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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: July 11, 2023

Case: State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
BEFORE HEARING ADMINISTRATOR JOHN KNIERY

IN RE: :
PUBLIC HEARING AND :
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC :
TESTIMONY AND WRITTEN :
COMMENT. : Project No. E-23-020
:
:

Hearing in accordance with requirements of the
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT
2nd Floor, Training/Community Room
700 W. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Job No. 498499
Reported by: Camille Connell, RPR, CSR

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PRESENT :

HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

REVIEW BOARD :

JOHN KNIERY, ADMINISTRATOR

GEORGE ROATE, HEARING OFFICER

MIKE CONSTANTINO, SENIOR HEARING OFFICER

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 HEARING OFFICER ROATE: My name is George
3 Roate. I'm, um, accompanied by Mr. John Kniery,
4 administrator, and Mr. Mike Constantino, senior
5 reviewer. We are from the Illinois Department of
6 Public Health, and we represent the Illinois
7 Health Facilities and Service Review Board. We
8 are here to conduct a public hearing on the
9 proposed project known as Project 23-020, DeKalb
10 County Nursing & Rehabilitation DeKalb.

11 As per the rules of the Illinois Health
12 Facilities and Services Review Board, I would like
13 to read a legal notice into record.

14 In accordance with the requirements of the
15 Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Act,
16 notice is given of receipt of application for
17 permit for a change of ownership of DeKalb Nursing
18 and Rehab, 2600 North Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb,
19 Illinois. The applicants are DeKalb Healthcare
20 Holdings, LLC; DeKalb Nursing & Rehab, LLC; DeKalb
21 SNF Land Holdings, LLC; and the County of DeKalb.
22 The purchase price is \$8,300,000.

23 A public hearing will take place pursuant
24 20 ILCS 3960. The public hearing is schedule for

Transcript of Public Hearing
Conducted on July 11, 2023

4

1 Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the
2 DeKalb Police Department, 700 W. Lincoln Highway,
3 Second Floor, DeKalb, Illinois. The public
4 hearing is to be held by the Illinois Department
5 of Public Health pursuant to the Illinois Health
6 Facilities Planning Act. The hearing is open to
7 the public and will afford an opportunity for
8 parties with interest to provide written and/or
9 verbal comment relevant to the project. All
10 allegations and assertions should be relevant to
11 the need for the proposed project and be supported
12 with two copies of documentation, or materials
13 that are printed or typed on paper, sized 8.5 by
14 11 inches. Consideration by the State Board has
15 been tentatively scheduled for July 27th, 2023.
16 That will be the date of the Illinois Health
17 Facilities and Services Review Board meeting. If
18 you have not done so, please sign in using the
19 appropriate registration forms.

20 One form is for -- the form will allow you
21 to state your position, whether you want to
22 provide -- as to whether you want to provide
23 testimony in support or opposition to the project.

24 To ensure that the Illinois Health

1 Facilities and Services Review Board's public
2 hearings protect the privacy and maintain the
3 confidentiality of an individual's health
4 information, covered entities, as defined by the
5 Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996, such as
6 facilities, hospital providers, health plans, and
7 healthcare clearinghouses submitting oral or
8 written testimony that discloses protected health
9 information of individuals shall have a valid
10 written authorization from that individual. The
11 authorization shall allow the covered entity to
12 share the individual's protected health
13 information at this hearing. Those of you who
14 came with prepared texts for your presentation may
15 choose to submit that text without giving
16 testimony.

17 As I mentioned when we were handing out
18 the forms, I will call each of your names. If you
19 choose to speak, I will ask that you approach this
20 podium to my left. There is a microphone. We are
21 in the process of getting a handheld mic for some
22 of our other attendees. However, if you are
23 giving oral testimony, please be as brief as
24 possible.

1 Due to the number of individuals who have
2 expressed an interest in providing testimony, I
3 must limit each oral presentation to two minutes.
4 I will monitor the time up here, and I will kindly
5 remind you when you hit the two-minute mark.

6 As per the legal notice, I would
7 appreciate two copies of your testimony. When you
8 make your presentation, please give the court
9 reporter the spelling of your complete name. If
10 there is a chief spokesperson for the applicant,
11 we would like that individual to make the first
12 presentation. The remaining testimony will be
13 taken from the order of the forms. Please hold
14 your questions until all testimony is presented.
15 And does anybody have any questions? Then let's
16 begin.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question.
18 I arrived late -- I'm sorry -- due to
19 (indiscernible) situation. Who are the persons
20 identified here as the providers? Are they here?

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Do we have any
22 representation from the prospective buyers?
23 Mr. Silberman?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you are from?

1 MR. SILBERMAN: I am an attorney here on
2 their behalf.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. And whom do
4 you represent?

5 MR. SILBERMAN: This isn't the right
6 format.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The MA (phonetic),
8 or --

9 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: No. In order to
10 proceed with this public hearing, this is giving
11 the public an opportunity. If you would like to
12 ask that question or research that, you are
13 welcome to ask questions at the end of our
14 presentation.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm just curious if
16 the people that are interested in purchasing have
17 representation here.

18 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: They will have
19 copies of everything that is presented here. We
20 have a court reporter that has all this
21 information, and all of your comments will go to
22 our full Board and the applicant will be made part
23 of the record.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

1 MR. OSTROM: Will that be an open meeting?

2 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Yes.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have another
4 question. Will you be presenting the description
5 of your decision -- what is that criteria for --
6 what is the decision, and what is the criteria?
7 Will you be describing that to me?

8 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: We are simply taking
9 public testimony in support or opposition of the
10 project. You are welcome to pose -- we will have
11 an opportunity to pose questions at the end of the
12 public hearing, and you are welcome to readdress
13 that. Okay?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. OSTROM: Are you here with open mind?

17 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I'm here -- I'm a
18 representative of the Illinois Department of
19 Health Facilities and Services.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand that.
21 But are you a nonbiased opinion holder, because I
22 was already told it was cut and dry.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: We are here taking
24 testimony from not only the applicants, but also

1 the general public. We are no side; we have no
2 position in this.

3 MR. OSTROM: But you have to make the
4 recommendation for this sale to go through to Saba
5 with giving them a license?

6 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I don't, sir. I'm
7 not a board member. We have a nine-person Board
8 that will make this decision based on the
9 testimony that will be presented at the meeting on
10 July 27th.

11 We are non -- once again, we are -- we
12 don't hold a position in this matter at all. We
13 are simply a state regulatory agency that accepts
14 the report or the application, reviews the
15 application, and presents the findings to the
16 Board. The Board will make its call on that day.

17 MR. OSTROM: Is that an open meeting also?

18 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: It is an open
19 meeting.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And this is a
21 colleague of yours, then, from the Illinois
22 Department --

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: This is my Board
24 administrator, Mr. John Kniery.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So, we have
2 no County Board representation here?

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Oh, yeah. We do. We
4 do. For the sake of the time limits, we have
5 almost 40 people registered in attendance. So,
6 what I'd like to do is, if we can get to the
7 testimony, then we can open up at the end after
8 everyone has presented. Once everyone has had a
9 chance to speak, we can open the floor for
10 questions. Is that okay? Okay.

11 To get started, I would like to call Brian
12 Gregory to the podium.

13 MR. GREGORY: Good afternoon, my name is
14 Brian Gregory. Thank you all for being here
15 today. I'm the DeKalb County Administrator, and
16 I'm joined here today by several County Board
17 Members to listen to comments in this matter from
18 the public. The DeKalb County Board and County
19 Administration is absolutely committed to acting
20 in the best public interest of the entire County,
21 and have concluded that this sale is in the best
22 interest of the County.

23 DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center has
24 been a very important County service for many

1 decades, and the County Board administration
2 remains committed to seeing nursing and
3 rehabilitative care be available for the benefit
4 of the current and future County residents for
5 years to come.

6 Toward that end, I want to provide a very
7 brief timeline of the events that leads us to
8 today's certificate of need process. On March 15,
9 2021, the county treasurer, who was appointed in
10 February of '21, informed the County administrator
11 who was appointed March 1st of 2021, that the
12 DCRNC was out of money. If you look back at our
13 audit, it had a net positive position of over
14 \$10 million in 2018. The Board acted very quickly
15 on April 21st, 2021. The County Board voted to
16 approve \$2 million in cash flow assistance to the
17 DCRNC.

18 In October of 2021, in response to the
19 County discussing a planned issue request for
20 proposal for management services, the current
21 management company that had been there for quite
22 some time issued a letter telling us that they
23 were terminating their agreement with the County
24 effective December 31st of that year.

1 November 5th, 2021, receivables were
2 reviewed, and there were approximately
3 \$1.8 million of bad debt to be written off. The
4 majority of the uncollectible receivables are from
5 2018 through 2020, and they were related to
6 Medicaid billing and a failure to file eligibility
7 and claims within prescribed time limits.

8 December 31st, 2021. The DCRNC operating
9 committee is dissolved, and the County Board takes
10 over oversight and governance of DCRNC operations.

11 In April of 2022, the County Board
12 authorizes the sale, transfer, or other
13 disposition of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing
14 Center in accordance with Illinois law.

15 In July of 2022, after a total -- and I'm
16 moving forward briefly in this process, but after
17 a total of 25 public County Board or County Board
18 committee meetings that included agenda items
19 related to financial challenges at the DCRNC, the
20 County at that time had committed \$7.31 million
21 dollars for cash flow purposes. The County Board
22 at that point entered into a letter of intent to
23 sell the DCRNC and accept the offer that was made
24 by Illuminate HC, which was one of two bids

1 submitted.

2 October 19th, 2022. The County Board
3 authorizes the chair, the Board chair, to enter
4 into what's called an asset purchase agreement
5 along with an operational transfer agreement with
6 Illuminate HC, which would operate under LLCs as
7 DeKalb SNF Realty and DeKalb Healthcare Holdings.

8 In April of 2023, the County Board
9 authorized the County administrator to execute
10 this certificate of need application with DeKalb
11 SNF Realty, LLC, and DeKalb Healthcare Holdings,
12 LLC, which is comprised of principals from the
13 Illuminate HC and Saba HC, which is the other
14 company that had submitted a bid. So, principals
15 from both companies came together, and we brought
16 it back to the Board for review and approval.

17 (Alarm going off in crowd.)

18 In July of 2023, on July 1st, the County
19 had put a total of \$8,960,000 into cash flow
20 assistance for the DCRNC. Throughout the entire
21 process, the Board remained committed to making
22 sure that care was provided to residents at
23 whatever the cost was. And so, that's evidenced
24 by the amount of money that's being put into it.

1 And that takes us today to a public
2 hearing, and then the next step in the process, as
3 we understand it, is the August 15th meeting moved
4 to July 27th. That was what was presented to you
5 just a few moments ago.

6 So, today we genuinely express or we thank
7 the public for expressing your views in this
8 matter. We look forward to making a full
9 presentation before the State Board consistent
10 with this certificate of need.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sir, I apologize, for
12 the misstatement. The first presentation gives us
13 the whole background. And I apologize, it did run
14 a little over four minutes.

15 Okay. The next person speaking are Dawn
16 Graves. So, you don't wish to speak?

17 MS. GRAVES: No.

18 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Okay. Thank you.
19 Tom Marsh?

20 MR. MARSH: Pass.

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Pass? Okay. Thank
22 you. Next, Nickie Marsh?

23 MS. MARSH: Yes. I would like to speak.

24 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Ms. Marsh, please

1 approach the podium.

2 MS. MARSH: Can I do my two copies?

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

4 MS. MARSH: I'd like to thank you for this
5 opportunity to speak before everyone. I am
6 speaking here on behalf of my mother, who has been
7 a resident at the DeKalb County nursing home since
8 May of 2021, and other residents of the DeKalb
9 County nursing home. She has received excellent
10 care, and we have been very pleased. For the past
11 several weeks, we have been researching Saba, and
12 what we are finding is appalling to say the least.

13 We are providing a spreadsheet
14 highlighting nine care facilities, most of which
15 are a one star. DeKalb nursing home has a three
16 star rating. Our number one goal should be the
17 safety and wellbeing of our loved ones.

18 DeKalb County nursing home has made this a
19 priority. We cannot say that based on our
20 research of Saba, its facilities, and the County
21 Board's involvement. We have obtained over 200
22 pages from IDPH and Medicare.gov websites. Four
23 of these facilities have abuse and neglect
24 reports. Parc Joliet, as recently as March of

1 2023, had an abuse report. This facility also
2 noted there were only 15 wash cloths available for
3 their 66 residents. The administrator stated that
4 they are not ordering any wipes because they are
5 only limited to \$500 a month for linen supplies.

6 We would like to say that we are not
7 fighting the County Board on the sale of the
8 nursing home, just the company they are selling
9 to, Saba. However, we are not opposed to them
10 looking at other options, such as the tax levy
11 from 1991. That was never implemented. The Board
12 needs to take a step back and look at the overall
13 -- the Board needs to take a step back and look
14 into why it was never implemented, and the overall
15 ratings of this facility and company.

16 How in good conscience could any of the
17 Board members have voted yes to a facility that
18 shows abuse and neglect which resulted in the
19 death of one resident and disregard for their
20 general wellbeing. In our research, we have found
21 nine Saba facilities in Illinois have an average
22 of 1.2 stars.

23 In conclusion, we respectfully ask that
24 you review Saba's records while making your

1 decision. Not reflected by the Board, the
2 citizens of DeKalb County care a lot about our
3 elderly population.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you, ma'am.

5 MS. MARSH: Thank you.

6 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board would
7 like to call Ken Ostrom. Ostrom, I apologize.

8 Next, the Board would like to call
9 Madeleine Nelson. Do you have a form?

10 Thank you, sir.

11 MS. NELSON: I'm a 40-year resident of
12 DeKalb. I have, during my time, heard many
13 positive comments about DeKalb County nursing home
14 and rehab center. Residents express how happy
15 they are to have such a good place to recover from
16 surgery or place their parents. Knowing DeKalb is
17 a caring County. We have a 169-year history of
18 caring for our residents from the original poor
19 farm in the 1850s to the present county nursing
20 home. I'm sure that during that time there were
21 hard times, rough times, health emergencies and
22 economic stress. But during those times, DeKalb
23 recognized the need for a safe place for their ill
24 and elderly. This is not a time to step away from

1 that centuries-old commitment. It is true that
2 the County home has had financial difficulties
3 because of the pandemic. It also appears to be
4 true that there were a number of errors in
5 decisions on the part of the County Board that
6 failed to either redeem, alleviate, or repair the
7 situation. Indeed, County residents -- the ill,
8 the recovering, and elderly, will be the ones to
9 pay a high price both physically and if the home
10 is sold to the profit company for far less than
11 its value. \$27 million to \$8.5 million.

12 If our entire County and its finances
13 cannot support the County home, a nonprofit, then
14 where is the profit coming from, from the for
15 profit company? Will it come from the cutbacks in
16 staffing, quality of care, or food, as I have read
17 in some IDPH reports? Who expected care after a
18 lifetime of paying this County for the privilege
19 of living here, who now in their time of need are
20 being forgotten.

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: The time --

22 MS. MARSH: I just have one paragraph. I
23 call for the IDPH to recommend against the sale,
24 and for the County Board to revisit its commitment

1 to our elderly who deserve to be treated with
2 dignity in their later years in a quality and
3 caring nursing home. Would you want your parents
4 in this situation? If not, please say no to the
5 sale. We have because we have been and are a
6 caring County, and we want our nursing home.

7 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board would
8 like to call Melody Benjamin.

9 MS. BENJAMIN: Pass.

10 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: No show?
11 Mike Ostrom?

12 MR. OSTROM: I'd like to know if any of
13 the board members from the DeKalb County who are
14 here. Why don't you stand up so we know who we
15 are talking about and to. Stand up.

16 To each and every one of you have voted to
17 get rid of a building that has taken care of
18 elderly people, because of financing, money, you
19 can find money for everything else, and you can
20 take money from Colby (phonetic), and you can put
21 it towards bridges and towards the police
22 department, but you took it from an amenity that
23 should have gotten it. That's where the shortfall
24 is -- not where you people are just taking it and

1 putting it where it should be. Why wasn't it
2 taken at the time of 2021 -- why wasn't that
3 management company that was robbing you blind, and
4 you had to put money into that. But no, you just
5 let them rob you blind until it was all gone.
6 Then you decided to change something. It is now
7 running on its own for the last four months,
8 paying for its own wages. You people haven't had
9 to put anything in that. But you are still hell
10 bent on electing to sell this place just to get
11 rid it because you don't want the financial
12 burden.

13 Well, maybe, you know, you might want to
14 go down there, and I'm willing to go to -- any one
15 of these days -- go down to that facility, and you
16 walk into them rooms, and you tell them people, We
17 are selling your home to a shit place so they can
18 come in there and make money, and their care is
19 going to be crap, because your decision has come
20 forward to sell something for \$8.3 million.

21 Get up, people let's go. How many of you
22 want to go down there with me and you can sit
23 there and tell my mother, who has got dementia,
24 and she hasn't known me for two years. And now

1 I've got to tell her she is going to be moved, or
2 she is going to get bad care from a one-star
3 company?

4 Take that back to your attorneys and tell
5 your people. Make your company come forward and
6 start doing their job. Don't sit there and be
7 smug and know you are going to do something else.
8 Get out and make these people do what they are
9 supposed to do. Every one of us has parents.
10 Every one of us may end up in a home; by God, I
11 hope you end up in Saba's home when that happens,
12 and you can be taken care of and get crappy food
13 and in terrible situations.

14 But I don't see any hands coming up that
15 want to go down to that County home and tell them
16 ladies and people, and even the ones that are
17 here, that, you know what, we are selling your
18 company -- getting rid of your business because we
19 can't afford it. DeKalb County can afford it.
20 They just don't want to.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board calls
23 Starr Peterson?

24 MS. PETERSON: Pass.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Okay. Sharon Miller?

2 MS. MILLER: Pass.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Cindy Lofthouse?

4 MS. LOFTHOUSE: No, thank you.

5 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Ferald Bryan?

6 MR. BRYAN: Bryan.

7 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Bryan?

8 MR. BRYAN: No.

9 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sorry, sir. William
10 Lofthouse?

11 MR. LOFTHOUSE: No, thank you.

12 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Charles Simpson?

13 MR. SIMPSON: That's a hard act to follow.

14 There is two Charles Simpsons, by the way.

15 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I have Charles A.
16 Simpson?

17 MR. SIMPSON: That's my dad.

18 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Okay.

19 MR. SIMPSON: Good afternoon, my name is
20 Chuck Simpson. I'm a 30-year employee of DeKalb
21 County Nursing & Rehab Center. I'm here today to
22 ask your Board not to give Saba Healthcare the
23 certificate of need. It's unbelievable that we
24 are here fighting to keep our 160-year-old public

1 nursing home from becoming yet another
2 privately-run health care establishment. MPA, the
3 DeKalb County Operating Board, and the DeKalb
4 County Board should be ashamed that we are in this
5 position and should be held accountable for the
6 financial conditions we are in.

7 It's sad that in today's world, that we
8 put money over human lives. The County has
9 mismanaged and strangled our home financially that
10 we owe such a big debt. Therefore, the best way
11 for the County to correct their mistakes is to put
12 the nursing home up for sale. We understand the
13 place is in a financial hole, but to sell this
14 nursing home to the highest bidder with the worst
15 average star rating is unforgivable.

16 According to IDPH, Saba Healthcare has
17 numerous violations and citations that are very
18 disturbing and jarring. We cannot figure out why
19 the County would do this to our facility. They
20 voted not to sell to Saba Healthcare in the fall
21 of 2022; then this spring, they voted to sell them
22 -- unanimously voted 22 to nothing. It crosses my
23 mind, did the County Board do their due diligence
24 and do any kind of research on this company that

1 currently has eight underperforming
2 establishments?

3 I did my own research on the facilities
4 and became very upset over the care the residents
5 received. Those people deserved better. Our
6 residents certainly deserve better.

7 In my opinion, County homes are becoming
8 extinct here in Illinois -- the plight of the
9 elderly becoming a burden on County budgets. But
10 with the right management and hard-working, caring
11 staff, I believe County homes could prosper.

12 In closing, it seems like Saba is not a
13 good fit for our residents. I hope and pray that
14 if your Board agrees to give them the certificate
15 of need, that they keep our high standards and
16 quality of care. We have a longstanding model
17 here at the County home and a history of caring.
18 We deserve to keep making history with a company
19 that cares. Our residents deserve it.

20 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board calls
21 Carolyn Simpson.

22 MS. SIMPSON: I'll pass.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Diane Tolhurst.

24 MS. TOLHURST: I'll pass.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Mary Lee Cozad.

2 MS. COZAD: Board member.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Board member?

4 MS. COZAD: Yeah. Nope. So, I pass. I'm
5 listening to it here.

6 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Don Gates?

7 MR. GATES: Here, sir.

8 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sir, do you wish to
9 speak?

10 MR. GATES: Yes, sir.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Please approach the
12 podium.

13 MR. GATES: My name is a Don Gates. I
14 reside in Sandwich. I lived in DeKalb County all
15 my life. I had my great grandmother in a nursing
16 home out on 23. I had my mother wind up here as
17 well.

18 First question to this Board, this is a
19 review of permit and everything by the Illinois --
20 correct? It's for purchasing this? How come you
21 don't review this company that's got a one-star
22 rating? Sounds like they don't have enough
23 information to handle any more business if they
24 can't handle what they got. I don't know why the

1 State is not revoking the permit. This I don't
2 understand. I would like an explanation on that.
3 Sent to my email. Just a concerned citizen.

4 Another thing about all this is, the
5 County Board is stupid on their money. What
6 people are saying here, there is nothing in their
7 budgets about a million dollars coming back from
8 the courthouse that they borrowed from County home
9 to finish their construction? I asked the
10 question at Board meetings about the tax in '93.

11 Oh, we didn't think we needed it. The number of
12 people on the Board, the whole County voted on it.
13 We said we are for it. They just got rid of the
14 damn thing. That's the most stupidest thing I
15 ever heard. That was the first meeting I was at.

16 They had a nursing home committee. Now
17 maybe they got told when they went into committee
18 for the private stuff. But there was no record of
19 any budgets or anything about that County nursing
20 home facts until late, and then it disappeared.
21 They just hired somebody to pay them \$10,000 a
22 month or better to run something and never looked
23 to see what they are doing. They were told by a
24 former administrator not to build the addition.

1 From what I understand, that addition cost
2 \$13 million. They are selling it for \$8 million,
3 plus an \$8 million mortgage -- is that correct --
4 for a total of \$16 million? That was bottom on
5 your pages on the application?

6 Is that correct, sir?

7 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: The application
8 says the purchase price is \$8,300,000.

9 MR. GATES: They don't have to assume a
10 mortgage of \$8 million?

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I haven't read that.

12 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Cash is
13 \$750,000, and the mortgage for the balance.

14 MR. GATES: The mortgage is \$8 million?

15 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: No --

16 MR. GATES: Well, no, the company is
17 getting the mortgage? What about the mortgage for
18 the addition? Did the County pay for that?

19 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Not that we are
20 aware of.

21 MR. GATZ: So, we are selling a building
22 for pennies on the dollar. You know, you got a
23 \$25 million thing, and the goddamn place is going
24 for pennies. And the voters should be concerned.

1 The lawyer and the County is footing the damn
2 taxes and everything else. It's nice to see when
3 they dig a shovel in the ground and say, Oh, this
4 is nice. But is everything falling down?

5 I don't understand it. It just makes me
6 furious. Another thing the County Board told me
7 is that the assisted living building out there is
8 built on the county line, which all that was
9 bought by the nursing home from the farmers. The
10 County robbed that money. But they pay a dollar
11 per year for rent. I was told by the last
12 Chairman, John Frieders, that \$3- to \$600,000
13 would would come back into the nursing home from
14 that thing. I can't find it in the budget where
15 any additional income came.

16 All I say, there is more wrong than the
17 State issuing a permit to somebody that can't run
18 a building. And the way our County has managed
19 its building. I'm sorry. There is more.

20 The County home is the only nursing home
21 you can go into, you will not smell urine. That's
22 your first testimony.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the State Board
24 would like to call Tillie Mackey.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Tillie, they want
2 to know if you want to speak.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Tillie, if you would
4 like to speak from where you are sitting, that's
5 fine.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you guys have a
7 microphone you can bring up?

8 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: We haven't gotten
9 cordless mics. I can come back and revisit. We
10 will see if we can get some cordless microphones.
11 Okay?

12 MS. MACKEY: Okay.

13 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sorry about that.
14 Moving on. Charles Simpson?

15 MR. SIMPSON: Well, I'm going to make this
16 short and sweet. Of this home, I am trying the
17 hell out of it, these older people deserve a
18 better deal than what they are getting, and I
19 blame the Board that sits on here and allows this
20 nursing home to go into the hole and not doing a
21 damn thing about it -- sitting there now, they
22 want to bail themselves out by selling it.

23 This ain't fair to the old people out
24 here. I am old myself; I am 80 years old. These

1 people deserve better. This Board is lacking.
2 They shouldn't even be here. They should be
3 fired. They are not for this. They don't want to
4 manage anything.

5 This place has been a nursing home for
6 about a 150 years, and they get a Board in here,
7 and now they want to sell it because they got
8 themselves in a hole and they want to bail
9 themselves out, and this is the only way they can
10 do it. I don't want it. I think the Board
11 ordered it, and the administrators all ought to be
12 fired and get a new bunch in there to straighten
13 this place out. It don't need to be sold.

14 They can just straighten it up if they
15 wanted to, but they don't want to fool with it.
16 They want to sit on their butts and sell it. This
17 ain't fair to the people out there, these old
18 people. You deserve better, and you deserve a
19 beautiful, wonderful place they take care of their
20 people, and they deserve better than what this
21 Board is giving them. That's all I got to say.

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board would
23 like to call Christine Ewald.

24 MS. EWALD: Hello, my name is Christine

1 Ewald. I'm a lifelong resident of DeKalb County.
2 I recently had a mother at DeKalb County's home.
3 She is 91, broke her leg. She's doing great,
4 thanks to the good people at the DeKalb County
5 nursing home. We love them all, and it was a good
6 experience. If they get three stars, I'd like to
7 know what four stars looks like.

8 First of all, just let me say, I don't
9 think the Board did their due diligence in
10 exploring all the options that you could possibly
11 use to keep this going in the County. Have you
12 looked at partnerships? DeKalb County has huge
13 resources of mega companies like 3M, you know, all
14 these new guys -- Facebook. They are all looking
15 to partnership with the County.

16 Why don't we look at using them? Why not,
17 instead of having the County Board members run the
18 place, why don't we elect a board of governors?
19 They are not business people; they are
20 politicians. Let's get the people who are
21 interested in the needs of this building. And I
22 guess that's all I have to say.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. Next, the
24 Board would like to call Gayle Hawkins.

1 MS. HAWKINS: I pass.

2 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Pass? Gary Hawkins?

3 MR. HAWKINS: I pass.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Brother El-Jamal?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we get the mic
6 here?

7 MR. EL-JAMAL: I'm in a wheelchair.

8 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Mr. Jamal, if you
9 don't mind, I'll see if we can find a cordless
10 microphone for both of you.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board would
12 like to call Carol Deemer.

13 MS. DEEMER: My body hasn't figured out
14 I'm upright. So, be patient. I get there
15 eventually.

16 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: That's fine.

17 MS. DEEMER: Can I just say, that's not
18 part of my two minutes, is that I have never said
19 anything in two minutes in my life. So, good
20 luck.

21 My name is a Carol Deemer. I have lived
22 in DeKalb for 56 years. My mother was born and
23 raised here. She was a Lambert on the Lambert
24 homestead on Nelson Road, where my cousin still

1 farms. My grandparents both used the facilities
2 many years ago, from DeKalb County.

3 I'm here as a representative of the
4 community, because I've been part of it for so
5 long. I also am here to follow what I heard was
6 the real reason why we are having the meeting,
7 which is, what are the objections to having Saba
8 as the group to run the nursing home.

9 (Phone alarm going off.)

10 So, that's really the focus that I have.
11 DeKalb County Nursing & Rehab Center is a resource
12 for residents of DeKalb County for rehab and
13 nursing care, both long-term, short-term. People
14 come there, they are well-cared for, and the
15 reputation has always been excellent. I would
16 like to present my objections to the County home
17 sale to Saba.

18 In my experience, past performance is an
19 excellent forecaster for future performance. If
20 there is a new facility owned by Saba, I see no
21 reason why I wouldn't believe that they are going
22 to do the same thing as they have done in their
23 other one-star places.

24 Mr. Blonder and Mr. Singer both have

1 significant ownership in ten -- not eight as it
2 was put on paperwork -- but ten nursing homes in
3 Illinois. I have gone through and read every word
4 of all the surveys done by IDPH for lack of
5 compliance to policies of both Saba nursing homes
6 and the policy of IDPH and the Department of
7 Aging. I analyzed the surveys, and two things
8 became clear. Number one, that there is a pattern
9 that happens over and over in the same facilities,
10 and across Saba facilities, and I thought it was
11 important to see that those kind of things
12 continue to happen. These patterns of behavior
13 indicate similar problems will probably result at
14 DCRNC after the sale to Saba.

15 The other thing I did was identify quite a
16 number of really egregious, egregious findings of
17 things that have happened in Saba nursing homes
18 that are horrible, horrible, and horrifying. They
19 have a real lack of concern for residents who make
20 their home in a Saba facility. People who have
21 disabilities, both mental and physical, who are
22 aged, who are unable to care for themselves, who
23 have no one able to care for them, deserve to live
24 in dignity and receive respect from the facility

1 administrators, from staff, and the owners.

2 These are not throw away people who are
3 cash cows for owners who put profit ahead of
4 responsibility to ensure quality care for those
5 who are in -- who are making their home in the
6 facility.

7 Patterns. Because I only have two or
8 three minutes --

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: You are at three
10 minutes.

11 MS. DEEMER: Thank you. I have a whole
12 page to throw away. I would just like to just
13 say, these are the patterns that I found as I
14 looked across every -- every one of the nursing
15 homes that Saba owns.

16 Okay. The first one is ADL. This is an
17 abbreviation for activities of daily living, and
18 it is what many residents are unable to do for
19 themselves. They are simple things like getting
20 dressed, taking a shower, getting their nails
21 trimmed, help with toileting, help with eating.
22 So, these are things that are often not well
23 handled in many of the Saba nursing homes. So,
24 this is a deficiency that is a pattern across the

1 board.

2 The second one is abuse. There are
3 unfortunately times when there is abuse resident
4 to resident, staff to resident, resident to staff.
5 It is important that every one who is in the
6 nursing home feel safe. If you cannot control the
7 people that are going to be causing these kinds of
8 difficulties, maybe those are not the people you
9 need to be bringing into the home.

10 For instance, one place did not do a
11 background check, hired a convicted sex offender
12 who then performed a sex act on one of the
13 residents. So, that kind of abuse really has to
14 be considered as we are looking forward.

15 (Phone going off.)

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's okay. Let
17 her talk. There is ten people out here. So,
18 she's fine.

19 MS. DEEMER: I read the stuff. So, I'm
20 right there for you. Housekeeping can be a
21 problem in many of these places. One of the most
22 severe is hygiene and handwashing, that people go
23 from one patient to another. They changed a
24 person who is incontinent; they are wearing

1 gloves. If they don't take the gloves off, you
2 know, in kindergarten, we learn how to wash our
3 hands.

4 So, that's part of what -- that was one of
5 them that keeps coming up. Incontinence care can
6 be a real problem. In some of the facilities,
7 maintenance is really a problem. But not in a
8 lot; just in a few.

9 There is a history across the board of
10 medicine errors. This could be not making sure
11 that the person is actually taking the medicine.
12 They have no proof to taking it themselves. But
13 it's just put down on their bedside table. Some
14 of the medications have been expired. Sometimes
15 they run out, and those type of things really need
16 to be looked at in terms of keeping people
17 healthy.

18 And shortage of staff is probably the
19 biggest that I see over and over again, and I
20 think probably makes probably lots of these
21 problems exist, because there are not enough
22 people to take care of everybody. And the last
23 thing they had was wound care, and that's when,
24 um, wounds come -- lots of people have diabetes,

1 there are times when skin shreds, and they really
2 have to watch that.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Your time is --

4 MS. DEEMER: And I will do that. I will
5 leave a whole page out. But I am going to present
6 my letter --

7 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

8 MS. DEEMER: -- with an addendum with the
9 information on here that I found from the survey.
10 Thank you.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. Next, the
12 State Board would like the call Kathy Burrright.

13 MS. BURRIGHT: I pass.

14 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Montez Soliz.

15 MR. SOLIZ: Pass.

16 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Pass? Cheryl LaRosa?

17 MS. LAROSA: I pass, but stand by my
18 well-spoken friends for sure.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Forgive me, I'm
20 looking for a microphone.

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

22 In the meantime, the State would like to
23 call Mark LaRosa.

24 MR. LAROSA: No comment.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: No comment?

2 Kathleen Perilongo?

3 MS. PERILONGO: So, I'm a 40-year
4 employee, retired employee, of the nursing home.
5 Five years a volunteer during COVID. In the early
6 '90s, I headed up quite a few committees to get
7 the nursing home on the ballot to save it.

8 And my only concern is, why did it not go
9 on the ballot to let the taxpayers and the voters
10 of DeKalb County decide what to do with our
11 nursing home?

12 And it was only fair that we decide, not
13 some politicians.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

15 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. Next, the
16 board would like to call Donna deOliveira.

17 MS. DEOLIVEIRA: I will pass.

18 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Pass? Ashley
19 Rockstead.

20 MS. ROCKSTEAD: I'll pass.

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Pass?

22 Amy Larson?

23 MS. LARSON: Pass.

24 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Rhonda Henke?

1 MS. HENKE: I pass.

2 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Scott Campbell?

3 MR. CAMPBELL: I pass.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Nancy Dashner?

5 MS. DASHNER: Can you see me back there?

6 I am Nancy Dashner. I'm a 34-year
7 resident of DeKalb County, and I am here in
8 opposition of sale, period, in that I voiced my
9 concerns on the 10th of January to my County Board
10 member and did not even get the courtesy of a
11 reply. So, I'm very concerned about that. They
12 should be responsive to those of us who are
13 funding them.

14 They also -- I'd like to reiterate what a
15 previous speaker just said, Why are we the ones
16 who are paying for all this, not given the choice
17 of a referendum? Was the Board concerned that we
18 would vote yes, as we did the last time, when they
19 thought it would go down and it did not? Are we
20 concerned that people who would want this facility
21 and they do not? Who is actually funding this --
22 them or us? That is my comment.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Next, the Board would
24 like to call RuKisha Crawford. RuKisha?

1 MS. CRAWFORD: Good evening, everyone. My
2 name is a RuKisha Crawford, and I am here with my
3 community. I am a Board member. I chair the HHS
4 committee, um, and I just would like to say I am
5 in support, and I have also been in support of my
6 residents.

7 When I ran for election, I ran to be your
8 voice, and I'm here today to be your voice in
9 support of you. So, I just want to say thank you
10 for your time, and thank you for this hearing, and
11 thank you for your backing.

12 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. The
13 Board would like to now call Steven Kapitan.

14 MR. KAPITAN: I don't have a relative to
15 the county home, but I have always had confidence
16 in the quality of our County home and proud that
17 it has such a long distinguished legacy.

18 I'm reaching an age where I made need its
19 services someday. I'm concerned about
20 transferring ownership to a substandard company.
21 I believe that the sale should be rejected for
22 this substandard quality. It's my understanding
23 that the County Board rejected one of the bids
24 because of the company's poor quality rating. And

1 the County, in agreeing to the sale -- after
2 agreeing to the sale, the newly-formed LLC from
3 the company -- that's one of the sleight of hands
4 of these companies. They create a separate LLC to
5 avoid responsibility. After that was done, when
6 the papers came to the County Administrator, he
7 found that the Board on this new LLC had changed
8 to include people from the rejected poor quality
9 company. The County Board was advised that they
10 would be in breach of contract if they rejected
11 the sale at that point.

12 This, to me, looks like a bait and switch.
13 And therefore, it pushed the County from that
14 recommendation, a breach of contract, to ratify it
15 with the new LLC.

16 Please reject this company, the sale to
17 this company. But for clarification, I would ask
18 -- I would like the County Board members who are
19 here, who voted for a referendum to occur, to
20 stand. There is only two or three.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible
22 comment.)

23 MS. COZAD: The board changes every couple
24 years. So, that's not one hundred percent fair.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear a
3 word she just said.

4 MS. COZAD: So, the reason that there are
5 not as many people as there might be is that some
6 of those people are no longer on board. The Board
7 turns over every couple of years, at least
8 somewhat.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

10 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thanks. Next, the
11 Board would like to call Lori Ireton.

12 MS. IRETON: Well, I came here, but I
13 didn't anticipate to talk. I'm good. I was born
14 in Sycamore in 1959. So, I challenge any County
15 Board member to know the history of what this
16 building -- this facility has. I started at the
17 old facility in 1989. We went through the
18 referendum. We went through the sale, on which
19 the County Board never gave the county home any of
20 the money that was owned by the county farm.

21 And the county farm, it was -- and it was
22 designated to take care of our people. They took
23 the money; they went and they created a building
24 commission. That building commission, Mr. Bob

1 Hutchinson, who has built this building with
2 ownership to DeKalb County, not the nursing home.
3 The nursing home had to go into an agreement to
4 pay rent. We paid a monthly fee to the County
5 Board every month. We didn't own that building.
6 We never got any money from the sale of our farm.

7 So, as 27 years in social work admissions,
8 I retired on June 30th, 2017. I did admissions, I
9 did social work; I worked seven days a week, as
10 you make that commitment when you go into
11 long-term care.

12 On May 9th, 2017, I hand wrote, hand
13 wrote, a letter because Mike Scavatto always made
14 a comment -- he's the dude from St. Louis -- that
15 if you do email, guess what, there is a paper
16 trail that will always come to haunt you.

17 Well, I wrote to Gary Hanson, who was the
18 County Administrator at that time, and got a
19 letter to him, to his secretary, who happened to
20 be Tasha Sims at the time, with a copy of that
21 letter, addressed to everyone of the County Board
22 members. It addressed all the issues that this
23 company in St. Louis was doing -- had occurred in
24 this building. Not one person responded to me

1 about this letter. A couple of days later, I was
2 summoned by Mike Scavatto's Mr. Gary Hanson -- was
3 that Gary's last name? I don't remember. But we
4 all remember Gary. But pretty much, you know,
5 what, Lori, this was not a good idea.

6 Needless to say, June 30th, 2017, I
7 retired. I should have gave them the benefit of
8 firing me, but I didn't. I did not want my boss,
9 who I worked side by side for 28 years, to have to
10 fire me. We were coworkers who did admissions to
11 the tune of over 380 admissions a year. That
12 facility sits three quarters empty right now.

13 I have my dad there for the fourth time.
14 This time permanently. The only savior that I
15 have is I walk into that building and find so many
16 of my coworkers still there. So many of them
17 still giving the hugs, the love, embracing the
18 families, understanding where families come from.
19 And I know, because I listened to many families.
20 There is nothing perfect. It's not one-on-one
21 care. But man, we can make it a lot better and we
22 can solve problems. The County Board has done a
23 huge disservice to this community. A huge
24 disservice.

1 The only thing I ask, and I know the cycle
2 of the County Board goes round and round --

3 (Phone alert going off.)

4 MS. IRETON: -- and round, but you know,
5 but we were a 4- and 5-star facility. And you
6 need to know that, that there are people out
7 there. There has been people back there that have
8 tried to run things, and we know how to do that
9 job. You just got to get the right people in
10 there to do it.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

12 Next, the Board would like to call
13 Dorianne Burg.

14 MS. BURG: I'm Dori Burg. With any luck,
15 I'll be 75 next year. I'm a grandmother. Thank
16 you.

17 When I first came here 45 years ago, Joan
18 Barry (phonetic) and I would go to the nursing
19 home up on Annie Glidden -- no, up on Sycamore
20 Road, and we would entertain and we would play
21 music. We would sing songs. She would play the
22 accordion, I would play guitar, and we would bring
23 the bells for the residents. I went with my good
24 friends Paula Hobson, Dr. Hobson. She and I were

1 making sure that on the second floor, we were
2 happy to be there so that our children can visit
3 both of us. So, it was quite beautiful back then
4 when I came here in the late '70s, and I'm really
5 hoping that people will do the right thing and
6 make it really beautiful again. Give it to the
7 right people for the right reasons. And thank you
8 so much.

9 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. Mr. Steve
10 Duchrow.

11 MR. DUCHROW: Thank you. My name is Steve
12 Duchrow. I've been a resident of DeKalb for
13 almost 40 years. Honorable service board members,
14 county board members, and honorable citizens,
15 thank you for taking the time to hear me.

16 I come here today to ask you to deny this
17 request. The basis of denial should be that the
18 sale, at least financially, that the sale price is
19 not enough. It does not reflect their value of
20 the assets being sold. This sale is not a fair
21 transaction.

22 Just a few years ago, this very Health
23 Facilities and Services Review Board approved the
24 addition -- the addition to the nursing home at a

1 cost of \$13 million. How can a building addition
2 of \$13 million, plus the existing nursing home
3 constructed less than 25 years ago, plus the land
4 at an attractive intersection in the City of
5 DeKalb now only be worth \$8.3 million?

6 At this point, only this Board -- only
7 this Board can protect the financial interests of
8 DeKalb County taxpayers. You need to deny this
9 request. As a result of denial, it means that the
10 deal will not sell the taxpayers short. It means
11 that not just 24 members of our hardworking County
12 Board will not sell out the taxpayers. It means
13 that a referendum could still be held, and that
14 65,000 voters could make a decision about the
15 sale. The people who own this facility should be
16 able to decide. Letting the citizens have a voice
17 is in your hands. From a human standpoint, what
18 is at stake? Have you never seen deplorable
19 conditions in a nursing home? Can you imagine it?
20 You have read it; you have seen it; we know it
21 exists. And what is at stake? What is at stake?

22 The mentor that took care of us will be
23 assigned to a deplorable place. The teacher that
24 spent additional time with us will go there and

1 not be taken care of. The parent who took care of
2 us when we could not take care of ourselves will
3 be sent there to not be taken care of. We have
4 all been taught as citizens of our country to care
5 for our elders. Here is the pivotal moment, and
6 it's a pivotal moment of good government.

7 There can be good government. It can be
8 hard, but we can do this. The commonwealth that
9 we exist in means the commonwealth means the
10 wealth of all. It means we must care for each
11 other.

12 We have a duty of care here. Please give
13 us another chance. Press pause on this, and give
14 us a chance as all citizens to take care of this
15 matter on our own. Thank you for the time to
16 speak.

17 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I'd like to apologize
18 up front because I don't think we are going to be
19 able to get handheld microphones. However, I
20 would like these individuals to at least have an
21 opportunity to speak. I would like to ask the
22 court reporter if you can hear, or if you are
23 having trouble hearing, please let us know. Okay?

24 Okay. Ms. Roman, are you ready to speak?

1 MS. ROMAN: Yes. I am, sir.

2 I will, on this Tuesday, July 11th, 2023.

3 This is in regards to the DeKalb County nursing
4 home hearing 23-024. Good afternoon to all the
5 people who are here today.

6 Hello. My name is Mary Roman, and I am a
7 resident of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing
8 Center. My daughter and I visited many nursing
9 facilities in Northern Illinois to find a good
10 nursing home for me to live. We finally came upon
11 the DeKalb County home. The County home has been
12 serving the DeKalb County area for close to
13 170 years, with some staff members currently
14 working there for 25- to 40-plus years. We
15 decided it was the best option we had. I do not
16 want to live in a facility where I am
17 uncomfortable and have to live in fear. I have
18 not felt that way living in the DeKalb County home
19 since I have been living here for the past eight
20 years. I really would like to keep it that way.
21 There are no facilities perfect in the area or
22 anywhere.

23 I would say that when my nursing home sees
24 or hears of a complaint or problem, our

1 administrator works quickly to resolve the issues.
2 Please do not give Saba Healthcare our operating
3 license. We do not want to have them take over
4 our facility. Saba has numerous state-documented
5 violations. Many of these violations have
6 resulted in serious taxes and heavy fines.
7 Currently, they have 170 citations -- various
8 unsatisfactory nursing operations. We have been
9 presented and read some of the more disturbing
10 violations, and frankly, it has a lot of residents
11 scared that might happen here.

12 In closing, again, please do not give Saba
13 Health Care our operating license. We love our
14 home just the way it is. We pray that you
15 consider our pleas not to give them our home. By
16 making your final decision, please keep our
17 nursing home family in our prayers.

18 And I added something that I thought of
19 last night. As I couldn't sleep, I started
20 thinking, and I thought, would you ever think of
21 putting your loved one in a home like that? No.
22 No. I wouldn't. Never ever think of putting my
23 loved one in a home like that in their final days
24 of living.

1 Thank you, and I thank you for letting me
2 have this time. Mary Roman, a very concerned
3 resident.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

5 Next, the board would like to call Brother
6 El-Jamal.

7 MR. EL-JAMAL: Yes. Saba has developed a
8 diagram of mismanagement for the nursing homes.
9 Not just one, but several. It seems to have been
10 constructed that way on purpose. Illinois
11 Department of Public Health made recommendations
12 to assist Saba to correct the problems, and those
13 problems are solved, but only temporarily.

14 Clearly, they have continued to manage
15 their properties in the exact same way so they
16 continue to recur. Some of the problems have been
17 addressed in the surveys are likely to appear in
18 the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center if Saba
19 purchases the property. Residents are aware of
20 Saba's reputation for ownership. Many are 1-star
21 facilities. This has created a great deal of
22 anxiety because residents are afraid that the
23 nursing home will become so unlivable that they
24 will suffer under Saba's management. There is no

1 indication that their management style will
2 change.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. Thank
4 you, sir. Next, the Board would like to call
5 Tillie Mackey.

6 MS. MACKEY: As I said, I am Tillie
7 Mackey. I've been a resident of the DeKalb County
8 home for a little over five years. We moved out
9 here in the '80s, and one of my sons had this
10 girlfriend who was planning on being a nurse. She
11 didn't fulfill her promise. But she told me back
12 in the '80s that of all the nursing homes, DeKalb
13 County was number one on the list. Well, never
14 did I ever think I would end up here, but here I
15 am. And we can't go back; what's done is done.
16 But I really feel the Board, if I know or think I
17 know what was said, they were supposed to put
18 something on the ballots to have the people want
19 to pay an extra tax for the money to go to the
20 nursing home. But I guess it never got to get on
21 the ballots, and I really feel hurt. I'm not that
22 knowledgeable about financial things, but I think
23 maybe if the County Board at least gave us a
24 chance. You called us out before we even got up

1 to bat, and I think that's a shame. And I say
2 shame, shame on you. You are not thinking ahead.
3 You are never going to be 40 years old. You are
4 going to end up like me, 92 years old, and here I
5 am still kicking and complaining.

6 (Phone alert going off.)

7 MS. MACKEY: I'm sorry. But if I see
8 something, I say something. I see a lot of things
9 that I shouldn't see, and like I say, you can't
10 change what happened, but we can correct it now.
11 And please keep our own number one on the list.

12 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you, Tillie.
13 Next, the Board would like to call Magdalen Niemi.

14 MS. NIEMI: My name is Magdalen Niemi.
15 I'm a concerned citizen. I've been a nurse for
16 40-some years. I have worked here for over ten
17 years. I worked there in 1988 and '89. I became
18 a nurse at 19. So, I have worked in long-term
19 care for 22 years. As a nurse, I became a nursing
20 instructor after I left DeKalb County, and we
21 teach the nurses the nursing process. There is
22 assessment, data collection, diagnosis,
23 interventions, and evaluations. There is also --
24 nurses take an oath to do no harm.

1 Now, I have spent a lot of time on this
2 issue, because I worked hard when I was in the
3 position as the administrator there. I was there
4 for 11 short months. When I started there in
5 October, the MPA management company was there, and
6 the previous administrator left. But no one told
7 me that they didn't pay pills for four months.
8 Now, the process I understand is those bills are
9 given to the County Board for approval before it's
10 paid out. So, they were well aware of situation.
11 MPA managed the company for 24 years.

12 In January, when Giovanni (phonetic) was
13 hired as a consultant, I did research. He was the
14 number one retail broker for commercial real
15 estate in the country. The number one broker.
16 So, his interest was to sell the nursing home, not
17 to look at the other options. He got \$10,000 to
18 be a consultant. But how could he be a consultant
19 when he was affiliated with a real estate company,
20 a commercial real estate company? And so, he gave
21 options of a management company, a sale, or a
22 leasing. But I feel that that information wasn't
23 accurate. I don't feel the information that the
24 Board got from MPA was accurate.

1 MPA does have a record. They managed the
2 County nursing home in Champaign. Okay. That was
3 sold to a family of the Rothner family. Okay?

4 Flash forward to July of last year, Saba,
5 at our County Board meeting, and Shaw reported him
6 as saying that he did have investments with the
7 Rothner family. Two months ago, the Illinois news
8 in Champaign covered a story about this. The
9 county nursing home was bought by the Rothner
10 family, and they promised the County Board that
11 they would not -- they would keep it a nursing
12 home for at least five years. Two months ago,
13 they are going to be selling the nursing home.

14 And the article -- you can read it -- I
15 did give this information to the Board this
16 morning, the articles that I found in the links.
17 And they have bought a couple other nursing homes
18 in the counties -- in the community around
19 Champaign, and they have also been closing.

20 So, MPA, I think was a predator company
21 looking, because they looked at Rock Island County
22 nursing home. They managed it. Also, at
23 Champaign, it was interesting because when MPA was
24 managing that, they had a big addition built --

1 millions of dollars for the addition that was
2 built. Well, I don't know if the proper bidding
3 was done at the time, but the management company
4 MPA that was hired built the nursing home, Mike
5 Scavatto, they were hired to manage the project.
6 So, I think they got money right off the top, and
7 they built an addition onto the nursing home in
8 Champaign, and at Rock County -- Rock Island. I'm
9 not sure. But there was a pattern of MPA going to
10 county nursing homes and for whatever reason,
11 taking on a huge amount of debt.

12 Now, I think Ms. Willis (phonetic) was
13 recorded on TV recently saying that the debt was
14 from 2021. Well, that was two years ago. So, if
15 the accumulation of debt occurred in 2021 -- and
16 during that time, I feel that there wasn't an
17 accurate budget. So, even with the certificate of
18 need application, I do have a concern, because my
19 understanding, like, as we speak now, the DeKalb
20 County Rehab & Nursing Center does not have a
21 budget.

22 Now, they had a budget in 2022 that in
23 2023 had to be amended to remove the money that
24 they had put into the budget for the sale of the

1 nursing home because it didn't happen. Now, they
2 did have a budget -- because I was following this.
3 I was very interested in this, and I was following
4 this, because in July of 2022, if there was a dire
5 need of financial hardship for the County, and I
6 heard if the nursing home wasn't going to be sold,
7 then the 17 other departments at the county level
8 will be suffering.

9 So, I was expecting big news. And I was
10 following it, and I didn't hear of anything. I
11 didn't hear any reports of the county nursing home
12 needing money, any jeopardy of any other
13 departments losing their buildings (indiscernible)
14 car.

15 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

16 MS. NIEMI: I didn't hear that. So, my
17 concern is, please do not sell it to Saba. And I
18 want to say, finally, in July, Mitch Saba had said
19 to the County Board that he does not believe in
20 the star rating because it doesn't deliver due
21 process. My question is, is he giving the
22 patients at his nursing home due process when he
23 decides not to buy linens? I don't think that's
24 due process.

1 Please do not sell it to Saba. Please
2 evaluate how it can be self-sustaining, and I
3 would like to have a recommendation that is there
4 is a County Board committee developed again for
5 the nursing home, because it is reliable, and in
6 the certificate of need application, it says that
7 if the sale does doesn't go through, then the
8 nursing home will have to be closed. I don't
9 agree with that application statement, because I
10 don't think the nursing home should have to be
11 closed if there is no sale. Thank you.

12 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you. And the
13 Board would like to call Cindy Kozumplik,

14 MS. KOZUMPLIK: Kozumplik.

15 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sorry about that.

16 MS. KOZUMPLIK: Good afternoon. I am not
17 going to talk about past financial information
18 because my parents were not at the facility during
19 all the time of hardship. So, I'm not going to
20 address any of that. What I would like the Board
21 to consider where it's going in the future. The
22 facility is making money over the last couple
23 months, as I have been made aware. I have had
24 both of my parents at the facility. I had one of

1 my parents in another facility before we went to
2 the County home. In that time period, which is
3 about a month, one of my parents fell like four
4 different times at that previous facility. Since
5 that parent has now been at the County home, their
6 care is getting much better. There are people
7 watching them. There are people looking out for
8 them. The staff has cared for both of my parents.
9 There are regular activities going on, and the
10 staff -- the County home even cares about the
11 needs of us as family members. Within the
12 dementia unit, which is where one of my parents is
13 at, we have monthly support meetings to care about
14 the needs of us. We are not the regular
15 caregivers, but we are still caregivers to our
16 family. It would very much hurt me and my family
17 members to have this facility go to somebody else
18 who is not going to care for them the way they do
19 in the dementia unit. I can't speak a hundred
20 percent of the other units, but I've had parents
21 in both sides, and I do see the care that is
22 given. They care, they question, they come up to
23 you and say, Are you doing okay today? And that's
24 just me coming in and out, spending anywhere from

1 20 minutes to 2 hours visiting them. I'm not
2 there 24/7. I don't believe, with everything that
3 I've heard and I've seen of the care at the
4 facility, that Saba is the best choice for DeKalb
5 County. Thank you.

6 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: The Board would like
7 to call Mark Silberman.

8 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Is there anybody else
9 who would like to speak who has not had an
10 opportunity to do so?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, thank you. I
12 would -- I have to turn this on.

13 MR. OSTROM: Is he going to get more than
14 two minutes?

15 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Sir, everyone in
16 here has gotten more than two minutes.

17 MR. OSTROM: Seems like you
18 (indiscernible) extra time.

19 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: And I give you plenty
20 of time. I gave you more than five minutes.

21 MR. OSTROM: I wasn't even hoarse.

22 MR. SILBERMAN: Good afternoon, everyone.
23 My name is Mark Silberman, and I want to start by
24 thanking everyone for coming out and participating

1 today. And I want to include specifically the
2 residents that came out. I want to include the
3 members of the community, and I want to include
4 everybody who both spoke and those who are just
5 here to support and are concerned enough.

6 One thing I just want to acknowledge,
7 generally, with regards to the state of affairs in
8 long-term care in Illinois, one of the significant
9 challenges that county facilities has had has been
10 the apathy of the communities, and that is clearly
11 not the case here. That is clearly not evident,
12 and I think the fact that you have so many people
13 so passionately involved is also going to yield
14 the long-term success of this facility, regardless
15 of what path goes forward. And I want to start by
16 saying that I cannot speak, and it wouldn't be my
17 place to speak, to anything in the past. But we
18 are looking forward to the process ahead and to
19 the future, and to continued access to care is
20 very important and is key to this project.

21 The purchase of this facility, which is
22 DeKalb Healthcare Holdings, are very excited at
23 the prospects of owning and operating this
24 facility, and the purpose of them buying the

1 facility is to continue to operate it so that
2 DeKalb residents continue to have access to a
3 facility. Because while I can't speak to the
4 County and to the County's finances, there is the
5 very real responsibility that absent a transaction
6 like this, the facility could close. And I think
7 the worst thing would be lack of access to a
8 facility.

9 Now, much has been made of the star rating
10 of other facilities, and I am not going to get
11 into the specifics, but I just want to ask members
12 of the public to keep an open mind with the
13 following thing: That issues have been raised
14 with regard to a business that is owning and
15 operating one-star facilities. But it is a
16 business that has made practice of acquiring
17 existing, struggling one-star facilities, and then
18 continuing to stabilize and operate them towards
19 the long-term goal of improvement.

20 And the reason I raise that is, you will
21 not find evidence of buying the high-performing
22 facilities that they have all used the vernacular,
23 run into the ground. And that isn't to make light
24 of any incident. That isn't to make light of any

1 violations, just a touch of credibility. I'm the
2 former Deputy General counsel for the Illinois
3 Department of Public Health. I was in charge of
4 all licensing and enforcement for the State of
5 Illinois. So, I promise you --

6 (Phone alert goes off.)

7 MR. SILBERMAN: -- I have seen anything
8 and everything that violations have to offer. One
9 thing that I also want to point out is this: This
10 is not a struggling facility that is a one-star
11 facility. I want to acknowledge the point that, I
12 believe, Mr. Simpson, I believe -- Chuck, I
13 believe -- there were two Mr. Simpsons raised
14 this. This is a facility that has an existing and
15 dedicated staff, and that is a fundamentally
16 important and significant factor.

17 What I want you to consider when you look
18 at the history of the owners is the following:
19 These owners have demonstrated what it is to work
20 with and learn from existing staff; to invest
21 funds necessary to allow for both the maintenance
22 of but also improvement of the facility. When you
23 look at their facilities, these aren't facilities
24 that get bought and then closed. They continue to

1 own them and continue to operate them, and that
2 their commitment to both the operation of this
3 facility in DeKalb, but also to successfully
4 returning it to the stability and the previous
5 level of success that it previously enjoyed, to
6 ensure that DeKalb County will continue to have
7 access to this necessary care. Again, I --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree.

9 MR. SILBERMAN: You know, you are entitled
10 to your opinions, but --

11 I want to thank everyone for taking the
12 time to come out here. I want to assure you that
13 not only will the Board be taking into
14 consideration the public comments that were made
15 today, but so will we.

16 MR. OSTROM: Do we ask any questions to
17 you?

18 MR. SILBERMAN: That is not this process.
19 So --

20 MR. OSTROM: Of course, you don't want to
21 to be asked questions that you can't answer and
22 aren't going to answer truthfully. Why would you?

23 MR. SILBERMAN: I will only state that as
24 a former general counsel of this Board 20 years

1 ago, I respect their process, and I'm not going to
2 act outside.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do have one
4 question I just wanted to have reiterated to me.

5 You or somebody said that the Board was
6 selling to Saba for \$8.3 million, but only
7 \$700,000 of it had to be cash, and the rest was
8 just taking over their mortgage? Is that correct?
9 Is that how I understood that?

10 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: That was the
11 information that was provided to us.

12 MR. OSTROM: Wouldn't the administrator be
13 able to tell us?

14 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: \$750,000 in cash and
15 a mortgage for the remainder.

16 MR. OSTROM: So, they are only getting
17 \$750,000 for it? They are just taking over the
18 loan.

19 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: The mortgage is
20 to risk with another entity, not with the County.

21 MR. OSTROM: So, the County will get
22 \$8.3 million.

23 MR. OSTROM: So, what is this going to do?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it looks like

1 they have blown everything off.

2 MR. OSTROM: Can you reiterate what other
3 projects you got going on that you want to --

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: For the sake of
5 moving forward with this formal process, is there
6 anyone who wishes to testify who has not had an
7 opportunity?

8 Seeing none, is there anyone who wishes to
9 testify who wishes to provide additional
10 testimony? Sir? Please approach the podium.

11 And if you would, please give the court
12 reporter your name.

13 MR. DUCHROW: I don't have it. I'm sorry.
14 I am Steven Duchrow.

15 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Can you spell
16 that, Steven?

17 MR. DUCHROW: D-u-c-h-r-o-w.

18 I still don't know what I'm going to say.
19 I'm going to, but I am going to try to speak from
20 my heart. If it's been said once, it's been said
21 a million times that people feel government
22 doesn't work. I don't agree with that. I think
23 good government, given a chance, can work, and it
24 does work. We all complain about times that --

1 when it doesn't work, and here is an opportunity
2 where we have a chance to make it work. We all
3 believe in civic participation, that citizens get
4 an opportunity to have a voice. We had 24 people
5 that made a decision, and we have 65,000 that
6 should be allowed that opportunity. There is
7 something sacred here that is at stake. It just
8 isn't a financial transaction. It's the people
9 that we stood at a marriage altar and said, I will
10 care for you. It's parents who take care of us
11 and said, I will care for you. That's a sacred
12 oath. Civic participation is a sacred oath. We
13 should be allowed that opportunity to rectify it
14 if we made a mistake. We should have that
15 opportunity. We can't complain about government
16 that doesn't work, and then we have an opportunity
17 to make it work, to fix it. All of us together.
18 On your sacred honor, give us that opportunity,
19 please. Thank you for your time. Thank you for
20 listening to us.

21 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sir? The gentleman
22 with his hand up.

23 MR. KAPITAN: Yes. My name is a Steven
24 Kapitan.

1 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Spell that.

2 MR. KAPITAN: Steven, S-t-e-v-e-n,
3 K-a-p-i-t-a-n, and I have a couple of questions.
4 One specifically, I am not understanding the
5 \$750,000 and the \$8 million mortgage. Who is
6 going to be paying that mortgage? If the County
7 is getting the cash --

8 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: The new owners.

9 MR. KAPITAN: The new owners? Okay. So,
10 they are paying -- the County gets the
11 \$8.3 million, and the new owners pay them how
12 much?

13 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: They pay them
14 \$8.3 million.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Monthly payments?

16 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I don't know how the
17 payments are set up.

18 MR. KAPITAN: But I thought you said that
19 the cash -- so, they pay them --

20 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: That's how this
21 project is funded, is \$750,000 in cash, and a
22 mortgage for the remainder. The purchase price is
23 \$8.3 million.

24 MR. KAPITAN: Does this county have an

1 outstanding mortgage on this?

2 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: I couldn't tell
3 you. I don't know. All we are looking at is the
4 change of ownership.

5 MR. KAPITAN: The transaction. Okay. I
6 see. So, what is the mortgage? So, they are
7 paying installments for -- basically, they are
8 paying installments for the rest of the
9 \$8.3 million?

10 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: They get financing.
11 It's outlined in the application. The transaction
12 is for the full amount. It has been cited how the
13 applicant, the new owner, is proposing to buy the
14 property. That total amount, though, goes to the
15 County.

16 MR. KAPITAN: Is that the \$8.3 million its
17 present value?

18 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: No. That's the
19 dollar amount of the transaction.

20 MR. KAPITAN: Yeah, but they are not
21 getting it in cash up front. If they are getting
22 it --

23 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: So, that's --

24 MR. GREGORY: Sir, may I just? So, if you

1 were buying a home, you would put X dollars down.
2 That's the \$750,000. The County is selling the
3 home. So, the County would get the full \$8
4 million. They put their money down, and then they
5 will get a mortgage independent of the County that
6 they will have to pay with their private borrower.

7 MR. KAPITAN: Okay. So, the company is
8 borrowing the \$8.3 million?

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Excuse me, sir. So,
10 can you give the court reporter your name?

11 MR. GREGORY: Bryan Gregory.

12 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Thank you.

13 MR. KAPITAN: That clarifies it. Thank
14 you very much.

15 My other question, then, is could you
16 outline the criteria by which this Board makes
17 this decision, summarizing it, and then give us a
18 website direction where we could find more
19 specifically in more detail what that criteria is.

20 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: I could first
21 give you the website address for our Health
22 Facilities and Services Review Board. That is
23 [www.ihfsrb](http://www.ihfsrb.com), India, hotel, foxtrot, sierra, Romeo,
24 bravo, dot -- @Illinois.gov.

1 MR. KAPITAN: Can you give us today a
2 brief summary of what that criteria is?

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: The criteria is set
4 criteria to determine applicant financial
5 liability, to determine the viability of the
6 transaction, and this is the information that gets
7 presented to Board staff in their applications.
8 The Board staff then assembles a report and
9 presents it to Board members, and the Board
10 members will make the decision at the July 27th
11 board meeting.

12 MR. KAPITAN: And where does the testimony
13 here today fit into that.

14 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: The testimony fits
15 into public comment, which is presented to each
16 Board member well before the board meeting.
17 Everything that is said and everything that is
18 documented today will be delivered to the Board
19 members in sufficient time for them -- for each of
20 them to review ahead of this board meeting.

21 MR. KAPITAN: Thank you.

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Thank you.

23 Sir?

24 MR. OSTROM: I'm not done. Mike Ostrom,

1 O-s-t-r-u-m. According to what you just said,
2 it's going to go to each Board member. Can we get
3 the names and way to contact these board members?

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Our website.

5 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: As far as outside
6 communication, we do not have people contact our
7 Board members. This is your avenue you have. You
8 can write letters to the Board; you can come to
9 the public hearing -- or to the hearing itself.

10 When I say that will be limited to two
11 minutes' presentation, comments, that's two
12 minutes, and you will be cut off. This is your
13 avenue. Letters of support or opposition is an
14 avenue. And you can -- it is your right to come
15 to the meeting itself and present comments.

16 MR. OSTROM: But I can't contact anybody
17 on the Board to --

18 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: That would be
19 external communication. The applicant cannot, you
20 cannot. The --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we vote in Board
22 members?

23 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: This is a
24 freestanding board outside of the governor's

1 office.

2 MR. OSTROM: Who appoints you?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do they get
4 their job?

5 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: It's approved by the
6 governor and confirmed by the Senate.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And how do they get
8 their job?

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: It's approved by the
10 governor and confirmed by the Senate.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, if I want to be
12 a board member, I have to go through the governor?

13 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: That's -- as I know
14 it, you can put your name in through the boards
15 and commissions.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

17 MR. OSTROM: Again, I was wanting to know.
18 You are just looking at the financials of Saba.
19 You are not looking at the health care of the
20 people in there. You are not looking at all of
21 the bad reviews of Saba? You are only looking at
22 the financial, that they can pay for this, buy it,
23 and everything else. But you really are not
24 looking at their record or their -- the way they

1 run their business. You are, right now, it's
2 pretty much strictly worried about financials
3 through them.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And getting that
5 money.

6 MR. OSTROM: You are not looking at the
7 health care of anybody according to the Public
8 Health Board. That's what you guys are, right?

9 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: If I may, there is a
10 section of our application, of the application
11 that the applicants file, that does explore the
12 background of the applicant. This does take a
13 look at financial liability. This does take a
14 look at their history. But more importantly, it's
15 this public comment today that goes to these board
16 members that each will have, and each one will
17 receive, and each will review. That will be
18 delivered to them and provide the vision that I
19 think you want to see. I think this has been a
20 good vehicle for you and everybody in this room to
21 voice their position on this, and I can't stress
22 it enough. Everything will go to the board
23 members.

24 MR. OSTROM: Now, I was kind of told

1 yesterday that this is pretty much a cut and dry
2 deal. It has already gone through. This is not
3 really going to do anything as far as not allowing
4 this sale or giving them their license.

5 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: If I may say
6 so, Mike, in my 15 years of working in support of
7 this Board, I say and I stand firmly that this
8 hasn't passed, this isn't cut and dry, this isn't
9 a done deal until the ten board members review all
10 this information, we sit down as a group, the
11 testimony is provided in the formal Robert's Rules
12 of a board setting, and the vote is cast.

13 MR. OSTROM: And this will be done in
14 July?

15 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: This will be
16 done on July 27th, 2023, at the Bolingbrook Golf
17 Course, and I'll read the address out here
18 shortly. Okay?

19 MR. OSTROM: Yeah, because I would like to
20 try to be at that.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the golf course
22 deal. Wonderful.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Sorry?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I do have one

1 other question. When the Board was trying to sell
2 this property, did they get, like, when you buy a
3 house, you have your house assessed. They tell
4 you. I want to sell my house for \$2 million.
5 Well, it's worth \$200,000. So, did we have an
6 assessment to say that the facility is worth \$25
7 million and we are going to let it go for \$8
8 million?

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Ma'am, we could do
10 this all day. Unfortunately, these are questions
11 for your County Board, for the owners of the
12 current property. That's not -- that has nothing
13 to do with the application process.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

15 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Ma'am?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have the Board
17 members ever gone over to the nursing home and --

18 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Which board members?

19 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

20 COURT REPORTER: I can only take one
21 person talking at a time.

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Could you give us
23 your name, please?

24 MS. LAROSA: Sherry LaRosa. I don't know

1 how anything works. Politics are --

2 MS. MARSH: Okay. My name is Nicki Marsh.

3 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Nicki Marsh.

4 Okay. So, the floor is open to the lady
5 in the red shirt. You were finishing up?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just was
7 wondering if the Board have ever gone over to the
8 nursing home and seen --

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Again, that is
10 outside of this application process.

11 MR. OSTROM: So, if we want to ask
12 anything to the Board, the County Board, we can do
13 that after this meeting?

14 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: That's between you
15 and your board.

16 MR. OSTROM: That's good.

17 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Ma'am?

18 MS. DEEMER: Yes. My name is Carol
19 Deemer, and I just want to clarify that, as I
20 understand it, all letters that are sent and
21 arrive by July 26th and the transcription of
22 everything that was said today will be available
23 on your website. Is that correct?

24 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Ma'am, we make

1 everything that's sent in available on our
2 website. However, we need to have all
3 correspondence that gets delivered to our board
4 members delivered to us --

5 MS. DEEMER: Yes.

6 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: -- 20 days before the
7 meeting. Unfortunately, we have already missed
8 that deadline. We have these reports to put
9 together. Everything -- every piece of paper that
10 is generated here today will be assembled and sent
11 in a document to each board member so they will
12 have two weeks' sufficient time to review. We
13 want to make sure our board members get it timely
14 more than anybody.

15 MS. DEEMER: In other words, however, all
16 of this is information that is now in the public
17 sphere. There is now a record of everything that
18 everybody has said, has commented, and that's not
19 going to disappear. That's going to stay. So,
20 later, I mean, whatever the future holds,
21 certainly the commentary that has gone on today
22 and the formal letters that are sent downstate to
23 you folks are going to be part of the public
24 record that will stay, and at least people will

1 know what was said and how people felt.

2 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Yes, ma'am.

3 Mr. Duchrow?

4 MR. DUCHROW: Thank you. I want to take a
5 moment to thank all of you for being here today.
6 Especially to us giving us extra time. Thank you.
7 Thank you for your future consideration.

8 I have one last question. In your
9 experience, if we were to strengthen our cause,
10 it's too late to write letters at this point,
11 correct, because that 20 days has passed? What
12 else would you suggest other than actually being
13 there on the 27th with some type of large group of
14 people and speaking, is there anything you might
15 recommend so we can strengthen our case?

16 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I'm not in a position
17 to make any suggestions at this time. But you
18 have outlined the timeline accurately in saying
19 the next -- in identifying what your next step
20 would be to be involved in this process.

21 MR. DUCHROW: And I appreciate that. One
22 more question.

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Your name, please?

24 MS. KOZEMPLIK: Cindy Kozemplik.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Okay.

2 MS. KOZEMPLIK: We got a letter from our
3 support group that said we need to attend the
4 meeting in person to present your concerns, or you
5 have until July 26th, 2023, to submit a letter to
6 distribute to the senior reviewer.

7 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Yes, ma'am. So,
8 July 26th date was based on the meeting date of
9 August 15th. We've had to, because there has been
10 conflicts -- there were conflicts with the board,
11 with board members being able to make the
12 August 15th meeting date -- we had to reestablish
13 that meeting date as August (sic) 27th. As
14 mentioned earlier, we want our board members to
15 have this information, at minimum, two weeks. So,
16 that puts us -- 27 minus 14, at August 13th. If
17 you would like to write and submit -- if you can
18 get it mailed to us, mail it out today.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Email.

20 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Or email it to us.
21 That would be perfect.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why did you shorten
23 this?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He said --

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Excuse me?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why did you shorten
3 it to the 27th? Why didn't you go further out in
4 August?

5 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: What we had was, we
6 had a scheduling conflict on August 15th.
7 Robert's Rules of Order, we have to have a minimum
8 number of board members at our meetings, and we
9 couldn't have a --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why didn't you make
11 it in September? Why does to be shortened that
12 many weeks?

13 MR. SILBERMAN: Mr. Silberman. I just
14 want to clarify one thing for the record so
15 everyone here is clear. You misspoke. It's not
16 August 27th; it's July 27th.

17 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Okay. It's July
18 27th.

19 MR. SILBERMAN: I didn't want anyone not
20 to appear in July thinking that the meeting was in
21 August. I apologize.

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: July 27th. Thank
23 you, Mr. Silberman.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, sir, I have

1 sent out 80 some letters to the State of Illinois
2 in regardance to our sale, not being sold to Saba,
3 and I have another 30 more to send. Will those be
4 read and looked at before the July 26th date?

5 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: There is 45
6 letters on the board's website right now. I know
7 what we receive today, we will get them --
8 whatever we receive today would be put out there
9 tomorrow. Do you have letters here today you want
10 to give to me, and we will get them on the
11 website?

12 Does anybody have any letters here today
13 that they want to --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have quite a few,
15 but I wanted the names of the people who represent
16 us. I want to put their names and our history so
17 they will be down to your facility before
18 July 26th.

19 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Mary, my email
20 is Mike.Constantino@Illinois.gov. If you can get
21 somebody to scan that information in, I'll get it
22 posted on the website.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was after
24 Constantino?

1 MR. EL-JAMAL: Sir, you have one more.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. I have a
3 quick question.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Your name, please.

5 MS. NELSON: Madeline Nelson, discussing
6 the termination of the sale.

7 I would like to know how many times in,
8 say, the last how many years has IDPH determined
9 that a sale either should not go through or have
10 recommended against it?

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I would have to
12 reflect back upon our vote record. We have voted
13 to approve many projects. We have voted to --
14 when I say we, I mean the Illinois Health
15 Facilities Services Review Board has voted to deny
16 many projects. Each project is reviewed based on
17 its own merit. I cannot lend any -- I cannot
18 speak to any pattern.

19 MS. NELSON: No. I'm just -- what you are
20 saying is, they have never stopped a sale or
21 recommended against a sale?

22 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: This board has voted
23 to deny many projects, and through the denial
24 process, sales have been prevented -- I don't want

1 to say prevented, but they have been prohibited.

2 MS. NELSON: I'm just wondering what our
3 chances are. And it looks as though if we have a
4 need to move forward, we have to move through the
5 County Board.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Because
7 these people out here really don't care about our
8 emotional support. They don't. It's the county
9 board members. And correct me if I'm wrong. I
10 went through many surveys with IHDP (sic), and you
11 know what, they didn't bring in county board
12 members to help us go through that survey process
13 either. But -- so, we all vented to the wrong
14 place.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And there are board
16 members here.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There are. And all
18 four of them that are here already have voted and
19 said they wanted to keep the nursing home, right?

20 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Not all of them.

21 And one last question. Lady with the
22 purple. State your name, please.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's administrator
24 of the --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just have a
2 question. Why can't it be pushed to October,
3 because they (inaudible). I do respect, but it
4 should be pushed back to October. Otherwise, we
5 are short and we've been misled. I've been
6 looking at that site almost daily, and I don't
7 like a change like this. It's eliminating -- we
8 had until the 26th, and how can you have a meeting
9 on the 27th and review everything in less than
10 24 hours? I think it needs to be pushed back to
11 October, and I don't know how we can do that. But
12 I am requesting that it be pushed back to October.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But I am asking why
14 is the meeting going to be all the way in
15 Bolingbrook, an hour and 20 minutes from DeKalb
16 County? It's our county. Why is it all the way
17 in Bolingbrook?

18 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: The predominance of
19 our board members are from the Chicago
20 metropolitan area.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, they can
22 drive --

23 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: -- and we do have
24 members.

1 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And six people have
3 to drive? Give me a break.

4 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I would like to
5 remind everyone that this project is schedule for
6 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities
7 and Services Review Board at its July 26th -- or
8 27th, 2023, meeting. This meeting will be held at
9 the Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive,
10 Bolingbrook, Illinois, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do we get that
12 changed?

13 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Are there --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do we get that
15 venue changed to here?

16 (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need it in
18 DeKalb County.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who decided that it
20 was going to be there?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because the people
22 that vote on it.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because the people
24 that vote don't live out here.

1 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Ma'am, this is
2 outside the purview of the --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sir, I'm tired of
4 outside. I'm really tired of outside.

5 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: Then you need to
6 contact your representative.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then you need to
8 tell me why it's in Bolingbrook.

9 BOARD MEMBER KNIERY: The majority of the
10 meetings are in Bolingbrook. I actually tried to
11 get one outside of Bolingbrook just recently to
12 this area and they had no available members.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do I look that
14 stupid?

15 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: Ladies and gentlemen,
16 once again, I remind you, this project will be
17 heard at the July 27th meeting of the Illinois
18 Health Facilities and Services Review Board. If
19 there are no other further comments or would you
20 like to have one last comment?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. I have a
22 question, please. This is not related to the
23 purview. I understand the emotional thing. I'm
24 there.

1 This is a question. My name is Donna
2 deOliveira, and I can spell my name for you.

3 Lower d-e, capital O-l-i-v-e, just like
4 olive, and put an i-r-a on the end of it.

5 My question is, we have heard a lot, and I
6 understand clearly that this board will be making
7 recommendations based on money -- on financing.

8 My question is, what type of auditing and
9 review of the purchaser's background, all their
10 financing, has been accomplished and how will that
11 be -- play in? We have a new corporation. We
12 have this corporation.

13 So, how are all the factors of audits
14 being done -- independent audits. I don't mean
15 internal audits.

16 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: It's all being done
17 according to the rules that are in place. All of
18 the information will be on the Board's website --
19 all the findings, all of the submittals by both
20 applicants.

21 MS. DEOLIVERIA: My question, again, is
22 will these be independent auditors? Not state
23 auditors, but independent auditors -- an
24 independent certified public accountant auditors.

1 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: That's not part of
2 the process.

3 MS. DEOLIVEIRA: That's what I was afraid
4 of.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do have my
6 information from the IDPH on Illinois.gov, and
7 I've highlighted some of Saba's nursing homes.
8 Would you guys consider taking these?

9 BOARD MEMBER CONSTANTINO: Sure.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

11 BOARD MEMBER ROATE: I encourage you to
12 please send any new correspondence to the Illinois
13 Health Facilities and Services Review Board as
14 soon as possible. We are on a tight deadline, and
15 I apologize for that. However, at this time, I
16 deem this public hearing adjourned. Thank you.

17 (Off the record at 2:56 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Camille S. Connell, the officer before whom the foregoing hearing was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 17th of July, 2023.

Camille Connell

My commission expires:

5/31/2025