

Montgomery County Board

Minutes

For Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 – 8:30 AM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 in the County Board Room, 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Roy Hertel at 8:30 AM.

Roll call was taken - 20 members present, 1 member absent.

Members Present: Mary Bathurst, Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, Nikki Bishop, Bonnie Branum, Ronald Deabenderfer, Joe Gasparich, Chuck Graden, Heather Hampton+Knodle, Roy Hertel, Sharon Kuchar, Jay Martin, Gene Miles, Jim Moore, Mike Plunkett, Earlene Robinson, David Ronen, Glenn Savage, Bob Sneed, Mike Webb.

Member Absent: Richard Wendel

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given and led by Megan Beeler.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Miles, second by Graden to approve the mileage and per diem. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Kuchar, second by Bathurst to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11th, 2014. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Chief Assessment Officer's Report** – Ray Durston was present for questions.
2. **Circuit Clerk's Report** – Holly Lemons was present for questions.
3. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
4. **County Treasurer's Report** – was submitted.
5. **G.I.S. Coordinator's Report** – Mary Purcell was present for questions.
6. **Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
7. **Probation Officer's Report** – was submitted.
8. **Public Defender's Report** – was submitted.
9. **Sheriff's Report** – Undersheriff Rick Robbins was present for questions.
10. **T.B. Department Report** – Sally Adams was present for questions.
11. **V.A.C. Report** – Dave Strowmatt was present for questions.

APPROVAL OF 11 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Ronen, second by Martin to approve the 11 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **911 Board** - Webb reported they have not met.
- **CEFS Board** – Robinson reported she did not go to the last meeting.
- **CIEDA** – Hampton+Knodle reported the group is still pursuing leads on a bonding project.
- **Health Dept.** – Martin had nothing to report.
- **IL Assoc. of Co. Officials** – Plunkett and Kuchar had nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** – Ronen reported that the MCEDC annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Church Street Pub, and stated that the current Weatherization class has six students enrolled to date and enrollment is also open to Macoupin County.
- **MCWC** – Branum reported that the water company is still working on easements for the next phase.

- **Planning Commission** – Beeler reported that the commission met February 20th and discussed the housing portion of the Comprehensive Plan, and requested a County Board liaison be assigned to Housing Authority meetings. Hertel stated that Hampton+Knodle will contact the Housing Authority regarding this appointment. Beeler stated they are also discussing the Structural Improvement Permit process.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Bishop reported the board will meet next Monday.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported that the education seminar has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 26th.
- **U of I** – Graden reported that they will meet Thursday night in Taylorville.
- **VAC** – Sneed reported they did not meet.
- **WCDC** – No report, liaison Richard Wendel was absent.

Chairman Hertel thanked the Montgomery County Farm Bureau for the hosting the breakfast for County Board members and Elected Officials this morning, and recognized Farm Bureau President Jay Niemann, who then had Farm Bureau members in attendance introduce themselves. Niemann also introduced Farm Bureau Manager Bob Lentz and Dupage County, Illinois Senator Tom Cullerton who has been adopted by the local Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau directors are considering a similar adoption program with the County Board. Chairman Hertel stated that the County Board has had a good relationship with the farming community and the Farm Bureau for a long time and the communication between them has been good, and a liaison would be important because we now have only four Board members who are farmers. Chairman Hertel thanked the Farm Bureau for housing the Supervisor of Assessments office during the Historic Courthouse renovations and stated the County Board has invited Farm Bureau members on a coal mine tour after today's meeting. Chairman Hertel also introduced State Representative Wayne Rosenthal and State Senator Andy Manar, who had also attended the breakfast and invited them to address the board. Representative Rosenthal stated that Congressman Rodney Davis also attended the breakfast, and informed members about the status of State funding of schools. Rosenthal also stated he sits on the Appropriation Committee concerning economic development legislation and strives to emphasis bringing jobs back to Illinois. He spoke of the unemployment rate of Montgomery County at 8.7% as compared to the national rate at 6.7% and stated he and Senator Manar work closely together for the people of our district to try to get more people back to work. Senator Andy Manar then spoke to the Board about his prior tenure as Macoupin County Board Chairman and how that Board had to match revenue and expenses after losing a coal mine, which was done with both political parties working together. He has sponsored a bill to restructure the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and require that they have a strategic plan that prioritizes areas of Illinois with high unemployment. Manar stated he is concerned about unemployment downstate and the challenges we face. He reported we are well on the way to fixing school funding in the State as it hasn't been done in the past 17 years since 1997. State Senator Tom Cullerton of the 23rd District spoke to the Board about how he was chosen as an adoptee of Montgomery County Farm Bureau from Illinois Farm Bureau agencies. He also spoke on getting unemployment down and fixing the State budget and stated we have to work together to accomplish this goal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Roy Hertel as follows:

1. **CEFS Central Illinois Public Transit Monthly Progress Report -Update:** Chairman Hertel reported the CIPT Report was included in Board packets. CIPT has not worked out the logistics for the B-line bus route in Litchfield.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Bob Sneed as follows:

Sneed publicly thanked his committee members for their valuable input and good ideas which are saving the County money.

1. **HVAC at Courts Complex -Update:** Sneed reported on the status of the HVAC replacement at the Courts Complex and stated it is halfway done and everything is working okay. The committee has approved payment request #2 and #3. Sneed also reported that we were approved for a \$14,600 energy grant for this project.
2. **Maintenance Issues and Report -Update:** Sneed reported the committee reviewed and approved the quote for replacing the tile in the men's and ladies restrooms on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse.
3. **Elevator Safety Code Upgrade Requirements -Update:** Sneed reported the elevator inspection has been completed at the Courts Complex and the committee reviewed the informational letter from Otis Elevator Company regarding some changes to the safety code for elevators and escalators. We will ask Otis Elevator to verify in writing that we comply with these new codes.
4. **Part Time Employee-Cleaning at Courts Complex -Update:** Sneed reported the new part time custodian was hired and seems to be doing well.
5. **Request for Proposals for Panic & Fire System Testing & Monitoring -Update:** Sneed reported that the committee discussed the need to bid out the testing and monitoring for the fire and sprinkler systems for the county buildings. The EMA committee has assigned the monthly testing of the panic alarm systems to EMA Director Diana Holmes and she will report back to the committee each month.
6. **Bid for Generator at Animal Control -Approval:** Sneed reported that he spoke with the low bidder for this project and that this vendor is not certified to service the generator. Sneed then checked with Hillers Sheet Metal who was the second lowest bidder, and this bidder is certified to work on the generator. Graden asked when the generator will be installed and Sneed replied in about a month. **Motion by Sneed, second by Bishop to approve the bid from Hillers Sheet Metal for the Generator at Animal Control in the amount of \$9,440.43. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Exterior Lighting Proposals -Update:** Sneed reported two proposals were opened for the upgrade and replacement of the exterior lighting with high efficiency LED lighting. He stated the committee will be working on this in the next month.

E.M.A./AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Glenn Savage as follows:

Ambulance Call Reports:

A summary of monthly operations for **February 2014** is as follows:

Total calls: 295 Total amount billed: \$161,211.30 Amount collected: \$106,492.50

AMBULANCE REPORT: Savage reported on a meeting held recently with the City of Litchfield on three suggestions to increase revenue for ambulance services. Hertel reported it was a good meeting.

1. **System for Awards Management -Update:** Savage reported that the IEMA requirement for a (SAM number) has been completed.

EMA:

1. **Panic & Fire Alarm System Testing/Wareham's -Update:** Savage reported the committee approved to recommend to the Building and Grounds Committee that they obtain bids for the testing of the fire alarm and sprinkler systems. The committee also approved to direct Holmes to test the panic systems monthly and report to the EMA committee each month.

2. **Town Hall Meeting Nokomis –Approval of Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network membership:** Savage stated that communities need to be aware of the mutual aid process in order to qualify for grant reimbursement in case of disaster. The committee also approved joining the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network for a \$250.00 annual membership fee. This membership can be rescinded at any time. Assistant State’s Attorney Betsy Wilson recommended making sure insurance is in force at all times. **Motion by Savage, second by Kuchar to Join the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network for a \$250.00 annual membership fee. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Mitigation Planning -Update:** Savage reported that there was a Hazardous Mitigation Planning Meeting at the Health Department on February 18th, 2014.
4. **Infrastructure Class -Update:** Savage reported that an “Earthquake Readiness” seminar is scheduled on April 16th, 2014 at the Hillsboro KC Hall from 8:00 to 5:00 PM for earthquake readiness. This class will get people together to plan in case our county has a possible earthquake in the future.
5. **Site visit National Weather Service -Update:** Savage reported that there was a site visit from the National Weather Service on February 24th, and the county was informed that for events that affect more than 2,000 people the National Weather Service will notify certain officials who have a smart phone of any severe weather. Those needing more information should contact Director Holmes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Joe Gasparich as follows:

1. **GIS Work Group Report -Update:** Gasparich reported the GIS Pictometry contract was signed this morning. Beeler reported the first data push is done, and additional information will be put on the website in the next two weeks.
2. **Monthly Coal Revenue Report and Revenue, Expense & Bank Balance Report -Update:** Gasparich reported that the committee reviewed the monthly coal revenue reports prepared by Treasurer Jenkins. He spoke about last year’s budget hearings and stated that the budget was \$650,000 down from the previous year and hopes we can continue to decrease expenses.
3. **Annual Health Insurance Discussion -Update:** Gasparich reported that the committee discussed the need to schedule a meeting with Travis Schmidt and Jollie Burris of Consociates to discuss the Annual Health Insurance renewal. The Finance Committee will have a joint meeting with the Personnel Committee on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 8:30 AM in the County Board Room. The Personnel Committee will change their monthly meeting from Thursday, March 27th to March 18th so a special meeting will not be necessary.
4. **Annual Circuit Clerk Audit Report -Approval:** Gasparich reported Board members were given the report at February’s meeting. He stated there were very few exceptions in the report and Circuit Clerk Lemons is doing a good job. **Motion by Gasparich, second by Beeler to Approve the Annual Circuit Clerk’s Audit Report. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Intergovernmental Agreement City of Litchfield For Police Radio & Telephone Services - Update:** Gasparich reported that Assistant State’s Attorney Wilson is reviewing the Intergovernmental Agreement at this time, and Chairman Hertel reported that the City of Litchfield is doing a study to possibly reinstate their dispatching services rather than continue with county dispatching. A few years ago, former Litchfield Police Chief B.J. Wilkinson and Sheriff Vazzi had negotiated a deal for the County to dispatch for the City of Litchfield, and as a result the County hired two new dispatchers. The City of Litchfield paid the County \$125,000 per year for these services along with a small annual increase. Gasparich stated that he would like for the Litchfield Police Chief and the 911 Board to meet before a decision is made to change dispatching services back to the City. Chairman Hertel reiterated that Litchfield has no issues with our dispatch services and that the only reason they are considering this is for safety issues, since after the dispatching services were moved to the County, the Litchfield Police station is now locked after hours. Gasparich stated there are ICC rules that have to be adhered to regarding dispatching services. Deabenderfer asked if taking over

Litchfield's dispatching was part of the consolidation of the Sheriff's Department and the 911 Department and Gasparich stated it was not. Plunkett stated that 911 and Sheriff's Dispatchers needed to be cross trained and Chairman Hertel agreed that the consolidation took place so dispatchers from separate departments who were seated so close to each other could cover each other's jobs. Deabenderfer asked if the County would be affected in other ways in addition to losing two dispatchers if Litchfield reinstates their dispatching services. Chairman Hertel stated that the City of Litchfield has about 12,000 calls that are made to 911 and that we will still receive those calls initially. Plunkett stated that our legislators in attendance need to be aware of the county's 911 revenue loss we are incurring due to increased cell phone usage. Chairman Hertel affirmed Plunkett's statement and stated that 911 revenue is down because of less landline phones and we need to add higher fees for 911 services to cell phones. Chairman Hertel explained that the County receives \$.58 cents on each cell phone and \$2 for each landline phone in the County for funding 911 services. If the fee were raised to \$2 for cell phones also, we would have enough money. Senator Andy Manar reported on a Senate bill that is in the second reading that will try and bring parity to this issue as there is a large volume of landline phones being disconnected each year. Gasparich added that there is no tax on voice-over-internet and track phone recharges. He stated it takes \$225,000 to run 911 services and those services won't diminish.

6. **Structural Improvement Notification Permit Process -Update:** Gasparich reported that the Economic Development Committee made a recommendation for the Supervisor of Assessments Office to do some education and marketing to contractors regarding the need for a structural improvement notification permit. Gasparich stated that he asked Supervisor of Assessments Durston to attend the next meeting with some ideas on how we can notify the public about the structural improvement process and forms.
7. **Priorities for Long-Term Improvement Fund -Update:** Gasparich stated that in January the Board voted to put aside 33% of the Coal Revenue into a Long-Term Improvement fund and that the Board needs to define what this money can be used for. Gasparich stated that committees need to have some input and come up with a priority list of projects they think need funded. Gasparich also stated that he would like to wait until after budget hearings in July to come up with the priority list.
8. **ROE Quarterly Report -Approval:** Regional Superintendent of Schools Marchelle Kassebaum was in attendance and thanked Representative Rosenthal and Senator Manar for supporting education. She stated that due to the ROE consolidation, her term ends in July 2015 and Julie Wollerman will be the Regional Superintendent over our county and four others (Bond, Christian, Effingham, Fayette). She reported that the Chairmen of all five counties will meet in a few weeks to discuss the consolidation of services. **Motion by Gasparich, second by Bathurst to Approve the Regional Office of Education Quarterly Report. All in favor, motion carried.**

H.W.E. COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Connie Beck as follows:

1. **Elections -Update:** Committee Chairman Beck reported that voting activity has been slow for the General Primary Election to date. Absentee/Early voting continues through Monday, March 17th at 4:00 p.m. and the courthouse will be open Saturday morning, March 15th from 8 AM to Noon for Early voting as well. Chairman Hertel stated that he is glad the election process was taken out of the County Clerk's main office and put in the basement office as it serves the public better.
2. **Recycling Program and Events -Update:** Beck reported that the winter has been harsh on equipment and that baler issues have been repaired. The next electronics recycling drive is May 1st and 2nd, 2014.
3. **EPA Report -Update:** Beck reported that there were repairs made to the EPA truck to replace a bad fuel pump that froze up due to getting watered down gas. The alternator on the truck then went out and had to be fixed. Beck also reported that the State will fund the EPA grant and that Gonet has applied for the State Fiscal Year 2015 grant.

4. Animal Control Facility and Program:

- Beck reported the Animal Control van was also repaired and is running now.
- Beck reported the new Animal Control truck has been delivered and that committee approved to put a spray-in truck bed liner at a cost of \$595.00 so the cages won't slide. Beeler asked if the spray-in bed liner would come out of the estate funds and Beck replied affirmatively. Deabenderfer asked how we would keep track of estate funds and Chairman Hertel replied it would be placed in a separate account for auditing purposes.
- Friends of Montgomery County Animal Control will be helping with an open house at the Animal Control facility on Saturday April 12th from noon until 2:00 PM.
- Beck read a letter from someone who adopted a dog from Montgomery County Animal Control who highly recommends our clean facility and friendly service.

- 5. Other Business –Approval of Attorney Fees:** Beck reported that there is a \$15,000 fee from Michael Glenn for his work on the Vanek estate. Hampton+Knodle and Moore asked if this fee would be paid from estate funds and Wilson replied affirmatively. Deabenderfer asked how much money the county will receive from the estate and Assistant State's Attorney Wilson said that there is a balance of \$615,154.67. Chairman Hertel stated that the County has already received \$50,000 from the estate funds. **Motion by Beck, second by Graden to pay the fee of \$15,000 to Attorney Michael Glenn for his work on the Vanek estate. All in favor, motion carried.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Mary Bathurst:

- 1. Workplace Wellness Program -Approval:** Bathurst reported that the Employee Workplace Wellness Committee met and drafted parameters of the program to present to the Board members. **(For parameters and supplemental information, see Resolution Book 13, pages 275-282.)** Bathurst stated that discussions have taken place with Fusion Fitness and they are waiving any initial membership fees, and said that she asked the Personnel Committee if the County would subsidize 60% of the annual membership fees to Snap Fitness or Fusion Fitness, leaving the employee to pay the remaining 40% which will be payroll deducted. Bathurst stated that if approved, this program will start on April 1st, 2014 and employees will commit to a yearly membership. She said that employees in the Insurance Plan will be required to have thirty events of participation on a quarterly basis and ten of the events can be away from the fitness facility and there will be a log on the employee intranet to record the ten exercise events on an honor system. If participation isn't reached in one quarter, employees will be allowed one more quarter before the County takes away their subsidy. Employees will also participate in Fusion Health Fair in May which will include basic blood work. Bathurst stated the Wellness Program will also be offered to County Board Members and all regularly scheduled part time employees and that 100% of the membership fee will be payroll deducted. Hampton+Knodle asked if Consociates would monitor the participation and Bathurst replied it is employee driven and that the Employee Wellness Committee will monitor it and also act as an appeal board. Hampton+Knodle asked about the budget range for those 30 people not covered by the County Health Insurance and Bathurst replied if there is 50% participation or 15 people at \$400 each, the County would pay \$6,000 per year and it would come out of our Health Insurance line item. Deabenderfer wants to make sure there is no administrative cost to the County and Bathurst replied one employee on the committee who also does county payroll will do the payroll deductions, and Fusion and Snap

Fitness are doing other administrative work. Kuchar asked if this will increase our insurance rates and Bathurst replied the Wellness program amount is already built in the system, but it is currently underutilized. Kuchar asked if someone has already used the \$1,000 wellness benefit and leaves county employment, will the County still subsidize this benefit and Bathurst replied she would research this matter. Bathurst said that once county employees' \$1,000 wellness benefit is used, the employee is responsible for the cost and that they could participate at 100%. Beeler asked if annual membership dues are paid quarterly, are we bound to pay Fusion if an employee quits early and Bathurst replied no, that we will be billed monthly from Fusion and that they know that an employee might leave the program. Sneed asked if this could save the County money in insurance premiums down the road and Bathurst replied affirmatively. Chairman Hertel stated that Hillsboro Area Hospital said their workman's compensation claims and health care costs have gone down since implementing their wellness program. Plunkett asked if the cost savings at the end of the line is worth the investment and stated that he has objection paying for those employees without County Health Insurance and wonders if their insurance would be willing to pay this cost instead. County Board Administrator Chris Daniels stated that upon checking with the Highway Department's Union, they do not have a wellness benefit in their policy. Moore stated that we don't need to spend money for employees who are not on the County insurance and for Highway Department employees who have health insurance other than through our county provider. Deabenderfer stated implementing this program will be hard to sell to the public as he has heard from concerned taxpayers that they would not want to pay for County employees' fitness memberships through their taxes in addition to paying for their own fitness memberships. Beeler stated she believes that the Obamacare mandate does not allow an option to only offer wellness benefits to employees on the employer's insurance, and that's why some employers are doing away with wellness benefits. Webb asked if the Board can review this program annually and Bathurst replied affirmatively, as approval of the program is a one year commitment and will be monitored constantly. Deabenderfer asked if the Personnel Committee recommends this, and Miles asked if insured employees were interested if they had to pay 100% or are they joining because the County is paying 60% and Bathurst replied employees were surveyed at the beginning and we had fifty employees interested at the time and now the numbers are growing. Gasparich feels this program will help with early diagnosis and stated that through proper health screening we could have some savings on claims. Beeler felt we should have a meeting with Consociates with our concerns and Bathurst replied we have done so and since we are self-insured we ultimately define how the wellness benefit can be used. Beeler asked where the money for this program comes from and Gasparich replied the Treasurer will have to create a line item in the Health insurance category. **Motion by Bathurst, second by Martin to approve the parameters for the 2014 Montgomery County Wellness Program and ask Employees for a 1 year commitment to this program. ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 19, Nays: 1 (Moore), Absent: 1 (Wendel). Motion carried. (For parameters and supplemental information, see Resolution Book 13, pages 275-282.)**

2. **Personnel Manual -Update**: Bathurst reported the committee received a Personnel Manual template to review from our Liability Insurance carrier, and the committee will review sections on a month by month basis and will have some required training for employees and Board members.

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Gene Miles as follows:

1. **Rotary Mower Letting -Approval**: The following three bids were received:
 - a. Sievers 2014 Bush Hog - \$14,310.00, \$28,620.00 for two.
 - b. Sloan Equipment 2014 John Deere - \$16,220.00, \$32,440.00 for two.
 - c. Jansen Farm Equipment 2014 Rhino - \$13,959.00, \$27,918.00 for two.

Motion by Miles, second by Branum to approve the purchase of two mowers from Jansen Farm Equipment in the amount of \$27,918. All in favor, motion carried. Hampton+Knodle asked about the distance for the mechanic to travel for parts, and Miles stated that parts can be purchased in Vandalia, so this bid will be acceptable to the mechanic.

2. **Red Ball Trail -Update:** Engineer Smith contacted Assistant State's Attorney Wilson who has spoken recently with the Surety Bond Company. Miles reported we are still in negotiations in this matter.
3. **Washboard Trail TBP Letting Date -Update:** Miles reported this Bridge is under design and it is now time to replace this bridge in Hillsboro Township. Engineer Smith has scheduled the letting to take place at next regular Road & Bridge meeting in April. The cost to replace will be split by Township, County and the State.
4. **2014 Oil Letting Reminder -Update:** Miles reported the oil letting will be held on March 27th at 9:30 AM at the Highway Department.
5. **Fuel Tank Problem -Update:** Engineer Smith stated that water infiltrated the fuel tank affecting five County vehicles. The problem was fixed by replacing a worn out seal.
6. **Priorities for Long-term Improvement Fund -Update:** Miles reported some priorities for the long-term improvement fund like removing the two underground fuel tanks and installing new above-ground fuel tanks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Heather Hampton+Knodle as follows:

1. **MCEDC -Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated that member Ronen reported current MCEDC progress during the liaison reports and stated that the MCEDC annual meeting will be held on March 13th, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Church Street Pub and over 67 people have reserved for the dinner meeting.
2. **Central Illinois Economic Development Authority -Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated she reported this information during liaison reports. There has been no change or movement on the pending bond issue.
3. **Planning Commission and Vacancy -Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported that the committee is looking for another Planning Commission member due to the recent resignation of Andy Ritchie.
4. **Planning Commission Reappointment of Brian Niemann -Approval at end of meeting.**
5. **Revolving Loan Fund Policy & Procedure Manual Changes -Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported that she has been in communication with Assistant State's Attorney Wilson regarding the Revolving Loan Fund Policy Manual Changes. Wilson is reviewing a few sections to define some policy language and will bring revisions back to the committee and Full Board when her review is complete.
6. **2014 Legislative Priorities and Input -Update:** Hampton+Knodle shared legislation 2014 Priorities at the Federal Level that she has been following. 1.) Redevelop the Diamond Zinc Brownfield Site. 2.) Renew the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. 3.) Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act-support this effort to prevent small communities from being denied federal disaster aid because of their size. Because FEMA places so much emphasis on a disaster's cost "per capita," officials say communities in large states, like Illinois, must incur a relatively higher level of damage than communities in states with smaller populations. Gasparich stated that this needs to be passed nationwide. 4.) Support All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy" – EPA's proposed rules would virtually eliminate coal as a source for energy for new power plants. It is expected similar rules will be imposed (triggered by a legal requirement under the Clean Air Act) on existing power plants to require carbon capture and storage techniques as are being proposed for new plants. She stated that since more than 50-60% of our central Illinois energy is produced by coal-generated sources, this would lead to extreme price increases for businesses, government and residents. 5.) Support the Farm Bill's Proposed Increase in USDA Rural Development Funding. Hampton+Knodle also shared issues on the State level: Excise tax, Possible

Fly ash tax, 911 cell phone rates, the Education Funding Formula and the State passing a tax on County services.

7. **Economic Development Fund/Developing Guidelines for Long-Term Improvement Fund - Update:** Hampton+Knodle passed out a document for board members to review and gave a power point presentation entitled “**Long-Term Improvement Fund.**” (For copy of presentation, see Resolution Book 13, pages 283-315). She stated that at the County Board meeting in January 2014, members approved that 33% of coal revenue would be set aside in a special fund for long-term projects. Discussions took place at the Coordinating and Finance Committees this past week regarding the intention of how the 33% will be used. Hampton+Knodle stated there seems to be confusion on how this money would be used based on what was discussed and passed at the January full board meeting. Her power point presentation showed a pie chart to show how coal royalties are divided up and pointed out possibilities. Hampton+Knodle stated that she based the dollar amounts in her presentation on a \$2 Million projection in coal royalties this year, but actual revenue would be closer to \$5 Million according to last year’s average. Hampton+Knodle then passed out a questionnaire for board members to complete and turn in so that the board can define and prioritize the projects for the Pillars of Development. The questionnaire included asking County Board members how many pennies of each coal royalty dollar should go into four categories: daily operations, capital improvements, reserve, and long-term improvement fund. (For copy of questionnaire, see Resolution Book 13, pages 316-317). Deabenderfer stated that we need to be clear that the Reserve fund is separate from the Long-Term Improvement Fund. Hertel stated we have to hold out funds for the future.
8. **Quarterly Mayors Meeting -Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported the quarterly Mayors meeting has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014 at 5:30 PM in the County Board room.
9. **Memo of Understanding for Grain Belt Transmission -Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported the committee reviewed a memo from Assistant State’s Attorney Wilson with some suggestions for them to consider regarding the Memo of Understanding for the Grain Belt Transmission Lines. Ronen pointed out in the Coal Age magazine that Deer Run Mine had the biggest change in percentage of tonnage this year and reports show mining is up 105% at that facility.

APPROVAL OF 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES: Motion by Gasparich, second by Robinson to approve the 8 Committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Hertel announced the following:

1. The Finance Committee will have a joint meeting with the Personnel Committee on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 8:30 AM in the County Board Room. The Personnel Committee will change their monthly meeting from Thursday, March 27th to March 18th, 2014 so no special meeting will be required for that committee.
2. Farm Bureau members are touring the Coal Mine today. There will also be a tour next month after the Full Board meeting on April 10th, 2014.
3. UCCI County Board Education Seminar is rescheduled for Saturday, April 26th at 8:15 a.m.
4. UCCI Leadership Academy Information was emailed to Board Members. Anyone interested in attending should sign up with Chris Daniels.
5. The Electronics Recycling Drive dates will be May 1 & 2, 2014.
6. Please notice the books sent to Board members, and those books not selected today will be recycled.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: See Announcements.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. **Motion by Ronen, second by Kuchar to Re-appoint Brian Niemann to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending March 2017. All in favor, motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Schroeder read a statement to the Full Board concerning County Board members' absence at the recent public hearing for Deer Run Mine. He stated only member Jim Moore attended, but left early. He stated the Board is interested in how to spend the coal royalty funds, but doesn't seem to be interested in the environmental concerns of the landowners. He stated the idea of selling the coal rights was sold to the public as a reduction of taxes for area residents. He asked the Board to use the coal royalty funds to benefit the most County residents as possible since getting a tax reduction is not possible. Chairman Hertel reported that County Clerk Leitheiser, MCEDC Executive Director Lindsay Wagahoff and County Board Administrator Chris Daniels attended the hearing as representatives of the County. **(For copy of Mr. Schroeder's comments, see Resolution Rook 13, page 318).**

PAY BILLS:

1. **Approval to Pay Any Invoices to Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to A&D Electrical Supply: Motion by Martin, second by Beeler to pay any invoices for Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to A&D Electrical Supply. Voice Vote: In favor – 18, Against – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain -2 (Moore) (Ronen). Motion carried.**
2. **Motion by Webb, second by Bishop to pay all other approved bills. All in favor, motion carried. For itemized listing of bills paid, refer to Accounts Payable Book for FY 2013.**

ADJOURN: **Until the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 8th, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Branum, second by Miles to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted and recorded by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.