

*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  
January 7, 2014**

The Executive Committee of the DeKalb County Board met Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Jeffery Metzger called the meeting to order. Members present were Mrs. Sally DeFauw, Ms. Julia Fauci, Mrs. Julia Fullerton, Mr. John Gudmunson, Mr. Stephen Reid, Mr. Paul Stoddard, Mrs. Anita Jo Turner, Mr. Jeff Whelan and Chairman Jeff Metzger. All Members of the committee were present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Paul Miller, Christine Johnson, Nathan Schwartz, Anthony Cvek, John Emerson, John Frieders, Tracy Jones, Mark Pietrowski, Frank O'Barski, Riley Oncken and Derek Tyson.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mrs. DeFauw, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2013 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Ms. Fauci, seconded by Mr. Stoddard and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

**CODE AMENDMENT: DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Cvek respectfully requested that the Executive Committee would consider an Ordinance he constructed for a Code Amendment to the Deputy County Administrator position. Mr. Cvek proposed an Amendment that would make all elected officials ineligible to apply for the position of Deputy County Administrator. The committee read the purposed Ordinance then Chairman Metzger opened the table for discussion.

Mrs. Turner announced that there are already Elected Officials that hold other positions in the county so she expressed she did not see the need for this amendment.

Mrs. Fullerton also expressed that she did not see an advantage to limiting eligibility for the position of Deputy County Administrator and that it would be more advantageous to be able to fish in a larger pool of candidates. Chairman Metzger added that he has heard from other constituents that have expressed the same concerns as Mrs. Fullerton brought up.

Mr. Pietrowski stated that he felt the Executive Committee should vote to send this Ordinance for the full board for a vote on the amendment and wait until next month to fill the position of the Deputy County Administrator. Mr. Cvek agreed with Mr. Pietrowski and stated that his intent for this Code Amendment was to clarify what the intent of the board is.

There was a long discussion amongst the Executive Committee and other Board Members that were present at the meeting on whether or not they agreed with the Amendment. Many members expressed their concerns of having an Elected Official in the position of Deputy County Administrator because of how it may be portrayed to the public, possible potential conflicts of interest, possible conflicts with holding the position and still carrying out their full responsibly to their department, and lastly it was expressed that this person could get a large amount of recognition or visibility that could help with a campaign or with the candidate's elected position more.

Besides many members that were somewhat undecided on the issue or could see both sides of the discussion, the majority expressed that eliminating Elected Officials from the pool of candidates to choose from would be a disadvantage due to the fact that it could eliminate the best possible candidate for the position of Deputy County Administrator. Another point that was made by Mr. Stoddard was that he hoped everyone would put their trust into the Executive Committee and the County Board and even the Administrator to be able to determine who the best candidate for the position would be and to also be able to determine whether or not that person would have any type of conflicts while serving as Deputy County Administrator. He also expressed that he didn't think it was the best idea for everyone today to limit future boards and future Administrators on who they can appoint to this position.

Lastly Mr. Oncken reminded everyone that there were two safe guards currently in place for this position. The first one was that the appointment has to go through the Executive Committee and then secondly the appointment has to be approved by the majority of the full board based on their individual qualifications and if they are an Elected Official and the board does not like that then they wouldn't approve the appointment. He also stated that this appointee serves at the pleasure of the County Board, so if a conflict is to arise or if the person who is appointed to the position is not fulfilling their duties for whatever reason, the County Board has the right to remove them from that position at any time.

Mr. Hanson also added that an addition safe guard is that the name of the appointee comes from the County Administrator and he does not think he or any future Administrators would put a name forward that would be highly controversial or would result in a conflict.

After further discussion, the majority of the members agreed that voting for this Code Amendment would do an injustice to finding the best possible candidate for Deputy County Administrator.

**The Chairman asked for a motion to move the presented Ordinance forward to the full County Board for approval. There was no motion made.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Fauci moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel regarding the Deputy County Administrator. Mrs. DeFauw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and resulted in eight (8) yes votes and zero (0) no votes. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### *Executive Session*

**Mrs. Turner moved to return to the Open Session Executive Committee. Ms. Fauci seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and resulted in eight (8) yes votes and zero (0) no votes. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **SELECTION OF DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR**

Chairman Metzger asked if anyone had a motion to forward Ms. Christine Johnson's name forward for the appointment of Deputy County Administrator of Outreach.

**It was moved by Ms. Fauci, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and moved unanimously by voice vote to forward Ms. Christine Johnson's name as an appointment to Deputy County Administrator for Outreach to the full board for approval.**

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Metzger announced that there is going to be two very nice Proclamations this month. The first one was brought forward by Mr. Frieders which is honoring Pamela Reilly for being named Teacher of the Year. The second Proclamation is to recognize and honor the 2013 NIU Huskies Football Team.

### **APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA**

Mr. Stoddard, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Rules Committee, shared that his committee met right before Executive and they talked about two issues, the first being electronic attendance for committee meetings and the second item was cancellation of meetings. Both items are scheduled to be brought forward to the full board for approval in February.

Mr. Gudmunson, Chairman of the Highway Committee, announced that the Highway Committee will have four Resolutions bring brought to the full board for approval this month. The first two are Engineering Agreements, the third one a support Resolution for a State-Wide Transportation Construction Program and the fourth is to expend additional MFT funds for salt, due to the amount that is being used this winter. Mr. Gudmunson also shared that the 45mph speed zone

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signs have been erected on Rich Road and there will be future work on Waterman Road in the upcoming months.

Mr. Frieders added his reasoning for not supporting Resolution R2014-03. He explained that he voted to not support this Resolution do to the fact that he feels the “support” is asking the County to sign onto a blank check. He added that he would be more than happy to support a solution to the problem but he would like to have more of a structured understanding of what exactly he is supporting, Mr. Gudmunson also agreed with Mr. Frieders. Mr. Nathan Schwartz elaborated on what the purpose of the Resolution was and gave a full explanation of the process and reasoning behind the Resolution. The main purpose of the Resolution is to urge the General Assembly and Governor to build upon initiatives and create a plan that raises additional revenue to properly address transportation needs of the future. The committee and Mr. Schwartz continued to discuss their concerns and opinions on Resolution R2014-03but in the end the majority agreed that it would be advantageous to jump in with everyone else and help support this cause to raise more awareness to the Legislators but while doing so continue to work on finding solutions to the problems.

Mr. Whelan, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, shared that they will be meeting tomorrow night and will being having Mr. Paul Borek back to the committee to give a presentation on Enterprise Zones. Also Mr. Hanson will be presenting a Tax Abatement Report to the committee.

Mrs. Fullerton, Chairman of the Law & Justice Committee, announced her committee did not meet in December but the next she shared that Mr. Dave Miller will be returning with addition information regarding Neutral Exchange.

Mrs. DeFauw, Chairman of Health & Human Services Committee, shared that her committee did not meet in January and they would be meeting again February.

Ms. Fauci, Chairman of the Forest Preserve Committee, announced last meeting Mr. Dan Kenney gave a presentation concerning a parcel of wet land and also that Winter Fest will be January 18<sup>th</sup> and lastly that the January Forest Preserve Committee Meeting will be canceled.

Mr. Reid, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced he didn't have anything to share for this month besides bring forward the claims.

Mrs. Turner, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee, shared the committee did not meet.

**It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mrs. Turner, and it was carried unanimously to approve the county board agenda and to forward it to the full county board for approval.**

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Gary Hanson, DeKalb County Administrator, shared the 7 a.m. Rehab & Nursing Center Operating Board Meeting has been cancelled for the following morning. He also mentioned the last sheet in the member's packets contained a report showing County Board appointments that will be expiring in the next 120 days and that all those reports are available on the County's website now as well. He addressed the County closing that occurred Monday due to the weather, the possibility of changing the Executive Committee dates and lately information regarding the Metropolitan Exposition Authority.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman Jeffery L. Metzger

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Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary