

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, November 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, November 9, 2021.

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, Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, 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, Donna Yeske and Evan Young.

Member Absent: Bill Bergen

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent Dave Strowmatt.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Wendel and second by Ritchie to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Beeler, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Havera, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Loucks, McCoy, Miles, Ritchie, Robinson, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young voted yes, none voted no, Bergen was absent. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting: Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Robinson to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 12th, 2021. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion by Ritchie and second by Donaldson to approve the Minutes of the Previous Special County Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021. **All in favor, motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Ambulance Billing Report** -- No report was submitted
2. **Animal Control Report** -- Amanda Daniels -- report was submitted.
3. **Circuit Clerk's Report** ---- Daniel Robbins was present for questions.
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 for questions.
7. **Highway Department Report** ---Cody Greenwood was present for questions.
8. **Probation Office Report** ---Banee Ulrici -- report was submitted.
9. **Public Defender's Report** ---Erin Mattson--- no report was submitted.
10. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** ---Julie Wollerman -- report was submitted.
11. **Sheriff's Report** ---Rick Robbins was present for questions.
12. **SOA Report** ---Ray Durston was present for questions.
13. **State's Attorney Report** ---Andrew Affrunti was present for questions.
14. **Treasurer's Report** ---Nikki Lohman was present for questions. She stated the final property tax distribution will be sent soon, and said only 317 tax parcels of 29,000 total tax parcels went to the annual Tax Sale.
15. **V.A.C. Report** ---Dave Strowmatt was present for questions

APPROVAL OF 13 REPORTS SUBMITTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Hughes and second by Yeske to approve the 13 reports submitted on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson – nothing to report.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle reported CEFS is encouraging people to sign up for the Illinois Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- **911 Board** – Bergen was absent.
- **Health Department** – Sandra Johnson – nothing to report
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen, Beeler – nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** – Yeske stated the update will be given during the Development Committee report.
- **Planning Commission** – Deabenderfer reported they will meet again on December 8, 2021. He stated the Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated, which will be the focus of the commission.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Deabenderfer stated he has financial reports for the last two months available.
- **UCCI** – Miles said their next meeting will be held November 15, 2021.
- **U of I** – Beck reported their next meeting will be held on December 16, 2021 in Hillsboro.
- **WCDC** – Wendel reported a meeting was recently held on October 21, 2021 and said they have been advertising for an Executive Director and a Fiscal Officer. Chairman Young reported he sits on the committee reviewing applicants for these positions, and this committee will meet again on November 22, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young reported AT&T is switching from 3G to 5G in February 2022, and asked Sheriff Robbins if that office is ready for the switch. Robbins said they were not ready yet. Young also said IT Director Curt Watkins reported Montgomery County networks were not affected by a recent cyberattack on ambulance billing vendor software.
2. **EMA Report Update:** County EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott reported he and IT Director Watkins recently attended a cyber event exercise for IEMA Region 8.
3. **Committee Structure Approval:** Motion by Jones, second by Beck, to table the committee restructuring changes until October 2022. Beeler reported the Rules committee's thought process was to try and balance the workload on all of the committees to be more efficient with tax dollars and streamline more duties. She stated some committees hold meetings lasting between 30 to 45 minutes while others often meet for two hours. Deabenderfer stated cutting down the number of committees would change financial rewards for board members, which may be unconstitutional. Hughes said he doesn't care how long meetings take, and it's what the board members do with the time they spend in the meetings. Beeler stated the Rules committee believed if the board tried cutting the number of committees down now and it didn't work, they could always go back to the way things were previously. McCoy said she doesn't see why this decision has to be made so far in advance. Young stated the board will be decreasing from 21 to 14 board members after the

November, 2022 election, and something is going to have to be done to streamline the workload. Miles asked why committee chairpersons weren't consulted. Jones also asked why the Coordinating committee, originally created to be an oversight committee, would be absorbing so many duties. Young replied most of the assignments to be added to the Coordinating committee answer to the Chairman anyway. Beeler stated research regarding decreasing the size of the board and the number of committees has been going on for several years, adding she and former board member Mike Plunkett worked on this concept together. Deabenderfer said the board tends to plan for the people we have and not people we are going to have, and he feels we need to wait until next year. Beeler said she feels the number of committees should be in place sooner so people who are running for seats on the board in the next election will know what to expect, and she is in favor of 7 member committees to meet quorum requirements. Beck said she hopes people who are planning to run for County Board have been following what the board has been doing. She also said she is concerned that four committees will be too few for all the work to be done. Beason stated when someone submits his/her name to run for the County Board, he/she should trust the structure will be best for the citizens of Montgomery County. Donaldson said when the reduction of members from 21 to 14 happens, candidates should know what will be expected. Ritchie complimented Beeler for her diligence on this subject and suggested another Rules committee meeting be held to provide more information. **ROLL CALL VOTE: 14 members voted yes, 6 voted no. Voting YES: Beck, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Havera, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, McCoy, Miles, Ritchie, Sneed, Wendel and Whitworth. Voting NO: Beason, Beeler, Loucks, Robinson, Yeske and Young. Bergen was absent. Motion carried.** Greenwood stated the he would like for the County Board keep the Roads and Bridges Committee as its own committee if possible.

4. **Rules of Order Committee Update:** Young stated there is nothing to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Megan Beeler:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Beeler had nothing to report.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beeler said Treasurer Lohman reported we received \$53,408 in coal royalties in October.
3. **IMRF Update:** Beeler stated there is nothing new to report at this time.
4. **Litchfield Ambulance Levy Request/Minutes/Resolution/Public Hearing Notices Update/Approval:** Beeler stated the Litchfield Ambulance levy request is included with the levies to be passed later in this meeting.
5. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beeler said there is no update at this time.
6. **Bellwether & America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA funding) Update:** Beeler reported the U.S. Department of Treasury continues to change the rules regarding the ARPA grant.
7. **Cyber Liability Coverage with ICRMT Approval:** Beeler stated Scheller Insurance agent Eric Braasch recommends the County buy Cybersecurity Coverage, but we would have to go to a Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) system. She said the our insurance company is also checking for other potential coverage options. **Motion by Beeler, second by Beason, to approve the Property Casualty Insurance premium costs as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **FEMA Grant Update:** Beeler deferred to Treasurer Lohman, who said there is nothing new to report at this time.
9. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and Nokomis/Audubon Multi-Township Assessment District Approval:** Motion by Beeler, second by Johnson,

- to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and Nokomis/Audubon Multi-Township Assessment District. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 18, pages 312-313).
10. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID #17-35-412-002 in East Fork Township to Stephanie Cooper Approval:** Motion by Beeler, second by Robinson, to approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID #17-35-412-002 in East Fork Township to Stephanie Cooper. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 18, pages 314-315).
11. **Intergovernmental Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the Village of Panama and Montgomery County Approval:** Motion by Beeler, second by Whitworth, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between Montgomery County and the Village of Panama effective December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2024, pending the approval of the Panama village trustees. Sheriff Robbins reported this is the third or fourth year the two entities have had an agreement. All in favor, motion carried.
12. **FY 2022 Change Sheet Update:** Beeler presented the list of changes needed for the FY 2022 Budget. She reported the change sheets consist mostly of changes made for the ARPA Lost Revenue funds, and the new account number is Office 401. She stated the change in the Probation department budget is a grant which is no longer available. She also said the change in the Highway Department is the Road and Bridge project discussed last month. Beeler stated Insurance Premium changes were made due to open enrollment. She reported the Regional Office of Education budget information was received late, so it is on the change sheet. Beeler thanked Treasurer Lohman for all her hard work on the budget process.
13. **FY 2022 Budget Approval:** Motion by Beeler, second by Donaldson, to adopt the FY 2022 Budget as presented with the changes discussed today. McCoy noted the registration tag fee revenues for animal control were listed as \$20,000; yet as of the end of October 2021, they have received \$41,000. She asked why the budget only reflects \$20,000. Beeler responded it's possible they were basing revenue totals for those funds received as of August 31, 2021. She also said it's possible there were several registration tags received in October, which could have made the difference. McCoy also asked if funds from the Vanek estate will remain in that fund instead of being transferred into the Animal Control department's budget. Beeler said Lohman doesn't transfer Vanek funds unless it's needed to offset deficit prior to the budget's passage, and then she only transfers the amount needed. McCoy stated the reason for her inquiry is because she doesn't want Animal Control to be in trouble for going over budget. All in favor, motion carried. Beeler thanked the Finance Committee for their excellent work on the budget.
14. **Adopt FY 2022 Aggregate Levy Approval:** Motion by Beeler, second by Beason, to approve the FY 2022 Aggregate Levy in the amount of \$4,203,740 for a 4.9999 percent increase. All in favor, motion carried.
15. **FY 2022 Budget Appropriations, Levies and Resolutions Approval:** State's Attorney Affrunti read each of the Resolutions to adopt the FY 2022 Budget Appropriations and Levies. (For copies of all Resolutions, see Resolution Book 18, pages 316-346).
- A. Resolution #21-10:** Motion by Beeler, second by Robinson, to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Appropriation Ordinance in the amount of \$33,224,995. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Resolution #21-11:** Motion by Beeler, second by Whitworth, to approve the Resolution to pass the General Corporate Fund levy for the current taxable year in the amount of \$992,250. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Resolution #21-12: Motion by Beeler, second by Donaldson, to approve the Resolution to pass the County Health Department levy in the amount of \$637,000. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Resolution #21-13: Motion by Beeler, second by Hughes, to approve the Resolution to pass the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund levy in the amount of \$700,000. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Resolution #21-14: Motion by Beeler, second by Yeske, to approve the Resolution to pass the Social Security Fund levy in the amount of \$569,490. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Resolution #21-15: Motion by Beeler, second by Beason, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy to pay the costs of Insurance Premiums in the amount of \$325,000. All in favor, motion carried.

G. Resolution #21-16: Motion by Beeler, second by Miles, to approve the Resolution to pass the County Highway Fund levy in the amount of \$490,000. All in favor, motion carried.

H. Resolution #21-17: Motion by Beeler, second by Miles, to approve the Resolution to pass the County Highway Federal Aid Matching levy in the amount of \$245,000. All in favor, motion carried.

I. Resolution #21-18: Motion by Beeler, second by Wendel, to approve the Resolution to pass the Special Aid to County Bridge Fund levy in the amount of \$245,000. All in favor, motion carried.

J. Resolution #21-19: Motion by Beeler, second by Sneed, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the Litchfield Special Service Area in the amount of \$648,000. All in favor, motion carried.

K. Resolution #21-20: Motion by Beeler, second by Robinson, to approve the Resolution to pass the Community Mental Health Board Tax levy in the amount of \$643,000. All in favor, motion carried.

L. Resolution #21-21: Motion by Beeler, second by Deabenderfer, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the Hillsboro Special Service Area in the amount of \$108,000. All in favor, motion carried.

M. Resolution #21-22: Motion by Beeler, second by Yeske, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the Nokomis/Witt Special Service Area in the amount of \$289,490. All in favor, motion carried.

N. Resolution #21-23: Motion by Beeler, second by McCoy, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for Veterans Assistance in the amount of \$50,150. All in favor, motion carried.

O. Resolution #21-24: Motion by Beeler, second by Deabenderfer, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for Senior Citizen Social Services in the amount of \$109,000. All in favor, motion carried.

P. Resolution #21-25: Motion by Beeler, second by Beck, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the County Extension Service in the amount of \$150,425. All in favor, motion carried.

Q. Resolution #21-26: Motion by Beeler, second by Beck, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the Farmersville/Waggoner Special Service Area in the amount of \$75,000. All in favor, motion carried.

R. Resolution #21-27: Motion by Beeler, second by McCoy, to approve the Resolution to pass the levy for the Raymond/Harvel Special Service Area in the amount of \$76,650. All in favor, motion carried.

S. Resolution #21-28: Motion by Beeler, second by Donaldson, to approve the Resolution to set Salaries for the following Department Heads: Supervisor of Assessments in the amount of \$68,377, Probation Officer in the amount of \$87,891, and the Assistant Probation Officers in the amount of \$228,844. All in favor, motion carried.

T. Resolution #21-29: Motion by Beeler, second by McCoy, to approve the Resolution to Authorize State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor and to appropriate the sum of \$15,000. All in favor, motion carried.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported the maintenance department has been catching up on a lot of county needs.
2. **Pipeline Construction Damages on County Farm Update:** Sneed reported Ameren had damaged the waterway on the County Farm during their pipeline project. Young said Ameren has agreed to pay someone to fix it with County Farm lessee Jason Anderson supervising the project.
3. **Sidewalk Replacement at the Historic Courthouse and Jail Update:** Sneed reported after consulting with State's Attorney Affrunti, they have agreed to shovel sidewalks covered with snow. Some municipalities choose not to do so out of fear of being sued, but Sneed said we will take the high road and that's why we have liability insurance. He also reported we will not look to address sidewalk replacement needs until next spring.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Vice-Chairman Ron Deabenderfer:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Deabenderfer stated his major concern if the Development Committee is dissolved is the county's inability to afford a full-time Economic Development person. He encouraged everyone to support MCEDC or to support funding an Economic Development position if the committee is dissolved.
2. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:** Deabenderfer said there hasn't been much need for the Revolving Loan Fund since bank interest rates dropped so low. He stated the this fund still serves a purpose, however, and said he believes the board needs to keep it for the municipalities who need to complete projects prior to receiving their property tax funds.
3. **Tourism Update:** Nothing was reported.
4. **Planning Commission Update:** Deabenderfer gave his report earlier in the meeting.
5. **Mid Illinois Regional Planning Council Inc. Update:** Nothing was reported.
6. **West Central Development Council Update:** Wendel and Young gave this report earlier in the meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Vice-Chairwoman Sandra Johnson:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Johnson stated it was depressing to hear a lot of employees didn't show up for the informational Health Insurance meetings regarding open enrollment, and the committee discussed that changes need to happen in the future. Treasurer Lohman reported now there are only three employee forms missing, and Johnson said these findings are better than the 100 or so missing employee forms earlier.
2. **FOP Union Collective Bargaining Agreement Update/Approval:** Johnson stated than executive session will be held on this topic at this meeting.

3. **COVID Booster and Flu Shots Update:** Johnson deferred to Coordinator Chris Daniels, who reported the Health Department had a good turnout for Covid boosters and flu shots on October 29, 2021. She stated COVID Boosters were made available to county employees and their spouses.
4. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update:** Motion by Hughes, second by Deabenderfer, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the FOP union contract. All in favor, motion carried. Board entered into executive session at 6:53 p.m.
Motion by Johnson, second by Havera, to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Board returned to open session at 7:17 p.m. No action items resulted.

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

1. **Highway Department Surplus Property Sale Approval:** Motion by Miles, second by Donaldson, to approve selling surplus Highway Department property through an online auction using the auctioneering service with the lowest auction service fees. All in favor, motion carried.
2. **Resolution 2021-12 to Appropriate MFT/RBI Funds for the construction of Section 15-00138-00-BR – White Town Bridge on Red Ball Trail Approval:** Motion by Miles, second by Donaldson to approve Resolution 2021-12 to Appropriate MFT/RBI Funds for the construction of Section 15-00138-00-BR – White Town Bridge on Red Ball Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 18, page 347).
3. **Right of Way Acquisition for Section 15-00138-00-BR Update:** Miles stated there is no update at this time.
4. **Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2022 Update:** Miles stated there is nothing new to report.
5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update:** Motion by Miles, second by Whitworth, to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition. All in favor, motion carried. Board entered into executive session at 7:12 p.m.
Motion by Miles, second by Wendel, to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Board returned to open session at 7:40 p.m. No action items resulted.

SAFETY & ELECTIONS: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Ambulance Billing Office Update:** Hughes reported the Ambulance Billing office now only has one employee.
2. **ETSB/911 Update:** Hughes stated there is nothing new to report.
3. **Elections Update:** Hughes deferred to Leitheiser, who reported she is awaiting for state and federal election district maps to be finalized soon.
4. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Daniels stated she and EPA Assistant David Jenkins will be going on three inspections with State EPA Inspector Craig Meridith on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.
5. **BLH Computer Recycling Drive Update:** Hughes stated this drive went well.
6. **Animal Control Facility Program & Municipal Contracts Update:** Hughes reported Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs attended this month's Safety and Elections Committee meeting and they will host a meeting of the county mayors to discuss municipal contracts soon.

7. **Animal Control Ordinance Approval:** Motion by Hughes, second by Whitworth, to approve the Animal Control Ordinance as written and approved by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 18, pages 348-364).

APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Young encouraged everyone to thank a veteran in honor of Veteran's Day on Thursday this week. Daniels reported County Board members will be able to utilize their Chromebooks again starting in December.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: none

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Yeske, second by Donaldson, to appoint Brian Carlock to the Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Board to represent Nokomis Township. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Approval to Pay any Invoices to JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps: Motion by Fogle and second by Beason to pay any invoices for JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps. Voice Vote: In favor – 19, Against – 0, Absent – 1 (Bergen), Abstain (Yeske). Motion carried.

Approval to Pay all Other Approved Bills and Payroll: Motion by Beason and second by Loucks to pay all other approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The Next Regular full Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Miles and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.