

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 – 8:30 AM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 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, Bill Bergen, Nikki Bishop, Ronald Deabenderfer, Chuck Graden, Heather Hampton+Knodle, Roy Hertel, Tim Hopper, Jay Martin, Gene Miles, Jim Moore, Mike Plunkett, Earlene Robinson, Glenn Savage, Bob Sneed, Mike Webb, Richard Wendel, Evan Young

Members Absent: Joe Gasparich

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Bill Bergen

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

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Bishop and second by Hopper to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 10th, 2015. 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** ---- Ron Jenkins was present for questions.
5. **Health Department Report** ---- Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
6. **Probation Office Report** ---- Bane Ulrici – report was submitted.
7. **Public Defender's Report** ---- Erin Mattson – report was submitted.
8. **Sheriff's Report** ---- Rick Robbins was present for questions.
9. **T.B. Department Report** – Becky Durbin was present for questions.
10. **V.A.C. Report** ---- Dave Strowmatt was present for questions.

APPROVAL OF 10 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Graden and second by Sneed to approve the 10 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **911 Board** – Webb stated that there is a meeting scheduled for next week.
- **CEFS Board** - Robinson stated that the CEFS reports are in the packet and called members attention to correspondence from CEFS Director Paul White regarding the RHSP funds that Montgomery County receives for CEFS Housing services as a result of the Rental Housing Surcharge Program's county recording fees.
- **CIEDA** – Hampton+Knodle stated that CIEDA plans to meet next on May 19th.
- **Health Dept.** – Martin stated that there is a meeting scheduled for next week.

- **IL Association of County Officials** –Plunkett and Bergen reported that they cannot attend the IL Governing Conference in Bloomington on Monday, April 20th. Chairman Hertel will see if someone else can attend.
- **MCEDC** – Hopper reported that there is an annual MCEDC meeting at the Hillsboro Moose this Thursday and that an offer was made to an individual for the Executive Director position which will be announced on Thursday.
- **MCWC** – Deabenderfer stated that at their last meeting it was reported that traditional meters are being switched out for electronic meters.
- **Planning Commission** – Beeler stated that the Planning Commission will meet tomorrow at 5:30 pm and storm drainage issues are some of the items on their agenda. She stated that they also need to replace Tobin Ott who has moved to Florida and Kris Reynolds who doesn't want to be re-appointed to a new term since his current term has expired.
- **Senior Citizens Board** –Bishop reported that they will meet next week.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported that he did not attend the meeting last month and there is no meeting this month.
- **U of I** –Evan Young deferred to U of I Extension representative Terri Miller who gave the report. Miller reported that U of I Extension Unit 18 is planning to send out a survey to their members by mail and on-line regarding their services. Miller also stated that Extension Connection magazine will be acknowledging their volunteers and they recently received a grant for kids' activities this summer.
- **VAC** – Sneed stated that there is nothing to report at this time.
- **WCDC** – Wendel reported that they will meet this Thursday.
- **Wellness Committee** – Bathurst reported that March 31st marked the first year of the program and that 51 members are currently signed on with Fusion Fitness and 6 members with Snap Fitness. She stated that county employee Tyson Holshouser was the fitness member of the month and Dan Rogers was in a contest and lost the most weight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Roy Hertel as follows:

1. **Water Line Connection Update:** Chairman Hertel stated that he has scheduled a meeting for the first part of May and invited Congressmen Davis, the Mayors of Hillsboro and Litchfield and a representative from the coal mine. Chairman Hertel also stated that the cities are having difficulty with siltation problems at the lake and he has ideas how to address the problem. Hertel stated that it is estimated that in 40 to 50 years the lakes could be full, and one possible solution would be to run a 16 inch line to connect the cities so if needed we could drain and clean one lake at a time.
2. **Jury Costs – SB 59 Update:** Chairman Hertel reported that he recently sent a letter to legislators to support SB 59 to help pay juror costs for counties with a smaller population. He stated that Circuit Clerk Lemons has provided legislators a survey regarding our need for jury pay and said he hopes they will adjust the juror costs back to the way it was because the county can't absorb \$30,000 in additional costs up from \$3,000 that we currently have budgeted.
3. **State Income Tax – HB 365 Update:** Chairman Hertel stated he has written a letter to the Governor and Legislators to support HB 365 so that local governments can get back to the 10% level for State Income Taxes. He said that the County stands to lose \$350,000 with the proposed cuts to our current revenues from the State.
4. **Indigent Funeral Expenses Update:** Chairman Hertel reported that Coroner Broaddus was present at the last Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss Indigent Funeral Expenses the County will have to pay as a result of state funding cuts. He stated that the Illinois Department of Public Aid has paid up to \$1,650 for those burials and now they will not due to budget cuts. Hertel stated that Coroner Broaddus has agreed to help with locating resources so the County may cut expenses but meet this need. Hertel stated that we have

a place of internment at the Oak Grove Mausoleum in Hillsboro for cremated remains and that some bodies can be donated to science.

5. **Contract with City of Litchfield for Dispatching Services Approval:** Chairman Hertel stated that he appreciates the work of Undersheriff Robbins and the City of Litchfield for working together to get the contract revised between the County and the City of Litchfield for Dispatching Services. Robbins stated that the contract will run from last July 1st through November 30th, 2015 of this year. Hertel stated that the City of Litchfield was thinking about re-establishing their own dispatching service but then decided not to, and that Assistant State's Attorney Wilson has already reviewed and approved the contract. Hampton+Knodle asked about what the County will do after Nov. 30th and Robbins replied that they will start working on the new contract 60 days before the November expiration date and he doesn't think there will be any problems with continuing the agreement. **Motion by Webb and second by Wendel to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement/Contract with the City of Litchfield for Dispatching Services. All in favor, motion carried.** (For copy, see Resolution Book 14, pages 202-203).
6. **Coordinating Committee Time Change Approval:** Chairman Hertel stated that the committee discussed and approved changing the meeting time from 5:30 pm to 8:30 am, but still to be held on the last Tuesday of the month. **Motion by Bathurst and second by Beeler to approve changing the Coordinating Committee time to 8:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Severance Tax on Coal:** Chairman Hertel stated that citizen Bill Schroeder provided Coordinating Committee members with information about a coal severance tax, and said he agrees that a state severance tax should apply to Illinois coal.

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

1. **Maintenance Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported that Johnston Controls will replace a coil on the new HVAC unit in the Courthouse Complex and that compressor #1 is doing OK. He stated that the coil is currently under warranty and the full one year warranty on the new HVAC system will be up this month. Young asked if the labor to install the coil was also covered under the warranty and Sneed replied that he will check on this and that he hopes that it was covered.
2. **Tuck-pointing Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed stated that Phase I of the tuck pointing project on the Historic Courthouse continues and when it is finished the committee plans to seek bids for Phase II of the project.
3. **Communications Tower Update:** Sneed reported that Chairman Hertel is checking to make sure there are no financial liability issues against the Cervi estate before the County purchases the property for the Communications Tower.
4. **Other Business Update:** Sneed thanked Engineer Smith and the Highway Department for their work on the parking lot across from the Courthouse Complex which should alleviate parking problems.

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

1. **Incentives – EZ, Abatements Approval:** Hampton+Knodle stated that there will be an Enterprise Zone Mayors meeting this Wednesday and all EA Mayors are encouraged to attend. She said this will be a key meeting to discuss new territories and the committee needs to decide on the incentives that will be offered in the new application. Hampton+Knodle stated that there is a need for criteria to be established for a General Abatement and the Economic Development Committee discussed and approved a recommendation to the full board. **Motion by Hampton+Knodle and second by Beeler to offer a special Five year tax abatement for a business who makes a \$4 million investment, increases property assessment value and creates 2 full time positions.** Plunkett asked when this will be in effect and Hampton+Knodle responded that it would take effect immediately. **All in favor, motion carried.**

2. **MCEDC Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported that interviews took place for the MCEDC Director position and an announcement will be made this Thursday at their annual dinner regarding this position.
3. **Revolving Loan Fund Report Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated that she has spoken with the banker and payments on the RLF are being made.
4. **Utilities - Dakota Access, Grainbelt, and other Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated that Dakota Access is negotiating some easements on the southwest side of the county and that they changed their map going south of Walshville to avoid coal rights. Hampton+Knodle stated that she hasn't checked for a final route for the Grain Belt project in the past couple of days and she stated that the current route is mainly the Panhandle area.
5. **Business Sites – Eagle Zinc Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated that progress on this project is progressing and that she is optimistic that plans will go forward with Phase II cleanup. She said that Chairman Hertel has sent letters requesting funding for additional clean up.
6. **Planning Commission, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update** – Hampton+Knodle asked if anyone had anything to add to the priority list to provide their ideas to her and that she will also ask for input from other community leaders so everything can be compiled and sent in for the CEDS plan update. She stated that Coffeen has responded back on their priorities and they will be added to the document.
 - **CEO Program:** Hampton+Knodle stated that she is very excited about the progress that the CEO program is making and that they are off to a good start with 18 students were selected from 22 applicants. Hampton+Knodle also stated that Dr. Ryan Follis of Nokomis has been selected as the facilitator for the CEO program.
7. **CIPT – CEFS Update:** Hampton+Knodle stated that CEFS is celebrating their 50th anniversary and she would like to meet with IDOT, County Engineer Kevin Smith and Gene Miles to discuss the criteria for CIPT funding and several other transportation issues.
8. **Committee Meeting Date/Time Change Approval:** Hampton+Knodle reported that the committee discussed and approved moving their meeting to mornings at 8:30 am and they will be also switching days with the Personnel Committee beginning in May, which will place their committee meeting on the last Thursday of the month. **Motion by Hampton+Knodle and second by Young to move the Economic Development Committee meeting date to the last Thursday of the month at 8:30 am starting in May. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Other Business Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported that the committee discussed a request from a local county Liquor License holder to allow for the termination of a bond to sell alcoholic liquor after good compliance is shown and she stated that the State's Attorney's Office is looking into it. Hampton+Knodle also reported that the Highway Department took care of two dead goats on the Farmersville bike trail which is owned by the County. Chairman Hertel also stated that the coal mine has recently installed poles needed for the wind fence to help with the dust issue there.

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

Ambulance Call Reports:

Collections: \$107,910.27 New System \$107,875.27 Old System \$35.00

EMA:

1. **Ambulance Contracts Approval:** Savage reported that all five ambulance contracts that were due January 1st, 2015 have now been submitted with their proof of insurance, and the committee approved sending a letter to them stating that the ambulance contracts are to be signed and returned along with the proof of insurance to the EMA office by January 1st each year. Savage said that in the future, the reimbursements will be paid to the ambulance districts when the contracts and proof of insurance are received by the EMA office. Webb stated that as a board member of the Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance District he doesn't mind this policy but requested that the ambulance districts need the contracts provided to them by the

County EMA office at least in November each year so they can be signed in the following month (December.) **Motion by Savage and second by Graden to approve the five Montgomery County Ambulance District contracts. Webb abstains. Motion carried.** Savage stated that Director Holmes will have the five Montgomery County Ambulance District budgets to the County Board by June 1st, 2015.

2. **County IMT Meeting Update:** Savage reported that the next IMT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at the Health Department at 6:30 pm.
3. **Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting, Grant & Letter of Intent to Townships Update:** Savage reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Health Department and that our goal is to get all the townships and the mayors to participate in the planning meetings. Savage stated that board members are helping to get these people to the meetings, and he thanked members for their assistance. Savage also informed members that he has been out on I-55 counting trucks and their placards for the Commodity Flow study which is a requirement for the Hazard Mitigation update to identify hazard materials being shipped throughout the county, and he invited anyone interested in volunteering to sign up and participate.
4. **LEPC Meeting August 10th at HD Update:** Savage stated that the next Local Emergency Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for August 10th at the Health Department where they will discuss having a train derailment exercise in August.
5. **Deer Run Mine Dam # 2 Emergency Plans Update:** Savage reported that the coal mine is adding a second cell and that the County will be notified when paperwork is complete.
6. **Mutual Aid Agreement Update:** Savage reported that the committee has been discussing and pursuing a mutual aid agreement as required by FEMA so that we can get funding should there be a disaster.
7. **MABAS/ILEAS support Update:** Savage stated that Gasparich has contacted State Representative Avery Bourne asking her to support an Illinois House bill to add \$2 or \$3 to the Illinois license plate fee to pay for funding of maintenance of hazardous material equipment. Savage said that this Haz Mat equipment was provided to the County by grants, but now approximately \$10,000 in funding is needed annually for them to be recalibrated and batteries changed so the Haz Mat team can perform their job when needed.
8. **Panic Button Testing Update:** Savage stated that the panic buttons in County Buildings have been successfully tested and are in good working order.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Megan Beeler as follows:

1. **County FY 2014 Audit Presentation by Patton & Associates Update:** Beeler referred members to the Audit report and thanked Patton and Associates for all their work in completing the Audit. She noted that County employee Health Insurance is about 17% of the General Fund budget and that this issue will be discussed later in the meeting. Beeler also stated that the Sheriff's department is 31% of the budget and that Capital Outlay expenses for last year were up because of the new HVAC system at the Courthouse complex. Beeler added that as facilities are maintained, we will continue to budget capital outlay expenses. Patton then addressed the Board Members regarding the annual audit and stated that the County has received \$14 million in coal money over the last ten years and that there has been an increase in capital outlay expenses as we re-invest into equipment and facilities. Patton also mentioned that the Sheriff's Department budget is 31% of the budget and that he didn't think that the need for public safety is going to go down. Patton stated that he thought the County may receive a couple of million dollars a year for the next 25 years from coal royalties and that is why the County is able to maintain the same level of services with less revenue. Patton stated that there are positives that we forget about and encouraged the County to look at our assets of our two lakes, two good hospitals, good school districts and excellent medical providers. Patton reported that the County has tried to stay under the 5% level each year on the budget which is difficult to do as the state is trying to get in the County's pocket. Patton stated that Health Insurance costs will be a major challenge and that the Property and Casualty Insurance will want us to take a higher deductible. Patton suggested that if there is anyone retiring there may be a way to combine

positions and not hire. Patton stated that he would also like to see an improvement of the Grant tracking system by the County departments. He said that the County Board is charged with being good stewards of the coal money and that it is very important to invest into our infrastructure like county roads and bridges so that they will last another 40 to 50 years. Patton stated that we have an obligation to future generations to put aside some of that money or reinvest it for use when the coal mine is gone. He said that Montgomery County is fortunate to be where we are today and that we have an opportunity to work on things. Patton also stated there is a need to cross train employees. Deabenderfer asked how we are doing on the IMRF fund and Treasurer Jenkins replied that it is status quo from last year and is still underfunded and is tax driven. Jenkins stated that the IMRF system has it allocated and that the underfunded figures are only a reality if all your employees retire at one time. He said if you go along as normal, you will be alright. Chairman Hertel stated that we have narrowed the gap on those funds a bit. Hampton+Knodle stated that we have learned from the past and we worked hard to intentionally to put more in the reserve which now totals \$5.4 million and she asked Patton if he has an opinion about bond financing to do some massive road upgrades. Patton provided no opinion on that subject, but he stated that infrastructure should be one of the top priorities. Chairman Hertel stated that our roads are not capable of 80,000 lb. traffic and he has a plan to fix them but it will be costly and we may or may not need to take a bond depending on how many roads are repaired. **(For copy of Selected Financial Information for Presentation to Montgomery County Board, see Resolution Book 14, pages 204-207).**

2. **Comparisons for a Fully Funded Employee Health Insurance Plan Update:** Beeler reported that this discussion will take place during the Personnel Committee report.
3. **SOA Report Update:** Beeler reported Supervisor of Assessments Durston is working with County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser to purchase a scanner/printer/copier for Large Plats and other maps with the purchase coming from the automation fund. Beeler also reported that Pictometry has completed the flyover and that they will deliver the information within 60 days and additional employee training will be scheduled. Chairman Hertel stated that tax bills could be out in May this year which would mean the first installment would be due in June.
4. **Monthly Coal Revenue Report and Revenue, Expense & Bank Balance Report Update:** Beeler reported that the report is in everyone's packet for review.
5. **FY 2016 Budget Hearing Dates Update:** Beeler reminded everyone that the FY 2016 budget hearings are scheduled for Monday 7-20-15, Tuesday 7-21-15, and Thursday 7-23-15. She stated that the memo with instructions to all office holders should go out in the next few weeks from Treasurer Jenkins' Office.
6. **Zobrio Accounting Software Implementation Update:** Beeler stated that Zobrio has been here for a few days to train employees on the new software and that the Personnel Committee will be looking at the Human Resource component at an upcoming meeting.
7. **Collection of all County Contracts/Agreements Update:** Beeler stated that the County Contracts are still being collected by Coordinator Daniels and are being reviewed by Assistant State's Attorney Betsy Wilson.
8. **Nokomis/Witt Ambulance Levy Increase Proposal Update:** Beeler reported that Nokomis/Witt Ambulance District representative Jolotta Hill came to their Committee meeting and stated that the District has maxed out their levy of .30 and they have had to obtain loans to help keep them operating. Beeler stated that the County Board may be presented with an Ordinance to approve their request to increase their tax levy to .45 at an upcoming meeting.
9. **Other Business Update:** Beeler stated that the Committee will need to meet at 8:00 am next month before the full board meeting to approve electricity bids.

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

1. **Elections Update:** Beck reported that the Consolidated Election went well and thanked Clerk Leitheiser and her staff, the Recycling Center staff, County Maintenance staff, and County I.T. staff and others who helped make the election successful.
2. **EPA Report Update:** Beck reported that the State EPA grant has been approved and the committee reviewed the Litchfield-Hillsboro Landfill capacity report. Deabenderfer asked about the estimated time left for the Landfill and Coordinator Daniels replied that the report shows that there are 16 years left before the landfill would be at capacity and then they would have to apply for another permit and get County Board approve to expand.
3. **Recycling Office Update:** Beck reported that the concrete floor in the Recycling office has been painted.
4. **Electronics Recycling Drive Update:** Beck reminded everyone that the Electronics Drive is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, 2015 and that there will be a \$20 fee collected by the vendor (BLH) for CRT monitors and televisions.
5. **Resolution #03-15 - Proclaiming April 22nd 2015 as Earth Day Approval:** Beck reported that a South Litchfield Township constituent came to the Coordinating Committee meeting to address the problem of trash on the road ways and asked for help. She said that the committee discussed passing a resolution for Earth Day on April 22nd to help raise awareness. **Motion by Young and second by Savage to approve Resolution #03-15 Proclaiming April 22nd, 2015 as Earth Day. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 14, page 208).** Savage stated that he and this concerned constituent from South Litchfield Township attended a Township meeting to discuss this issue and since that time South Litchfield Township has placed a dumpster in an area for public use to avoid this refuse from being placed in ditches and along roadways. Savage also stated that we will be hearing more about this issue in the future.
6. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Beck reported that she had asked Engineer Smith go to the facility to give them a price on expanding the parking lot and adding rock which was depleted after years of snow plowing. Beck reported that after visiting there, Smith informed her that there is no ADA compliant handicap parking spot and calculated the cost to provide one in the price as well. Beck stated that the committee met this morning before the Full Board meeting to approve that the Highway Department install an ADA compliant handicap parking spot and expand the Animal Control parking lot at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. No Full Board approval of this expenditure is needed because the cost threshold does not require it.

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

1. **Above Ground Fuel Tanks Request for Proposals Approval:** Miles reported that Engineer Smith received one bid from M & M Service for two above ground fuel storage tanks in the amount of \$11,699.56 which includes one Wi-Fi kit. **Motion by Miles and second by Young to approve the purchase of the two fuel storage tanks for \$11,699.56 from M & M Service. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Pine Street Rock Letting Approval:** Miles reported that the committee reviewed and approved one bid from Hanson Material Service for the rock that will be used on the Pine Street Project in Irving. **Motion by Miles and second by Hampton+Knodle to approve the purchase of the rock for \$32,625 from Hanson Material Service for the Pine Street Project. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Rovey Acres Subdivision Approval:** Miles reported that Carl Nail presented a subdivision plat which divides land less than 5 acres according to the Subdivision Ordinance and stated that everything is in order. Beeler inquired about the location of the subdivision, and Engineer Smith stated that the land is in Section 30 in Bois D'arc Township. **Motion by Miles and second by Bishop to approve the Rovey Acres Subdivision. All in approval, motion carried.**
4. **Nokomis Quarry Culvert Update:** Miles reported that the Nokomis Quarry contacted the Highway Engineer and inquired about installing a 16 foot diameter culvert pipe under a county road. The pipe

should be installed at least four to five feet deeper than the ditches. More information on this inquiry will follow at future meetings.

5. **Excavator Rental Approval:** Miles reported that the committee discussed and approved the rental of an excavator for one month for the Highway Department to use to help fix approximately four miles on the Black Diamond Trail that has deterioration problems similar to the Niemanville Road. He said that by renting this unit there will be savings in employee time, since a back hoe would be needed for this road project with no excavator available. **Motion by Miles and second by Webb to approve the rental of the excavator for one month in the amount of \$6,200. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **2015 MFT Oil Letting Reminder Update:** Miles reported that there will be a MFT Oil Letting on Wednesday April 29th, 2015 at 9:30 am at the Highway Department.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Mary Bathurst:

1. **Employee Personnel Manual Approval** – Bathurst stated that there is a need to amend Jury Duty guidelines in the Personnel Manual to apply to only full time employees. **Motion by Bathurst and second by Martin to amend the Employee Personnel Manual to change Jury Duty language to state that only full time employees will get jury duty pay. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Local 773 in the Sheriff's Department Update:** Bathurst reported that the Jailers contract is ready for signatures and that we have not heard from business agent Judy Simpson yet regarding the Dispatchers contract.
3. **Meeting date change Approval:** Bathurst reported that the Personnel Committee approved changing their meeting dates per the request of the Economic Development Committee, and the Personnel Committee will now meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am starting in May. **Motion by Bathurst and second by Young to change the meeting dates to the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am starting in May. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Employee Health Insurance Approval:** Bathurst stated that this project started last summer after Scheller Insurance representative Tom Franzen suggested that the County Board take a look at a fully funded Employee Health Insurance plan. She said that the County has participated in a partially self-funded health insurance plan for about 12 years. Bathurst explained that currently, the County pays up to \$70,000 for each covered individual's medical expenses before a reinsurance company takes over and pays for expenses above that amount. She said that this type of plan is managed for the County by a third party administrator, Consociates Care Group from Decatur, IL for an administrative fee. Bathurst explained that the County sent out letters to local companies requesting that qualified insurance agents give comparisons on a fully funded program. She stated that after reviewing the qualifications sent in by several agents/brokers, Scheller Insurance and Tosetti Insurance were selected to present fully-funded comparisons. Scheller Insurance presented a fully funded Blue Cross Blue Shield plan and Tosetti Insurance's affiliate, CIBC of Champaign, Illinois, presented a Health Alliance plan that included an HRA (Health Reimbursement Account). Bathurst explained that an HRA is a type of mini partially self-funded insurance plan as the County would again be responsible for a larger amount of employee medical expenses (\$5000 for an individual) before Health Alliance would begin to cover expenses and this type of plan is used to keep premiums lower. She stated that the employees would be responsible for paying a similar deductible to their current levels and the County would be responsible for paying the remainder of the higher deductible. She said that the committee then asked Scheller Insurance to come back with a HRA plan so they could make comparisons between equal plans from both companies. Bathurst explained that once the committee listened to all proposals, Beeler and Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee were tasked with "crunching the numbers" to produce spreadsheets for County Board members to review. Finance Chairman Beeler then addressed the board and explained how the spreadsheets were created to show comparisons between the current partially self-funded plan proposal for the renewal year, a Blue

Cross Blue Shield HRA plan, the Health Alliance HRA plan and the Blue Cross Blue Shield fully-funded plan. Beeler explained that the current partially self-funded plan managed by Consociates has a risk factor because the County never knows from year to year who many employees will have major medical expenses requiring the County to cover up to \$70,000 per covered individual, so she asked Treasurer Jenkins to provide historical data for the past three years on what was spent by the County. She stated that she found that 93% of what was budgeted for estimation of the County's risk exposure was spent, a figure very close to the maximum risk exposure projection. Beeler further explained that there been good years in the self-funded market but in the past 6 years, the County's costs have escalated. Beeler stated that the committee looked at reducing the risk to the County and the taxpayers so the comparisons on the reports emphasized estimated potential risk for each plan. In the end, only the Blue Cross Blue Shield full-funded plan had a flat rate premium to the County with no risk factor on County expenditures through the plan year. **Motion by Beeler and second by Jim Moore that the County purchase the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) fully funded policy NPP9383C at an annual premium of \$1,090,010.** Savage thanked everyone for all the hard work. Deabenderfer asked if this approval is just for Health Department employees' health insurance or for everyone and if this is something we can do without negotiating with the unions. Beeler replied that this is for all County employees. Bathurst stated in reviewing all the union contracts, there was nothing in any of them to prevent the County from changing companies. Satterlee asked if these plans include Dental and Vision benefits. Bathurst said it did not but those benefits will be reviewed in addition. Plunkett stated that the County requested proposals from two local businesses and we are now comparing Health Alliance and BCBS plans to each other. He said that he will vote against BCBS because that plan will result in the biggest change for employees, that he personally had a poor experience with BCBS which resulted in him reporting them to the Illinois Department of Insurance and he didn't want to put employees in a similar position. Moore stated that he wants to take the risk away from the taxpayers and go with a fully funded program. Chairman Hertel stated that he hates insurance and what has happened to our County with our insurance costs. He added that when he worked for the County, the insurance was terrible but it has gotten better. He stated that if the current insurance provider had done their homework and negotiated better discounts in the County's provider network, the County wouldn't be in the position of shopping for insurance. Hertel stated that this is a big problem and we are running out of time. He explained that we collect \$800,000 a year in property taxes in the General Fund and it all goes to pay health insurance costs, which makes it very difficult to reduce taxes in this County. Beeler stated that the motivation behind her motion to go with the BCBS fully funded policy is strictly numbers based to reduce risk for the taxpayers and that either of the brokers or agents would be great to work with. Sneed stated that he trusts the information and figures that were presented by the Personnel and Finance Committees. Chairman Hertel stated the proposal is a one-year contract now and the County will try to adjust later to have the insurance plan coincide with the County's fiscal year once there is an established health insurance program with claims history. Beeler stated that she wants to focus on the medical insurance right now and that the dental and vision will be another conversation. Hertel stated that dental and vision benefits can still be included by May 31st if the County decides to maintain them. Jack Tosetti of Tosetti Insurance stated that he appreciates what the board members do, that insurance is serious business and the Board needs to look at the whole package and go with the benefit specialists, which CIBC is, and they will be the County's advocate. Hampton+Knodle stated that she did not like the big change for the employees' health insurance benefits and voiced her frustration in general with the Affordable Care Act. She also asked if there was any way that the County could just give blanket raises to employees and get out of the health insurance business. Chairman Hertel replied that was done for the sheriff's deputies years ago and they eventually requested to go back to the County insurance program, agreeing to take a lower raise at the time to re-join the health plan. Bathurst stated that everyone has been sensitive to employee needs but she also represents the taxpayers of this county and for the last 12 years the county taxpayers have assumed the additional risk and expenses in order to keep the employees' costs low. The CIBC representative stated that under law,

the County employs more than 50 employees and we are mandated to provide insurance so that we don't get penalized. Chairman Hertel asked Satterlee how he feels about the health insurance proposals since he has over 40 employees at the Health Department who participate in the program and Satterlee replied that he will be able to budget easier with a fixed figure in a fully-funded insurance program rather than never knowing how much the partially-funded type program will cost and he is very concerned as his revenue sources are diminishing and he would be unable to continue paying the current increasing health insurance costs. **Roll call vote was held. 13 MEMBERS VOTING YES = Chairman Hertel, Moore, Robinson, Savage, Sneed, Webb, Wendel, Young, Bathurst, Beck, Beeler, Bergen and Bishop. 7 MEMBERS VOTING NO = Graden, Hampton+Knodle, Hopper, Martin, Miles, Plunkett and Deabenderfer. Motion carried.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Hertel provided members with a copy of the response letter he received from new Coal Mine owners Murray Energy.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: Chairman Hertel stated that Coordinating Committee time changes to 8:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month beginning with their April meeting. Hertel stated that in May the Personnel Committee changes to the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am, and also in May the Economic Development committee changes to the last Thursday of the month at 8:30 am.

APPOINTMENTS: Louis Stauder as Trustee to the Nokomis Area Fire Protection District
Motion by Miles and second by Graden to appoint Louis Stauder as a Trustee to the Nokomis Area Fire Protection District for a three year term that will begin May 1st, 2015 and end on April 30, 2018. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen Bill Schroeder stated that he would like Board Members to contact their legislators about the Coal Severance Tax and said we are missing an opportunity to get some money in the state. Chairman Hertel stated he agrees with Mr. Schroeder about needing the Coal Severance Tax. Schroeder stated that he has heard that the Grain Belt Express has recently filed for utility status with the ICC. He also said that he attended the Coordinating Committee meeting to hear the concerns about trash from the South Litchfield Township constituent, and he asked if county beautification can be considered infrastructure, so funds can be set aside for road cleanup expenses. Schroeder also asked for Members to look into services from the County Highway Department to be provided to needy citizens during snowy conditions to assist them with gaining access to their homes in case of emergency.

PAY BILLS:

- 1. Approval to Pay Any Invoices to Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to Point of Light Awards: Motion by Martin and second by Bathurst to pay any invoices for Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to Point of Light Awards. Voice Vote: In favor – 18, Against – 0, Absent – 1, Abstain -2 (Moore, Beck). Motion carried.**
- 2. Motion by Miles and second by Graden to pay all other approved bills. All in favor, motion carried. For itemized listing of bills paid, refer to Accounts Payable Book for FY 2015.**

ADJOURN: Until the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 12th, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Robinson and second by Miles to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted and recorded by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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