

**Montgomery County Board  
Minutes**

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**For Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via teleconference and in person meeting.

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

**Roll call was taken:** 17 members present, 4 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Tim Fogle, Jim Havera, Mark Hughes, Sandra Johnson, Jeremy Jones, Gene Miles, Andy Ritchie, Earlene Robinson, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Patty Whitworth, Donna Yeske and Evan Young.

**Members Absent:** Beeler, Deabenderfer, Loucks, and McCoy.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by audience member Randy Singler.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Motion by Wendel and second by Whitworth to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. Roll call vote: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Fogle, Havera, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Miles, Ritchie, Robinson, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:** Motion by Robinson and second by Donaldson to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 13th, 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 was present for questions.
5. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** - Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions and reported HB 3878 passed in the House and is now in the Senate. She said if passed, this bill will raise recording fees from \$79 to \$88 with extra funding going mainly to the Chicago metro area for the Rental Housing Support program. Leitheiser urged members to call their legislators to ask them to vote no on HB 3878 since our county residents won't benefit from it.
6. **Health & TB Department Report** - Hugh Satterlee reported COVID-19 vaccinations continue throughout Montgomery County.
7. **Highway Department Report** - Cody Greenwood was present for questions.
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 was present for questions.
14. **Treasurer's Report** - Nikki Lohman was present for questions.
15. **V.A.C. Report** - Dave Strowmatt—report was submitted.

4. **Regional Development Group Update:** Young reported he and Yeske recently attended the Regional Development Group meeting. He stated the U of I Extension did a lot of work on this project and said they have completed some bylaws along with a chart on how to set up and finance the new economic development group. Young stated all the County Board Chairmen in the group will review the information for one month and three resolutions will need to be approved next month.
5. **Reapportionment for Montgomery County – District Boundaries Approval:** Young reported the Reapportionment Ad-Hoc committee met and made the recommendation to keep the current county board district boundaries the same. **Motion by Yeske and second by Ritchie to approve keeping the current county board district boundaries the same. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Number of County Board Members per District Approval:** Young stated the Coordinating Committee recommended reducing the county board from 21 members to 14 members. **Motion by Jones and second by Robinson to approve reducing the size of the board from 21 members to 14 members. Miles voted no. All others in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Number of County Board Districts Approval:** Young reported the Coordinating Committee recommends keeping the 7 county board districts with two members per district. **Motion by Sneed and second by Havera to approve keeping 7 county board districts with two members per district for a total of 14 board members. All in favor, motion carried.** Young stated the board can put a rule of order in to address the situation of a tie vote which would result in a motion failing.
8. **How Board Members will be Compensated (per diem, monthly stipend) Approval:** Young reported the Coordinating Committee recommends board member compensation be set at \$60 per diem. **Motion by Wendel and second by Johnson to approve board members' compensation to be set at \$60 per diem. All in favor motion carried. Fogle and Jones voted no. All others voted yes. Motion carried.**
9. **Compensation for Mileage Approval:** Young reported the Coordinating Committee voted to continue paying mileage reimbursement for board members. Beck asked about the Ad-Hoc committee's vote for mileage. Affrunti said the full board still must vote on the mileage issue. Hughes asked if the Ad-Hoc committee reports to the Coordinating Committee or the Full Board. Affrunti stated he didn't attend the Coordinating Committee meeting and the full board still needs to vote on the mileage issue. **Motion by Bergen and second by Donaldson to continue to pay mileage.** Beck said she thinks the mileage should be eliminated. Young said we shouldn't eliminate the mileage and feels it is fair to compensate for mileage. Young added he doesn't collect mileage for his County Board work; but if others want to collect mileage, they should be able to do. Bergen stated he did some research in Macoupin County and they are paid \$237 for board meetings and \$38 for any other meetings they attend, but they don't reimburse for mileage. Affrunti reported he voted against paying mileage for board members at the Ad-Hoc committee meeting and stated board members who do not get compensated for mileage could still claim the mileage expense on their taxes. Jones said he drives 50 miles to County Board meetings and would vote to get rid of mileage and per diem since he doesn't do it for the money. He reminded members he and member Fogle voted against getting paid per diem to attend meetings also. Yeske said we might not be here in two years, and we shouldn't tie the hands of a future board who may want

**Luby Equipment in the amount of \$4,453.42 to replace the transfer switch at the New Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**

2. **Surplus at the Highway Department Update:** Sneed stated they worked on organizing the county surplus items stored at the highway department shed. Daniels reported she has drafted the ad for the newspapers and made up all the surplus signup and bid sheets, and she will take photos of the surplus items to put on the County web site. Sneed said the silent auction will take place on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the new County Highway Department, with items purchased needing to be picked up by Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.
3. **Other Business Update:** Sneed reported the City of Hillsboro has asked for an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County to take care of sidewalk replacement repairs around the Historic Courthouse. He reported there are also concrete issues at the Jail so we will be responsible to fix those sidewalks. Sneed stated he is having trouble getting vendors to respond to give a proposal.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairwoman Donna Yeske:

Yeske reported the regular committee meeting scheduled on May 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. She stated the Bicentennial Event on the Butler Fair Grounds is scheduled for Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be food vendors, three bands, a tractor and car show, along with other activities. She said there is no fee for vendors and they will be given a 10' x 10' space to set up. Yeske also reported SB 1602 regarding Local Control has been placed in another 1,677 page senate bill.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Finance Committee member Earlene Robinson:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Robinson stated SOA Durston reported the Board of Review adjourned the 2020 session and will start receiving complaints for the 2021 tax cycle on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She said the 2020 Final Abstract packet was mailed to the Department of Revenue on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and it hadn't been received as of April 29<sup>th</sup>, so Durston delivered another packet on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The DOR promised it would be processed as soon as possible.
2. **Budget Question for Public Defender's Office Approval:** Robinson reported Public Defender Erin Mattson addressed the committee with a request to hire a part time intern for \$11.25 per hour at 35 hours per week for 58 days. Mattson stated there was \$55,000 put in the budget last year for an associate Public Defender, and they have not been successful in hiring for the position. **Motion by Robinson and second by Whitworth to approve the summer intern position in the Public Defender's office. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **FY 2020 Audit Approval:** Robinson said the FY 2020 Audit was given to the Full Board last month for a 30 day review and it is ready to be approved. **Motion by Robinson and second by Jones to approve the adoption of the FY 2020 Audit as presented by Auditors Scheffel Boyle last month. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **FY 2022 Budget Update:** Robinson stated the FY 2022 budget worksheets and memo will go out in the middle of June, with budget hearings scheduled for Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, starting at 8:30 am.
5. **Non-Union FY 2022 Wages Update:** Robinson said the committee will look at the union contracts and the Consumer Price Index to figure out the annual salary raises for non-union employees. She said a recommended salary increase for non-union employees needs to be included in the Office Holder memo sent with budget preparation documents.

16. **Litchfield Ambulance Levy Request Update:** Robinson said Young and Affrunti are working on the Litchfield Ambulance Levy Request. Affrunti stated he received a list of Litchfield Ambulance Board appointees this afternoon from the city of Litchfield administrator.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bill Bergen:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update:** Bergen reported we are on track with the Employee Health Insurance HRA utilization at 2%.
2. **Employee Personnel Manual Update:** Bergen reported the committee reviewed the remaining issues with our current manual and we only have one issue left. He said the employee personnel manual should be finished at the next meeting.
3. **Workers Compensation Issue at the Sheriff's Department Update:** Bergen reported Sheriff Robbins received another email yesterday seeking more paperwork for this claim.
4. **Correctional Officer Resignations and Openings Update:** Sheriff Robbins reported he has two Correctional Officer openings at this time, plus one intern has successfully passed tests and was hired part time until he completes the six month training at the academy.
5. **EMA Director Position Vacancy Approval:** Bergen reported the committee reviewed four examples of job descriptions for the EMA Director Position and they decided it should be a part time 20 hour per week position. **Motion by Bergen and second by Whitworth to approve to go with the Christian/Montgomery Job Description for the position. All in favor, motion carried.** Bergen said the committee recommends part-time hours for the EMA Director position. **Motion by Bergen and second by Johnson to approve to make the EMA Director position part time.** Miles asked how many hours a week the EMA Director will work in that position, and Bergen responded they will work 20 hours a week. **All in favor, motion carried.** Jones asked how the part time person would get paid if they worked over 20 hours. Bergen said the committee is looking at comp time usage if 20 hours are exceeded, not overtime. **Motion by Bergen and second by Yeske to approve setting the salary at \$24,000 to \$28,000 depending on qualifications. All in favor, motion carried.** Bergen said the position will be advertised in the county papers with applications and resumes due back by Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 pm. He said the Personnel committee will bring their recommendation about who to hire to the June full board meeting.

**ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. **New Highway Department Update:** Miles reported the Highway Department staff is officially conducting business at the new building, and the old building on Seymour is almost empty.
2. **Nokomis Rd. (CH 7) Extension Update:** Miles reported the City of Nokomis has no interest in taking over this section of road if the County does the upgrades to straighten the road to Route 16. Miles stated Engineer Greenwood reported he found an old file with a signed agreement from 1979 where then County Board Chairman Hamrock signed it along with the City of Nokomis to do this project. Greenwood checked with State's Attorney Affrunti to see if it is still valid, and Affrunti agreed it is still binding if the State approves.

**9. Animal Control Facility Program Update:**

- a. Animal Control Ordinance and Municipal Contracts – Hughes reported he and Daniels met with State's Attorney Affrunti recently to review the Animal Control ordinance and they hope to have a draft to review next month.

**APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:**

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Motion by Young and second by Hughes to reappoint Richard Lyons to the Harvel Drainage District #1 for a 3 year term effective May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Young and second by Sneed to reappoint Dennis Held to the Harvel Drainage District #2 for a 3 year term effective May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Young and second by Miles to reappoint Kent Aumann to the Montgomery County Board of Review for the 2021 and 2022 sessions. All in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Schroeder ask if anyone heard anything from the coal mine. Young replied they have a hot spot with elevated CO2 levels so they are shut down and not mining. Schroeder also stated as a citizen he has no problem with board members being compensated for the time to be a board member for the grief they get.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**1. Approval to Pay any Invoices to JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps:**

Motion by Wendel and second by Robinson to pay any invoices for JJ Outlet, LLC and Yeske Soaps. 16 members voted in favor, none against , and 4 were absent. Yeske abstained. Motion carried.

**2. Motion by Wendel and second by Yeske to pay all other approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Young asked for a motion to adjourn until the next regular full Board meeting on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Bergen and second by Robinson to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.