

Montgomery County Board

Minutes

For Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, in person and via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Evan Young at 5:30 PM.

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

Members Present: Russell Beason (by phone), Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, Bill Bergen, Ronald Deabenderfer, Doug Donaldson, Tim Fogle, Jim Havera, Mark Hughes, Sandra Johnson, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Bev McCoy, Gene Miles, Andy Ritchie, Earlene Robinson, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Patty Whitworth, and Evan Young.

Members Absent: Donna Yeske.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by County Board member Beeler's daughter, Nora Beeler.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Donaldson and second by Hughes to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Beeler, Bergen, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Havera, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Loucks, McCoy, Miles, Ritchie, Robinson, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Wendel to approve the minutes of the previous County Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021. **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 was present and thanked the Sheriff's Office for traffic control coverage at the drive-thru COVID vaccination sites. Satterlee also thanked the Highway Department for letting the Health Department use their parking lot as a vaccination site. Satterlee stated by the end of this week they will have administered 700 first time doses and 600 second time doses for a total of 1300 doses. Satterlee reported the Health Department is working down the list of vaccine applicants, with 5,000 people signed up.
7. **Highway Department Report** --- Cody Greenwood -- report was submitted.
8. **Probation Office Report** ---- Bane Ulrici -- report was submitted.
9. **Public Defender's Report** ---- Erin Mattson – no report was provided.
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** – Andrew Affrunti stated he hired his second Assistant State's Attorney Brian Bach, who has 11 years of experience and comes from Christian County. Affrunti added Bach was recommended by circuit judges.

14. Treasurer's Report ---- Nikki Lohman ---- report was submitted.

15. V.A.C. Report ---- Dave Strowmatt---- report was submitted.

APPROVAL OF 14 SUBMITTED REPORTS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Whitworth and second by Miles to approve the 14 submitted reports on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson stated applications for the upcoming grants will be available on April 1st and are due June 30th. She stated the first awards will be made in December.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle stated there is nothing new to report.
- **911 Board** – Bill Bergen reported the ETSB Board is getting estimates to upgrade the Cress Hill Communications Tower, and they are working on a grant with the Assessor's Office for a new flyover.
- **Health Department** – Sandra Johnson stated there is nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** –Bergen, Beeler – nothing at this time
- **MCEDC** – Yeske was absent, so no report was given.
- **Planning Commission** – Deabenderfer, Andy Ritchie – Young said Belusko is setting up the meetings for the Planning Commission.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Deabenderfer stated there is nothing new to report.
- **UCCI** – Miles stated they are not meeting yet due to COVID.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they will have a Zoom meeting at 7:00 on March 18th, 2021.
- **WCDC** – Wendel stated they had a meeting on February 25th, 2021, and they received a good report on their state audit. Wendel also reported there is funding available for job training and youth programs, and anyone interested should go to the Job Center in Litchfield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young reported the IT Department worked to get Animal Control connected through CTI. He said Watkins will be scheduling training soon for the Board members' chrome books. Watkins stated they just finished a phishing campaign and there were 88 emails sent out and 11 people clicked on it, which is 12.4% of our county employees. Young stated Watkins also helped resolve an electrical issue at the Courthouse Complex during the recent bad weather.
2. **COVID-19 Pandemic Update:** Young reported Chris/Mont EMA Director Greg Nimmo has recently resigned. His last day is Friday, March 12th, 2021. Young stated he called a Christian County representative; and as of last night, their Personnel Committee is recommending splitting off from Montgomery County for the EMA position. Deabenderfer asked if Christian County said why they wanted to break off, and Young said they did not say, and the current contract expires at the end of November, 2021. He said the Sheriff's Department will assist with EMA duties until another person is found. Young stated he and the former Christian County Board Chairwoman had the idea to have the Montgomery and Christian Counties combine, but it became difficult when the COVID 19 pandemic hit. Whitworth asked if the position will continue to be part time, and Young replied they don't know yet.
3. **Amendment to Extend the Proclamation of a Disaster in Montgomery County Approval:** Motion by Robinson and second by Beck to approve the Amendment to

extend the Proclamation of a Disaster in Montgomery County. (See Resolution Book 18, page 204).

4. **Regional Development Group Update:** Young reported he and Yeske recently attended a meeting with some other County Board Chairmen to discuss setting up a Regional Planning Group to replace the West Central Development Council. He said the next meeting will be held March 16th, 2021, in Litchfield. Young said we will have to sit down with EDA to check on the guidelines and what they want as far as an organizational lineup and staff.
5. **Other Business Update:** Young thanked Farm Bureau Manager Katie Wilson for the goodie bags they left for board members today.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported there were some maintenance issues dealt with this month, and the committee also approved a proposal from Luby for the repairs on the generator at the Jail in the amount of \$2,091.31 to replace the upper and lower radiator hoses, belts and the coolant. Sneed said the committee also approved a bid from Hillsboro Electric to fix the ground lights outside the Jail which will replace everything with LED lights. The cost is \$2,391 after the AMEREN incentives.
2. **Elevator Issues and Proposal Update:** Sneed reported the committee approved the bid from Schindler Elevator to make repairs to the Historic Courthouse elevator and the secure elevator at the Courthouse Complex in the amount of \$3,355. He said the third party inspection was completed last week, and two of our three elevators failed due to phones and a light not working.
3. **Surplus at the Highway Department Update:** Sneed reported the surplus stored at the highway department shed will be organized and sold at a surplus auction soon.
4. **IPMG Building Inspection & Appraisal Update:** Sneed reported he spoke with IPMG representative Eric Braasch regarding the county building appraisal report and he will have the appraiser take a look at it and give us an update.
5. **Energy Savings Report from Centrica (Smart Watt) Update:** Sneed reported he contacted Centrica representative Orry Cummings about reviewing the energy savings report and he will be on the agenda for next month to explain it.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given By Committee Vice Chairman Ron Deabenderfer:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Deabenderfer reported there is nothing new to update.
2. **EDC Committee Name Change Approval:** Deabenderfer reported the committee discussed changing the committee name last month and needs to take action this month. Deabenderfer stated the MCEDC suggested we change our committee name due to the confusion in the names. He said MCEDC didn't want to change their name because it is more expensive for them to do so. **Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Whitworth to change committee name from Economic Development Committee to Montgomery County Development Committee. All in favor, motion carried.**

3. **Tourism Grant Applications Update:** Deabenderfer reported the committee is accepting tourism grant applications until March 22nd, 2021. He said the committee will review and approve the applications at their meeting on April 5th, 2021, and the grants will be awarded at the full board meeting on April 13th, 2021.
4. **Montgomery County Bicentennial Update:** Deabenderfer reported there was a Bicentennial planning meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 7:00 pm at the Bank of Hillsboro. He said the wooden county Bicentennial birthday cake is displayed in front of the Historic Courthouse, and the first celebration was rescheduled for Saturday, April 10th, 2021.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Megan Beeler:

1. **ICRMT Grants and Custom Policies Approval:** Beeler stated Sheriff Robbins applied for an Illinois capital working grant costing the county \$75,000 in matching funds so he can purchase radio equipment. She said the total grant is for \$300,000 and would allow all the law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County to have the capabilities of digital radio communication so they can all talk and hear each other. **Motion by Beeler second by Johnson to approve up to \$75,000 on the new radio system pending receiving grant funds. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beeler reported we received a coal royalty payment of \$119,000 for January and \$179,000 was received in February.
3. **IPMG Building Inspection & Appraisal Update:** Beeler reported IPMG Representative Eric Braasch was present to answer questions about the appraisal report on county buildings. She said Braasch asked if the old county highway buildings should be on the insurance, and Young stated they should be on inventory until the Highway Department vacates the old buildings and moves to the new facility. Beeler reported the Hillsboro Health Department and Litchfield Health Department building contents appraisals went up. Beeler said the Historic Courthouse's appraisal went up from 2016 due to the previous appraisal showing the building on the historical register. Leitheiser stated there are restrictions when a building is on the National Register and that needs to be checked out. Beeler said the Historic Courthouse was put on the report at replacement cost, and discussion took place on how the building would be replaced if there were a major loss. Sneed asked Braasch to research more information about what we would have to do if there was a total loss of the Historic Courthouse and the replacement requirements since it is on the National Historic Courthouse.
4. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID #13-06-202-006 in Witt Township to Bradley J. Lecrone Approval:** Motion by Beeler and second by Fogle to approve the Resolution to convey deed for parcel ID #13-06-202-006 in Witt Township to Bradley J. Lecrone. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 18, pages 205-206).
5. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID #12-27-204-010 in Irving Township to Stephen Keith Approval:** Motion by Beeler and second by Whitworth to approve the Resolution to convey deed for parcel ID #12-27-204-010 in Irving Township to Stephen Keith. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 18, pages 207-208).
6. **IMRF Update:** Beeler said there is nothing new to report.

7. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beeler reported she drafted a County Financial Policy and asked everyone to review it for the next month and get back to her for input. Beeler said there are some categories needing addressed and asked board members contact her with any suggestions.
8. **Fence Damage: Insurance Claim Update:** Beeler stated we had some fence damage and the committee opted to pay for it because the insurance deductible is higher.
9. **Executive Session to Discuss Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Approval: Motion to enter into Executive Session by Beeler and second by Donaldson. All in favor, motion carried.**
Motion to come out of Executive Session by Whitworth and second by Miles. All in favor, motion carried.
Ratify the Settlement: Motion by Beeler and second by Fogle to ratify the settlement and pay \$1,000. All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Other Business Update:** Beeler reported UCCI has released the 2021 salary study and informed board members who serve on committees where salaries are discussed that they can now review. Beeler also asked everyone to read the current issue of *Counties at the Capital* for some interesting legislation relating to county finances.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Bill Bergen:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Bergen reported Health insurance representative Amanda Mast gave the monthly report and informed members there was zero utilization of the HRA since her last report.
2. **Employee Personnel Manual Update:** Bergen reported the committee reviewed some of the suggested corrections presented by Deabenderfer and will continue this review next month. He said the punctuation section was reviewed and next meeting the rule changes will be reviewed.
3. **Workers Compensation Issues at the Sheriff's Department Update:** Bergen reported the committee discussed the ongoing issue with a pending workers compensation claim for an employee at the Jail who was off due to COVID. Bergen deferred to Sheriff Robbins, who stated he sent out more daily logs regarding the deputy who was off due to COVID.
4. **Human Resources Update:** Bergen stated the Committee is not going to pursue this topic anymore.

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

1. **New Highway Department Update:** Miles stated the drywall and painting have been finished and the interior doors and glass have been installed at the new facility. He said the heating and air conditioning and electric systems still need to be installed. Miles also reported Highway Department workers recently demolished the former show room portion of the building.
2. **2021 County and Township MFT Oil Letting Update:** Miles stated the 2021 County and Township MFT Oil letting is scheduled for April 6th, 2021, at 9:00 A.M. at the new Highway Department building.
3. **2021 Culvert Letting Update:** Miles stated the annual culvert letting will also be held on April 6th, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at the new Highway Department Building.
4. **Nokomis Rd. (CH 7) Extension Update:** Miles reported he and Highway Engineer Greenwood recently attended the Nokomis City Council meeting to discuss the transfer

of Union and Elm streets back to the City of Nokomis once improvements were made. He said this issue will be discussed again at the Nokomis city council meeting scheduled for March 22nd, 2021.

5. **Other Business Update:** Miles said the Highway Department will be working on the bridge on Red Ball Trail this fall. Jones asked Miles about current staffing levels at the Highway Department, and Miles stated they didn't hire last year when an employee retired, but staffing levels have worked well. Discussion took place about phone calls some board members are receiving regarding the recent mine subsidence on Illinois Route 185. Young stated this road is not in the county's jurisdiction since it is a State of Illinois road. He said the coal mine is bonded and is obligated to fix the damages on Illinois Route 185. Whitworth stated she has been getting several calls from constituents regarding the highway mine subsidence; and she said even though the highway itself is under the State of Illinois' jurisdiction, the farmland surrounding it is under the county's jurisdiction. Robbins stated mining will take place in this longwall panel of about 1,400 feet for 90 days and we are now two weeks into this project. Deabenderfer asked if a coal mine representative could update the county board at an upcoming meeting about their current activity, and Young replied he will invite a representative to attend. Leitheiser stated the coal mine files a mining activities location map with the County Clerk/Recorder's office each year, which she has placed on the county website for public view. Jones stated the MSHA Office should have records and maps of these mining activities as well.

SAFETY & ELECTIONS: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Ambulance Billing Office Update:** Hughes stated he spoke with the staff and everything is going okay although there are two outstanding ambulance contracts needing signed.
2. **ETSB/911 Update:** Bergen stated he had nothing new to report.
3. **Elections Update:** Leitheiser reported early voting started on February 25th for the April 6th, 2021, election. She said currently there have been only 105 early voters and 5 vote by mail ballots with 69 ballots outstanding, and asked members to encourage their constituents to vote at the upcoming election.
4. **EPA Report Update:**
 - a. **Tire Collection for Townships** – Coordinator Daniels reported she sent a letter to the Illinois EPA requesting a tire collection for local government agencies in Montgomery County and is waiting for a response.
 - b. **Electronics Recycling for 2021** – Coordinator Daniels stated she set up Saturday, September 18th, and Saturday, October 23rd, 2021, for the Electronic Recycling drives. She said Litchfield wants to host the recycling event in October at the former recycling facility.
5. **IL EPA Delegation Agreement Approval:** Daniels reported the new five year IL EPA Delegation Agreement has been received as has State's Attorney Affrunti's recommendation. **Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to approve the five year delegation agreement with IL EPA. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Animal Control Employee Issue Update:** Hughes reported the Safety and Elections Committee and the Personnel Committee both listened to a husband and wife's complaint regarding an animal control employee. Hughes also stated six residents came to this

month's Safety and Elections committee and told members animal control services work very well. Hughes said in his opinion, this is not a big deal.

7. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Hughes said there are 13 dogs and four cats currently at the facility.

APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Wendel and second by Donaldson to approve the seven committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Young stated he hopes to have a Mayor's meeting after the April Consolidated election.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen Bill Schroeder provided members with information about the repair process on Illinois Route 185 after longwall mining caused subsidence there. He asked the County Board to inquire about the mechanics of how the repair to the state roadway will work.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Approval to Pay Any Invoices to JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps

Motion by Bergen and second by Wendel to pay any invoices for JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps. All in favor, motion carried. (Yeske absent).

Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Fogle to pay all other approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The Next Regular Full Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois.

Motion by Miles and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.