

Montgomery County Board

Minutes

For Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 via teleconference, with some members attending in person. The meeting was called to order by County Board Vice Chairperson Megan Beeler at 5:33 PM.

Roll call was taken - 21members present, 0 members absent.

Members Present: Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, Bill Bergen, Glenn Bishop, Ronald Deabenderfer, Tim Fogle, Kirby Furness, Chuck Graden, Mark Hughes, Sandra Johnson, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Dennis McCammack, Gene Miles, Jim Moore, Earlene Robinson, Glenn Savage, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Donna Yeske, and Evan Young. **Members Absent:** None.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by member Donna Yeske.

Vice Chairperson Beeler led members in a moment of silence for former County Board member Dennis Jagodzinski who recently passed away.

Vice Chairperson Beeler recognized member Yeske, who stated Imagine Hillsboro contacted her seeking to have the Historic Courthouse lit in purple and gold during the evening of Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of American Women's Right to Vote. She said all costs related to this event will be the responsibility of Imagine Hillsboro, and gave her endorsement of this event. Yeske reviewed a brief history on the 19th Amendment, and then deferred to County Clerk Leitheiser, who stated of Montgomery County's 16,579 current voters, there are 8,618 females and 7,961 males. Leitheiser also expressed gratitude to those who helped women attain the right to vote through the 19th Amendment and said she will be conducting voter registration at Lincoln Plaza the night of the event.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Moore and second by Hughes to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting: Motion by Sneed and second by Yeske to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, July 21st, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Ambulance Billing Report** -- Sherry Greenwood – report was submitted.
2. **Animal Control Report** ---- Amanda Daniels – report was submitted.
3. **Circuit Clerk's Report** ---- Holly Lemons – report was submitted.
4. **Coroner's Report** ---- Randy Leetham – report was submitted.
5. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** ---- Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
6. **Health & TB Department Report** ---- Hugh Satterlee – report was submitted
7. **Highway Department Report** --- Cody Greenwood was present for questions.
8. **Probation Office Report** ---- Bance Ulrici - report was submitted.
9. **Public Defender's Report** ---- Erin Mattson - report was submitted.
10. **ROE - Monthly and Quarterly Reports** – Julie Wollerman – report was submitted.
11. **Sheriff's Report** ---- Rick Robbins – was present for questions.

12. **SOA Report** ---- Ray Durston – report was submitted.
13. **State's Attorney Report** -- Bryant Hitchings was present for questions.
14. **Treasurer's Report** ---- Nikki Lohman – was present for questions and stated 68% of the real estate taxes have been paid to date, with much on-line payment usage.
15. **V.A.C. Report** ---- Dave Strowmatt – report was submitted.

APPROVAL OF 15 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Robinson and second by Yeske to approve the 15 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson stated their meeting was postponed until August 24th, 2020.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle stated an email with CIPT information and statistics had been provided to board members. CEFS recently reported a record amount of Meals on Wheels deliveries due to COVID-19, and there are job openings within the CEFS agency.
- **911 Board** – Bill Bergen stated he will give his report during EMA report.
- **Health Department** – Sandra Johnson stated there was nothing to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** –Bergen stated there was nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** – Yeske stated she will give the report during Economic Development Committee report.
- **Planning Commission** – Deabenderfer stated they met on July 22nd, and he is pleased with the progress being made on revisions to the Wind Farm Siting Ordinance. He reported their next meeting will be held on August 19th, 2020 at the Farm Bureau, and they are scheduled to meet again on August 31st, 2020 if the meeting is needed. If progress on the Wind Farm Siting Ordinance can continue, they are planning to present the final draft at the September 8th, 2020 County Board meeting.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Deabenderfer stated they met on July 24th, and they are working on the budget. He said there is no meeting scheduled for a couple of months.
- **UCCI** – Miles stated they did not meet.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they haven't held a meeting recently.
- **WCDC** – Wendel stated they have a meeting on August 20th, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Vice Chairwoman Megan Beeler:

1. **Information Services Report Update:** Beeler reported the Information Services Office has been spending a lot of time on the 911/Sheriff updates. She said two new 911 consoles have been installed and the remaining two will be done next month.
2. **Census Count Committee Update:** County Clerk Leitheiser gave members an update about 2020 Census activity, including an overview of door-to-door census taker activity coming to the county soon.
3. **COVID-19 Pandemic Approval:** Chris-Mont EMA Director Nimmo reported there were 78 additional positives and 5 deaths since the last County Board meeting, and over 5,000 people have been tested. He stated there is an on-going need to wear masks. He gave an overview of COVID grants from IEMA and DCEO, and he recommends utilizing the consulting and administration services from Bellwether, Inc. to make sure the county receives our maximum amount of grant funds. Nimmo reported he is working on a 30

day supply of PPE supplies to have on hand and stated they have already handed out about \$350,000 in PPE the county did not have to provide. Beeler stated they received a quote to purchase 21 Chromebooks and 21 g-mail address accounts for county board members, and this will be a billable COVID-19 expense for grant reimbursement. Beeler added having Chromebooks will make it easier for meeting preparation and when the IT Department has to respond to FOIA requests including board members' emails. **Motion by Fogle and second by Yeske to approve the purchase of Chrome Books and g-mail addresses for the County Board in an amount not exceed \$7,500.** Beeler stated the Chrome book is like a laptop and has access to internet. She also said the cost of g-mail addresses will be an annual expense of about \$1,500 for the 21 board members. **Sneed and Deabenderfer vote no. All others vote yes. Motion carried.**

4. **Extension of the Proclamation of a Disaster in Montgomery County Approval:** Motion by Miles and second by Hughes to approve the extension of the Proclamation of a Disaster in Montgomery County due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) until the September 8th full Board Meeting at 5:30 pm or until the Governor lifts the Order earlier. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 18, page 84).

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported we will be doing some brick repair work on the bottom half exterior of the Historic Courthouse. He said a local business will be doing the work because they have the material matching the brick on the Historic Courthouse left over from a previous job, which will be more cost-effective.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given By Committee Chairwoman Donna Yeske:

1. **COVID-19 Business Relief Grant Update:** Yeske reported there have been a few calls and emails regarding business owners who missed applying for the COVID 19 Business Relief Grant.
2. **MCEDC Approval:**
 - **Revolving Loan Fund Approval:** Yeske reported the county needs to move funds from the Revolving Loan Fund to the Coal Fund to pay recipients of the COVID-19 Business Relief Grant. **Motion by Furness and second by Moore to move \$100,000 from the RLF to the Coal fund to pay the COVID-19 Business Relief Grant recipients. All in favor, motion carried.**
 - **RLF review of By Laws Update/Approval:** Yeske reported the RLF board is reviewing their By Laws.
3. **Tourism Update:** Yeske stated there is no update at this time.
4. **CEDS Document Approval:** Yeske reported the final draft of the CEDS document is ready to review and Deabenderfer said he found some grammatical corrections he talked to Valerie Belusko about recently. Members agreed these corrections need to be made before the document is finalized. **Motion by Yeske and second by Young to approve the final draft of the CEDS Document. All in favor, motion carried.**

5. **Planning Commission Update:** Deabenderfer and Young reported they attended the last Planning Commission meeting and work continues on revising the Wind Farm Siting Ordinance.
6. **Bike Trail Update:** Yeske said there is nothing new to report.
7. **Montgomery County Bicentennial Update:** Yeske stated the Bicentennial Committee met last week to discuss events planned to celebrate the County's bicentennial next year, and she invited everyone to attend a meeting tomorrow night at the Bank of Hillsboro. Yeske said a meeting is also scheduled for August 29th, 2020. Yeske said events are planned for February 12th and June 5th, 2021.

E.M.A and AMBULANCE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Bill Bergen:

1. **Ambulance Billing Office Update:** Bergen stated there has been an increase in ambulance billing and the staff is catching up.
2. **ETSB/911 Update:** Bergen reported the 911 upgrades are going well.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Megan Beeler:

1. **Bellwether Proposal Approval:** Beeler reported the committee listened to a proposal by Bellwether, Inc., to help county offices reclaim allowable COVID-19 expenses for the CURE grant offered through DCEO. Beeler stated Bellwether has done work for the county in the past by performing cost studies for various offices. She said Bellwether will be available through December to assist with applying for COVID-19 grants. **Motion by Beeler and second by Beck to approve hiring Bellwether for the amount of \$5,000 to gather information to apply for COVID-19 CURE reimbursement grants. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beeler said the committee reviewed and discussed the Capital Improvement Fund Report and noted the county received \$84,000 in coal royalty payments and will receive another \$74,000 payment this month.
3. **VISTRA Power Plant Legislation Update:** Beeler reported Supervisor of Assessments Ray Durston is scheduling a meeting with the taxing bodies involved with the VISTRA Power Plant assessment in the near future.
4. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beeler stated there is no update at this time.
5. **Vacation Buyback Update:** Beeler stated the committee is now discussing Hazard Pay for employees who worked during the COVID shutdown per Bellwether's recommendation instead of a vacation buyback.
6. **FY 2021 Budget Update:** Beeler announced the budget hearing dates for Tuesday, August 18th, 2020 at 8:00 am and Thursday, August 20th, 2020 at 8:00 am. Beeler invited everyone to attend the budget hearings and thanked Treasurer Lohman for doing a good job with the budget packets.
7. **Policy for Bidding out Professional Services Update:** Beeler reported a letter will be sent to Scheller Insurance advising them we will be going out for bids on the Property Casualty Insurance. She said an RFP will be drafted to request bids for Auditing services.
8. **COVID-19 Business Grants Update:** Beeler reported she has been contacted by several business owners who stated they didn't know about the COVID-19 Business grants and wondered if it was going to be offered again. Beeler said she is keeping a list of those businesses interested; she informed them if there is another grant opportunity,

they will be contacted. She reported the committee discussed keeping this issue on the radar and look at doing the grant again in September and reminded members the first grant was advertised in newspapers and on radio and Facebook.

H.W.E. COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Chuck Graden:

1. **Elections Update:** Leitheiser reported there is a great deal of interest in voting by mail this election due to COVID-19 concerns, so she anticipates many voters will utilize this service. She said she received grants from the State Board of Elections to help offset the extra cost of mailing these postcards as well as other provisions required for Early Voting and at the polling places on Election Day. Leitheiser referred members to recent correspondence recently received from the United States Postmaster General regarding the timeframe within which vote by mail ballots should be mailed to assure they will be received on a timely basis. She said there are concerns about using the current Historic Courthouse Dropbox since it doesn't meet State Board of Elections standards. She informed members that Sept 24th is the first day of early voting.
2. **EPA Report Update:** Coordinator Daniels reported EPA training will resume after the county board meeting.
3. **Recycling Surplus Bids Update:** Graden reported the committee discussed bidding out the F650 White box truck and the tandem trailer with no minimum bid. He said the bids will be due the Friday before the next HWE committee meeting.
4. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Graden reported Animal Control Warden Daniels was called by the Sheriff's Department to respond to the murder case in Witt recently to retrieve two pit bulls and nine puppies. Robinson stated she had a constituent relay concerns with communication between the warden and the City of Hillsboro regarding a call. Graden responded the City of Hillsboro is supposed to respond to this type of call and pledged to check into her concern.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Kirby Furness:

1. **Employee Health Insurance Update:** Furness stated CIBC representatives Amanda Mast and Tony Johnson shared the monthly report showing Health Alliance reporting a loss of \$22,654 so far this year. Furness reported the 2020 Renewal for Health Alliance is 9.9% and Johnson reported they will be seeking rate relief which will include a full market analysis and should be presented at next month's Personnel Committee meeting. Furness also reported the dental insurance is receiving a 7% increase. He said CIBC offered to have the employees complete a satisfaction survey and Treasurer Lohman stated her office will provide this survey to employees to complete as part of payroll services. Furness also reported the HRA is at 11.17% (\$51,218.87 paid of \$572,062 total)
2. **Employee Personnel Manual Update:**
 - **Revised Drug Policy addressing Cannabis:** Furness said the committee reviewed a draft of the changes made to the Revised Drug Policy addressing Cannabis. A 30 day review will be completed so it can be voted on next month.
3. **COVID-19 Employees Leave MEMO – FMLA/FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) Update:** Furness said he plans to participate in a webinar regarding this employee leave during the pandemic for a better clarification of the Federal laws.

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Gene Miles:

1. **Village of Walshville Streets Update:** Miles reported Trustee Gary Applegate from the Village of Walshville attended their meeting regarding the ongoing discussion regarding the county possibly helping them fix the main road through town. Miles said the county will help if we can.
2. **Property Deed Transfer of Former Wright Automotive Property to Highway Department Update:** Miles stated the committee discussed not transferring the deed for the former Wright Automotive property to the Highway Department at this time, but the Highway Department will still continue to make payments per the agreement.
3. **Highway Maintainer Job Opening Update:** Miles said the committee discussed the recommendation of Engineer Greenwood to not hire an additional maintainer at this time as they feel the current five man crew can handle the workload. Greenwood will keep the salary for the additional maintainer in the FY 2021 budget in case that employee is needed because of changing circumstances.

APPROVAL OF 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Sneed and second by Moore to approve the eight committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Beeler stated Budget hearings will be scheduled for all day Tuesday, August 18th, beginning at 8:00 A.M., and on Thursday, August 20th, from 8:00 A.M. until noon.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Glenn Bishop stated since the State's Attorney received a raise at last month's meeting, there is also a need for the other county elected officials to receive salary increases also. He said the statutory deadline was missed for the Coroner and Circuit Clerk to receive raises since it should have been done 180 days before they take office. Beeler responded she takes full responsibility for this error and has reached out to them and apologized for this oversight. She said she has asked the State's Attorney for assistance in correcting it.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

1. **Approval to Pay Any Invoices to Adams PC and Books & Moore, Point of Light and Furness Concrete & Construction, Inc. and JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps:**
Motion by Hughes and second by Miles to pay any invoices for Adams, PC and Book & ore, Point of Light and Furness Concrete & Construction, Inc. Voice Vote: in favor – 17, against – 0, abstain – 3 (Moore, Bishop, and Furness). (Deabenderfer had left the meeting). Motion carried.
2. **Motion by Loucks and second by Beck to pay all other approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.**

ADJOURN: Until the Full Board on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Yeske and second by Wendel to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.