Voice Vote on Amendment

Chair Willis called for a voice vote on the amendment to the agenda. The motion carried.

Voice Vote on Amended Agenda

A voice vote was taken on the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

*Rukisha Crawford arrived. There were now twenty-one Members present and three absent.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anna Wilhelmi, a resident of southern rural DeKalb County, an Attorney, and the Chair of the DeKalb County Democratic Party, stated that she is against the sale of the DCRNC and the two Resolutions before the Board this evening. Wilhelmi asked the Board to vote no to any extensions or amendments to the contract and explained her reasons why.

Sue Graves, DeKalb, shared her experiences in working in various Nursing Homes throughout her career. She complimented the DCRNC on being the best facility in the area. She requested the Board to vote no on the sale of the DCRNC and if the County were to absolutely need to sell the facility, then to sell it to a more reputable firm/people.

Cathy Anderson, former DCRNC Administrator, presented a binder full of Illinois Department of Public Health survey results from eight of SaBa facilities. The results are a disaster and the binder she presented is full of horrors from the last eighteen months, she explained. Anderson reviewed a few of the citations to the Board Members. She requested the Board to vote no on the sale.

Mary Hatch, a DeKalb County resident, expressed that it seems to her that more energy could have been spent [by the County] on finding strategies to save this important community resource [DCRNC] than dumping it. She urged the Board to carefully consider this proposal and to say no, because once gone, the Nursing Home will never be ours again.

Hannah Williams, a DeKalb resident and DCRNC family member, expressed that Illuminate HC also has low ratings at their facilities and since she last looked, some of their facilities ratings have gotten worse. Williams continued to ask the Board to vote no, not sell the only public Nursing Home in the County, and to allow the DCRNC to hire the staff they need and execute the appropriate contracts to bring in revenue.

Madeline Nelson, DeKalb, expressed that the lack of due diligence from the Board continues to appall her. She stated that the Board has not looked into the background of the potential buyers and she is opposed to both of the Resolutions in front of the Board for the evening. Nelson described why she did not want the Board to sell the DCRNC to a private equity firm and urged the Board to vote no as well.

Mike Ostrom, a resident of Somonauk, shared that his mother currently lives in the DCRNC. He questioned the legality of swapping out names and changing contracts just before the Certificate of Need Hearing. Ostrom stated that they need to keep the Nursing Home open and the Board/Administration needs to let the DCRNC staff do what they need to do to hire good people and turn a profit.

Nickie Marsh, Sycamore Township, requested the Board to vote no on the Resolutions before them and to not sell the DCRNC. Marsh additionally questioned why Illuminate HC wasn't the sole buyer as was approved in the beginning instead of having SaBa Health join and was now trying to take them off the contract.

Steve Kapitan, DeKalb, addressed the 1991 property tax levy referendum and questioned why that money was not used and could not be used. Kapitan additionally questioned if the Board has done a background check on Illuminate HC and the businesses they associate with. He additionally urged the Board to vote no on the Resolutions and the sale of the DCRNC and to vote on a new property tax levy referendum.

Don Gates, Sandwich, shared that he has noted that there are only ten County Board Members on the Board that have 5+ years of service. He questioned if the Board Members are provided enough education and documents to make sound financial decisions. He reminded that the County Board Members are the ones in charge of the County. He also questioned why the County doesn't adopt Jordan Healthcare's suggestions for turning the DCRNC profitable again.

#### Motion to Extend Public Comment Period

Campbell moved to extend the 30-minute time limit of public comments by 15 minutes provided for in County Board Rule 2-11. Crawford seconded the motion.

#### Voice Vote

The motion was carried by voice vote.

*Meryl Domina arrived. There were now twenty-two Members present and two absent.*

Carol Deemer, DeKalb, shared that she was present to oppose the sale of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center. She has done research on both SaBa Health and Illuminate HC, as well as looked into the County's financials. She also complimented Camden Lazenby of the Daily Chronicle for his fair and honest news coverage of the DCRNC situation. Demmer last expressed how much her heart is with the DCRNC and provided a resident perspective to the Board Members.

Richard Rice, DeKalb, shared that at recent Health & Human Services Committee Meetings, Jordan Healthcare and Administrator Becker have expressed that they have the model figured out now. There may be short-term pain, but there is hope for saving the DCRNC and keeping it a County-owned facility. Rice respectfully requested the Board Members to vote no on the two Resolutions before them and find a way to keep the DCRNC a County-owned facility.

Steve Duchrow, DeKalb, requested the Board to vote against the two Resolutions before them and provided that voting no provides a wide range of options for the DCRNC to continue to be a County-owned facility. Duchrow reviewed the options with the Board.

Maggie Niemi, former DCRNC Administrator, shared that she did everything she could to turn the DCRNC around. She explained how non-profit facilities do more for the people and the community than a for-profit facility can do. Niemi reviewed that she tried to give the Board facts and resources and continues to urge the Board to not sell the DCRNC because it is still a viable Nursing Home.

Steve Lux, DeKalb, urged the Board to vote no on the two Resolutions before them. He explained how baffled he is to learn that the DCRNC went from being so self-sufficient to so much in the red in such a short time. He shared that he feels it is best for everyone for the County Board to find a way to keep the DCRNC a County-owned facility. He also stated that the citizens of DeKalb County deserve a say in whether or not they want to keep the DCRNC a public non-profit facility.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **Executive Session: For the Purpose of Discussing Probable or Imminent Litigation, Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)**

##### Motion

Mann-Lamb moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:57 p.m. for the purpose of discussing probable or imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11). Ilenikhena seconded the motion.

##### Roll Call Vote

The Chair called for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session. Those voting aye were Board Members Ilenikhena, Lampkins, Little, Luebke, Mann-Lamb, Marcinkowski, Plote, Webb, Bagby, Campbell, Cozad, Deutsch, Emmer, Vice-Chair Frieders, Haier, and Chair Willis. Those opposed were Board Members Ogilvie, Osland, Quitno, Crawford, Domina, and Henke. The motion carried 16-6-2.

*The Board Members entered back into Open Session at 8:11 p.m.*

**Resolution R2023-095: A Resolution Authorizing the DeKalb County Board Chair to Execute any Necessary Amendments to the Operating Transfer Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement with DeKalb Healthcare Holdings, LLC to Remove and Exclude SaBa Healthcare and any individuals from SaBa Healthcare including Moshe Blonder and Aaron (Aharon) Singer from any interest in the DCRNC including Ownership, Operation or Financial Investment**

**Motion**

Vice-Chair Frieders moved that the DeKalb County Board does hereby authorize the County Board Chair to execute any necessary Amendments to the Operating Transfer Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement with DeKalb Healthcare Holdings, LLC to remove and exclude SaBa Healthcare and any individuals from SaBa Healthcare including Moshe Blonder and Aaron (Aharon) Singer from any interest in the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center ownership, operation or financial investment. Webb seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

After discussion on what the Resolution would do and what an aye or nay vote means and after a short comment from Illuminate HC Principal Avi Zuckerman, Chair Willis called for a roll call vote on the motion as presented. No Board Members voted aye. Those opposed were Ilenikhena, Lampkins, Little, Luebke, Mann-Lamb, Marcinkowski, Ogilvie, Osland, Plote, Quitno, Webb, Bagby, Campbell, Cozad, Crawford, Deutsch, Domina, Emmer, Vice-Chair Frieders, Haier, Henke, and Chair Willis. The motion failed 0-22-2.

**Resolution R2023-096: A Resolution Authorizing the County Administrator to Execute Documents Necessary to Modify the Certificate of Need Application for Submission to Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board that Reflects the Removal of Moshe Blonder and Aaron (Aharon) Singer from the Application**

**Motion**

Vice-Chair Frieders moved that the DeKalb County Board does hereby authorize the County Administrator to execute documents necessary to modify the Certificate of Need Application for submission to the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board that reflects the removal of Moshe Blonder and Aaron (Aharon) Singer from the application. Webb seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

Chair Willis called for a roll call vote on the motion. No Board Members voted aye. Those opposed were Ilenikhena, Lampkins, Little, Luebke, Mann-Lamb, Marcinkowski, Ogilvie, Osland, Plote, Quitno, Webb, Bagby, Campbell, Cozad, Crawford, Deutsch, Domina, Emmer, Vice-Chair Frieders, Haier, Henke, and Chair Willis. The motion failed 0-22-2.

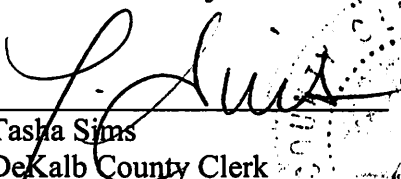
**ADJOURNMENT**

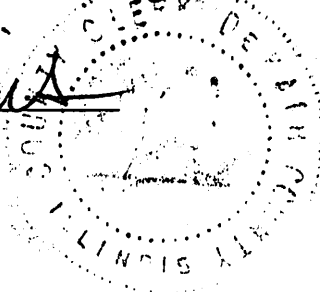
**Motion**


Lampkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Mann-Lamb seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried.

  
Tasha Sims  
DeKalb County Clerk



  
Suzanne Willis  
DeKalb County Board Chair