

## Montgomery County Board Minutes

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For Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 5:30 PM

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The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the County Board room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

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

**Roll call was taken** - 14 members present, 0 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board Member Ken Folkerts.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Motion by Hughes and second by Folkerts to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. Voting no: none. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:** Motion by Beck and second by Ritchie to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** -- Emily Gerl – No report submitted to the County Board, just Committee Chairman Ruppert.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins – Report submitted. Robbins said his audit started on Tuesday.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham – Report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Report submitted. Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels – Report submitted. Daniels was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels – Report submitted. Daniels was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee – Report submitted. Satterlee was present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood – Report submitted. Greenwood was present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins – Report submitted. Watkins reported his staff has been working on fiber redundancy at the Historic Courthouse and to the tower. He also stated he and his staff is working on the Sheriff’s Body Camera project as well as with the Courthouse Complex ADA renovation project.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst – Report submitted.
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici – Report submitted.
- 12. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson — No report submitted.

**13. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman – No report submitted.

**14. Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins – Report submitted. Robbins was present for questions.

**15. SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus – Report submitted. Niehaus reported the deadline to file assessment complaints has passed with just under 50 complaints filed. She said the Board of Review will soon begin its work.

**16. State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti – Report submitted. Assistant State’s Attorney Clark Johnson was present for questions.

**17. Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman – Report submitted.

**18. V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton – Report submitted.

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

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski had nothing new to report.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason referenced a handout given last month with a list of CEFS services.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported a hornet’s nest on the Panama tower had been removed, and stated the radio repeater network is finished.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth had nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen reported 583 new state laws are now in place effective 1/1/2024.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes had nothing new to report.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported the new equipment shed is now in place and its insulation and electricity is complete.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert had nothing new to report.
- **U of I** – Beck had nothing new to report.
- **WCDC** – Jones had nothing new to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Montgomery County citizen Bill Schroeder asked if the county had taken any further steps toward zoning. He also said he had been in contact with EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott and U.S. Representative Mary Miller about the absence of the weather device taken down at the VISTRA power plant, and requested board members contact the state and federal representatives and senators about reestablishing the service.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Presentation to County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser:** Chairman Donaldson presented County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser a plaque in recognition of her 25 years of service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Leitheiser thanked the County Board

members and her staff present at the meeting for their recognition, and said it is her honor to serve the public as County Clerk/Recorder. Chairman Donaldson invited those present to remain after the meeting for a reception with refreshments in Leitheiser's honor.

2. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Chairman Donaldson reported a meeting scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Carlinville.
3. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update:** Chairman Donaldson said at a meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Ad Hoc committee discussed the preparation needed in case another CO2 Sequestration or Pipeline is planned for the county. He said the committee wants to develop a list of potential county needs if another pipeline materializes, and is exploring ag-only zoning options. Jones asked if the committee would also look into the safety of wells already established.
4. **2024 Committee and Full Board 2024 Meeting Calendar Approval:** The board received the 2024 Committee and Full Board meeting calendar. **Motion by Beason, second by Ritchie, to approve the 2024 meeting date schedule. All in favor, motion carried.**

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Chairman Sneed reported the new National Maintenance custodian at the Montgomery County Complex has begun work with good response. He said a new generator at the Montgomery County Jail was recently installed, the back stairs of the Historic Courthouse have been tuck-pointed, and tuck-pointing work on the VAC building will also begin as weather permits. Sneed reported Illinois State Historical Society board member Jeff Dunn updated the committee on his plans to place a mural on the north wall of the Courthouse Annex building, possibly featuring a trolley car in the design. Dunn also asked the committee to work with the county on a historical marker about the county's industry and coal history to be placed on the Historic Courthouse grounds. Sneed also reported the elevator in the Historic Courthouse was back in service at noon on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and thanked all for their patience during this trying time.
2. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update:** Sneed reported the project is still awaiting the arrival of the DCEO grant agreement and funds.
3. **Repair/Replace Roof of Block Building at Highway Department Update:** Sneed reported he met with County Engineer Cody Greenwood and the Roads & Bridges Committee along with representatives from EMA and the Montgomery County Health Department on Wednesday morning, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 to walk through the block building and brown metal buildings at the new Highway Department for those buildings' possible use by EMA and MCHD. He said funding would be applied for through the second phase of the DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Program. Sneed said planning will resume after the Highway Department moves items from the building into a new storage building.
4. **Grant for County Board Room Audiovisual Upgrades Update:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Robbins reported he submitted the grant for audio/visual updates to the County Board Room to the Chief Judge's office on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, so it can be used as an emergency back-up court room. Sneed said the updates can also be used by the County Board.

5. **Ameresco - Courthouse Complex Renovation Project Update/Approval:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Robbins reported renovations are progressing and the main courtroom and jury room should be ready by Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update:** Ruppert said the Committee reviewed the report, and they anticipate the 2023 end-of-year report from Assured Partners in February.
2. **Personnel Manual Amendments Update:** Ruppert reported any amendments are pending due to a discussion needed with the State's Attorney's office.
3. **FMLA and Paid Leave for all Workers Policy Options Update:** Ruppert said Sheriff Robbins recently researched this topic with the ICRMT legal team, and he will provide an email with suggested county policy and language which will meet FMLA requirements. Ruppert also stated paid leave language needs updated and will be addressed next month. He said Sheriff Robbins also asked the committee to consider changing county policy from requiring employees to exhaust all paid leave time during an extended leave to allowing them to keep a maximum of 3-5 sick days in reserve. Ruppert stated the committee will consider making this change if it's allowable by law.
4. **Personnel Committee Member Handbook Update:** Ruppert reported the Personnel Committee handbook will be compiled and distributed after the two union contracts approved at the December board meeting are signed by the union representatives.
5. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted the monthly report was submitted to him.
6. **Animal Control Policy Update:** Ruppert reported he has been reviewing the draft policy provided to him by County Board member Jones last month, and he will meet with the Animal Control warden regarding this policy soon.
7. **MCEDC Update:** Ruppert stated a map of underserved areas the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program grant funds is under development; and MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery added the federal government is taking comments on those maps, which should be available for initial review on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update:** Ruppert said County Board Administrator Chris Daniels has been answering questions as part of the DCEO grant review process, and she is anticipating final grant agreement. Chairman Donaldson said he will appoint a committee near the end of the meeting to begin discussion on the 2024 Award phase of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant, which will focus on county infrastructure. Sheriff Robbins asked if funds to develop a law enforcement and first responder training facility could be included in the 2024 Award phase. Chairman Donaldson stated there will be a meeting with Department Heads when the Notice of Funding Opportunity comes from DCEO sometime this month to review "wish" lists for county infrastructure needs.
9. **Wind and Solar Legislation SB 1699 Update:** Ruppert said the State's Attorney's Office has been comparing new state law to the county's current ordinances, and he stated the law overrides the county ordinance. Chairman Donaldson added the State's Attorney had responded earlier that day with a few suggested revisions to the county's current ordinances.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Ritchie reported Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported to the committee she is awaiting township and MTA contracts from South Litchfield Township and Grisham-Walshville-East Fork MTA. Chairman Donaldson said he will make contact with those township leaders regarding these outstanding contracts. As of the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, deadline for recording leases, 145 were recorded out of 206; and the remaining 61 will not receive exemptions totaling an additional \$366,000 in EAV on the tax rolls. Niehaus also informed the committee because there is no zoning ordinance, the county does not require a permit before residential solar panel installation.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported \$1,333,996.84 in the Capital Improvement Fund as of the end of the past fiscal year, including \$159,068.68 in interest earned. Treasurer Lohman reported to the committee new interest rates ranging from 5.2% to 5.5 and reported a December 2023 coal royalty payment of over \$327,000. Ritchie said Auditors are on site and began work on Monday, January 8.
3. **IRS Mileage Reimbursement 2024 Increase from \$.655 to \$.67 per mile Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve increasing mileage reimbursement for 2024 from \$.655 to \$.67 per mile per IRS guidelines beginning Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, after County Board approval. All in favor, motion carried.
4. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Fillmore Consolidated and Witt Townships Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve an intergovernmental agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Fillmore Consolidated and Witt Townships. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 1-2).
5. **Bellwether contract for FY2025 Budget Preparation Update:** Ritchie reported the new contract from Bellwether for the FY2025 budget has not arrived. He anticipates no increase in the \$12,000 contract; \$6,000 would be due upon execution and the remaining \$6,000 upon budget completion. Jones asked if Bellwether also provides Human Resources services; Ritchie said he believes they do. Sheriff Robbins added an HR department would be a vital improvement for our county government services.
6. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and City of Nokomis for Police Radio and Telephone Services Approval:** Ritchie stated Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser presented dispatch contracts between Montgomery County and the cities of Litchfield and Nokomis for Dec. 1, 2023, through Nov. 30, 2026. Sheriff Rick Robbins noted increases in the contracts are from costs related to increases in employee salaries. The agreement with Nokomis is for \$25,899 the first year, \$27,193 the second year, and \$28,280 the third year. Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve intergovernmental agreement with the City of Nokomis for Police Radio and Telephone Services from December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2026. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 3-4).
7. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and City of Litchfield for Police Radio and Telephone Services Approval:** Ritchie stated the agreement with Litchfield is for \$188,376 the first year, \$197,794 the second year, and \$205,705 the third year. Young asked if monthly payments are required. Sheriff Robbins said both contracts specify monthly payments, but both municipalities often pay more than one month at a time. Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to approve intergovernmental agreement with the City of Litchfield for Police Radio and Telephone Services from December 1, 2023

through November 30, 2026. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 5-6).

8. **Circuit Clerk Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins reported he submitted the tech grant for approval on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
9. **Other Business:** Ritchie said the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service requested \$10,000 in ARPA funds for pagers required for their transition to a volunteer BLS transport service. He said this request will be on next month's Finance & Budget agenda. Ritchie said Sheriff Robbins reported to the committee his office had budgeted for one new Chevy Tahoe in Office 375 for FY2024; but because that vehicle is not available, the MCSO has instead ordered a Dodge Durango at a cost of nearly \$10,000 under budget. County Clerk Leitheiser informed the committee since the closure of the county ambulance billing office, mail is still arriving there and being distributed by the County Board Administrative office; and a County Ambulance Billing office bank account remains open. Ritchie said Treasurer Lohman will close the account after the audit has been completed, and Daniels said her office will look into solving the mail issue.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Resolution 2024-03 appropriating funds for 100% county culvert replacement on Elevator Rd. Approval:** Greenwood presented Resolution 2024-03 to the committee appropriating an estimated \$30,000 from County Aid to Bridge Fund 235 for a culvert replacement on Elevator Road. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth, to approve Resolution 2024-03 appropriating funds in the amount of \$30,000 for 100% county culvert replacement on Elevator Road. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 7-8).**
2. **Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Irving Twp N. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge replacement supplemental Engineering Agreement Update:** Murzynski reported the Supplemental Engineering Agreement has not been completed and will be on next month's agenda.
3. **City of Litchfield request to install 3" force main sewer line on PIN 10-28-100-006 in North Litchfield Twp Approval:** Greenwood presented a map to the committee and reported the City of Litchfield had requested permission to install a 3-inch force main sewer line on county property. The eight acre parcel is abandoned railroad right-of-way on the east side of the road and Litchfield would like access to serve the Illinois Department of Transportation maintenance yard. Sneed said he talked to the Litchfield City Administrator, who indicated a willingness to accept deed to the property. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Bergen to approve giving permission to the City of Litchfield to install a 3-inch force main sewer line on county property 10-28-100-006, and refer matter to the Buildings & Grounds Committee to pursue possibly transferring property to City of Litchfield. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Village of Farmersville letter of support request for railroad crossing Approval:** Murzynski reported the Village of Farmersville had requested a letter of support to request the railroad update the crossing on Mine Avenue in Farmersville to "Out of Service" status. Greenwood has no issue with doing so, and he reported the Panhandle School District is also in support. Chairman Donaldson read the proposed letter of support. Jones said the county should support the Village of Farmersville, and Young said proposed wind farms may want to use the rail spur during construction. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to approve a letter of support from the Montgomery County Board to update the Mine Avenue railroad crossing to "Out of Service." All in favor, motion carried.**

5. **Other Items:** The committee discussed the size of the proposed new equipment storage building, whether it would need sprinklers, and the construction schedule.
6. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Committee toured the white block building and brown metal buildings on highway department site. Murzynski said the committee will continue research after a new Highway Department storage building is complete.

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

**Motion by Hughes and second by Sneed to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Chairman Donaldson said he plans to schedule a Mayors Meeting for some time in February.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Donaldson announced an IDNR Public Hearing regarding the recent Deer Run Mine permit application will be held on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 in the County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois. Chairman Donaldson also reported a dinner hosted by Pattern Energy will be held on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at the Canton Inn in Schram City beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Motion by Beason and second by Sneed to appoint Doug Donaldson, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Mark Hughes, Sandy Leitheiser and Dan Hough to a DCEO Ad Hoc Committee to plan application for the 2024 Award of the DCEO Energy Transition grant. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Young and second by Bergen to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. Voting no: none. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Jones and second by Folkerts to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

## Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 5:30 PM

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The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the County Board room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 PM.

**Roll call was taken:** 12 members present, 2 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Jeremy Jones, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Mark Hughes, David Loucks

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Jeremy Jones.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve the mileage and per diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. Voting no: none. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:** Motion by Young and second by Folkerts to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Report submitted by Emily Gerl.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Report submitted; Daniel Robbins was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Report submitted; Randy Leetham was present for questions.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Report submitted; Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Report submitted; Christine Daniels was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Report submitted; Christine Daniels was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Report submitted; Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Report submitted; Cody Greenwood was present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Report submitted by Curt Watkins.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Report submitted by Phil Ernst.
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Report submitted; Banee Ulrici said her department has applied for a transportation grant which will be administered by the Montgomery County Health Department. She stated there are four individuals currently in Mental Health



Court and eight individuals currently in Drug Court. Ulrici said she anticipates four Drug Court graduates in April, 2024.

12. **Public Defender's Report** – Report submitted by Erin Mattson.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Report submitted by Julie Wollerman.
14. **Sheriff's Report** – Report submitted; Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Report submitted; Kendra Niehaus was present for questions.
16. **State's Attorney Report** – Report submitted; Andrew Affrunti was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer's Report** – Report submitted by Nikki Lohman.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Report submitted by Cassandra Hampton.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board met on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and stated surveys will be mailed to random Montgomery County residents soon asking input about 708 Board services, and Murzynski encouraged participation.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason had nothing new to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen had nothing new to report.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported a meeting is set for April.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen had nothing new to report.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes was not present.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported the board met on February 12<sup>th</sup> and is now working on a new grant application.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported the January meeting had been cancelled.
- **U of I** – Beck reported a meeting is set for March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the organization is on track and meeting its goals.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Montgomery County citizen Karyl Dressen said she is opposed to the temporary reduction in coal royalty requested by the coal mine. She said she has no sympathy for the coal company, but does have sympathy for Route 185 drivers and rural families whose homes and farms have been negatively impacted by mining.

Montgomery County citizen Bill Schroeder questioned why the county has had no weather radio service for nearly a year. He has been in contact with U.S. Rep. Mary Miller and encouraged the board to contact their U.S. Senators. Schroeder said he is also opposed to the temporary reduction in coal royalty requested by the mine, calling it the same “ploy” requested by the coal company when they filed for bankruptcy several years ago. He said the county already has items deducted from its 2% royalty paid on coal which has been already mined.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson said Watkins reported to the committee the redundant fiber is in the ground and work on that project continues. He is working on switch upgrades, MCSO body cam deployment, and Cress Hill tower fiber, plus he is working on a court grant.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval: Hazard Mitigation Final Public Meeting Update/Approval:** Donaldson called upon EMA Director Schott, who reported a public hearing on the Hazard Mitigation Plan five-year update was held Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and the two-week review and public comment period passed with no public comments. Schott stated the plan has now been submitted to FEMA for approval.
3. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. He stated the Farm Bureau is working on formal opposition to using eminent domain to locate pipelines, wind, or solar projects.
4. **Schedule an EZ Mayor’s Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reminded members the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:00 PM in the Courthouse Annex.
5. **CEFS Central Illinois Public Transportation Ordinance 2024-01 and Intergovernmental Agreement Update/Approval:** CIPT Mobility Manager Nathan Nichols reported that in 2023 6,310 “units” and 243 unduplicated riders were served, and an average of 24.5 rides was provided per day, up from the previous year. He said medical transportation began last year due to a grant administered by the Effingham County Health Department, and also stated CIPT is looking for a full-time driver in Montgomery County. **Motion by Beason and second by Bergen to approve Central Illinois Public Transportation Ordinance 2024-01 for public transportation in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Young and second by Beck to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for public transportation in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 9-11).**
6. **Montgomery County Housing Authority Annual Presentation of Services Update/Approval:** New Executive Director Amanda Bone was present for an annual update. She reported she has been with the MCHA for eight years and looks forward to continuing retired Executive Director Kelly Moroney’s mission of improving housing locations in Montgomery County. She anticipates MCHA will file for a permit to demolish and replace the 75 housing units at Kirk Terrace in Litchfield in November, 2024, with work beginning on the project in late 2025 or early 2026.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed said maintenance continues as normal, and Affrunti added the cleaning in the Montgomery County Courthouse has been “phenomenal” recently.

2. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said work will begin when work is completed in the Montgomery County Courthouse Complex, which is estimated to be by the end of the month.
3. **Tom Day copier contract for COS/Animal Control Update/Approval:** Sneed said Plunkett reported to the committee he had renegotiated the contract for COS/Animal Control copiers/printers for more annual copies to reflect actual usage and a lower click charge for overage. Sneed thanked Plunkett for his assistance to bring these costs in at a lower rate.
4. **Transfer parcel 10-28-100-006 to City of Litchfield for 3-inch force main sewer line Update/Approval:** The committee discussed a request by the City of Litchfield for permission to run a 3-inch force main sewer line on county parcel 10-28-100-006 (abandoned railroad right-of-way) north from Litchfield to the Illinois Department of Transportation facility. Permission has been given, and both Montgomery County and the City of Litchfield are interested in transferring ownership of the parcel. State’s Attorney Affrunti is preparing a Quit Claim Deed. Board member Jones, who works for the Illinois Department of Transportation, said the line is “long past due.” **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to transfer ownership of parcel 10-28-100-006 to the City of Litchfield. All in favor, motion carried.**

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **UKA Update/Approval:** Ruppert said UKA Head of Development Charles Wright told the committee by phone his company is still working with Westwood on the decommissioning plan, shadow flicker, and noise study portions of the permit application, and plans to have the application package ready by the end of the month, according to UKA Community Relations Specialist Maggie Poteau. Ruppert said Wright told the committee UKA has about 85% of its agreements in place for turbine location and is approaching 50% completion for transmission line easements. Poteau asked to schedule a pre-application meeting with County Board representatives for Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed Member Advocacy Program information.
3. **MCEDC presentation and Annual Dues Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee had asked for a presentation from MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who informed committee members of the work of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation and also introduced John Galer, who has served on the MCEDC board for 20 years. Ruppert said the committee is pleased with the current activities of the corporation. He called on Montgomery, who updated the board on the BEAD Challenge project currently underway, which will show areas in the county currently unserved and underserved by adequate internet access, making the county eligible for federal funding solutions. Montgomery encouraged residents to take the speed test at BEADchallenge.org. He also invited board members to the next MCEDC board meeting on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Kismet Coffee in Litchfield. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to pay the 2024 dues invoice of \$15,000 for MCEDC membership from Office 375 Reserve for Contingencies according to Finance & Budget Committee Recommendation. All in favor, motion carried.**

4. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl has been in contact with Partners for Pets in St. Jacob, who, due to a grant, can offer spay and neuter services for greatly reduced prices. He said Gerl will transport animals needing services to St. Jacob on Fridays, and Ruppert said the committee will approve vouchered bills as they are presented. In response to a question from Whitworth, Ruppert said he had talked to local veterinarian Dr. Alan Probst about this service. Ruppert said he has spent a morning at Animal Control and may ask the committee to consider enclosing the front overhang at the Animal Control facility. Ruppert said Animal Control volunteer Jessica Durbin reported to the committee she is working on a new 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation called RUFF (Rescuing Underdog and Feline Friends).
5. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported he and Jones have been working on the Animal Control Policy drafted in 2021. He intends to have a final draft ready for County Board review next month.
6. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Ruppert said there is nothing new to report.
7. **FMLA Revisions to Personnel Manual Update/Approval:** Ruppert reviewed language changes he had discussed with State’s Attorney Affrunti including the suggestions to allow employees to “bank” up to 40 hours of sick time instead of exhausting it all before FMLA and revisions to the vacation buy-back policy to match state law. Affrunti stated he will provide an ordinance document pertaining to this topic. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Young to adopt personnel manual revisions as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Ordinance 2024-02, see Resolution Book 21, page 12).**
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Christine Daniels reported her office responded to Illinois State Historic Resources Preservation Act and Illinois Department of Natural Resources questions about the 2023 grant, and she stated the 2024 grant Notice of Funding Opportunity was announced on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Donaldson said county grant requests are due to the County Board Administrators office on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, and an ad hoc committee meeting has been set for Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse.
9. **Add Mike Plunkett to the Coordinated Services Imprest Fund Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to remove David Jenkins from Coordinated Services Imprest Fund and add Mike Plunkett. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Electronic Recycling Drives for 2024 Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported electronic recycling drives are scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9am until 12 noon in Litchfield, and on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9am until 12 noon in Hillsboro.
11. **SB1699 and Montgomery County Solar Farm ordinance Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported he committee discussed minor revisions suggested by State’s Attorney Affrunti as required by state statute. He said the county ordinances do not apply to residential projects. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Folkerts to approve changes to the Montgomery County Solar Farm Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried. 9 (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 13-30). Motion by Ruppert and second by Beck to approve changes to the Montgomery County Wind Farm Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 31-58).**

12. **Pattern Energy Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported he and Chairman Donaldson, Folkerts and Daniels along with several other local government officials met recently with Pattern Energy representatives at The Canton Inn about potential wind projects in Montgomery County. He reported Pattern Energy representatives said they are hoping for a project which would include 120 wind towers on 25,000 acres in Montgomery County.
13. **Resolution 2024-03 of Support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau Update/Approval:** Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to approve Resolution 2024-03 in support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 59).

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed the report, and Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus had told the committee the Board of Review is acting on 89 complaints, exemption renewals have been mailed, and the county has earned a 1.0000 tentative multiplier. She also stated according to law and court decisions, portable buildings should be assessed. She recommends assessing portable buildings over 200 square feet and she has asked the State's Attorney to review this request. Niehaus also presented an assessment contract with South Litchfield Township for \$10,900 for board approval. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve the assessment contract with South Litchfield Township for \$10,900. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 60-61).**
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the committee reviewed and discussed the reports, and Ritchie reported a December coal royalty payment of \$338,116.72.
3. **Bellwether contract for FY 2025 budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the board reviewed the contract with Bellwether for FY 2025 budget work. He said the terms are the same as last year: \$6,000 in advance and another \$6,000 when the budget is approved. Ritchie said their work helped immensely last year. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve \$12,000 contract with Bellwether for FY 2025 budget preparation. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 62-64).**
4. **Request for a Temporary Coal Royalty Reduction Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Chad Fuson of Coalfield Construction LLC attended the Finance Committee meeting and requested the County Board consider cutting coal royalty payments from 2% to 1% for the next two months. Ritchie stated Fuson told the committee the mine has been negotiating for the past 2 years with landowners who are "difficult to deal with" and are "asking for an unreasonable sum" for subsidence rights. He said the same request has been made to other investors. Fuson said within the next 3 weeks the mine will have to make a decision whether or not to shut down for 2 months to move the longwall around the landowners, which would cause an interruption in royalty payments and jobs. Chairman Donaldson said he has received multiple calls in recent weeks opposed to the mine's pending permit renewal application. Jones asked if denying the request would impact jobs. Chairman Donaldson said it would impact jobs temporarily. Whitworth said because the royalty is a percentage, it does not make sense to reduce it. **Motion by**

**Ritchie and second by Young to deny the temporary coal royalty reduction request. All in favor, motion carried.**

5. **Ameresco Payment request \$434,526.27 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the board discussed the payment made to Ameresco for \$434,526.27 for work completed in the Courthouse Complex. Ritchie requested Buildings & Grounds Chairman Bob Sneed review a punch list after final invoice is received and before final invoice payment is made.
6. **Pictometry Flyover for 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Niehaus informed the committee she located a 2021 contract which stated a pictometry flyover was completed in March 2022 and a second is required in March 2025. Niehaus said the board needs to schedule the flyover in March 2024 so it can be completed in March 2025 and a contractual cost of \$109,387. Young had asked if application can be made to use DCEO Energy grant funds. County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser had pointed out to the committee the flyover is a tool needed for assessments. Treasurer Lohman had suggested to the committee adding the cost to township assessor contracts. Niehaus informed board members she has submitted an application for DCEO grant funding to pay for the flyover. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to schedule pictometry flyover for March 2025 and budget \$109,387 in FY 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, Young. Voting no: None. Motion carried.**
7. **Information on an HR consultant Discussion Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed HR services offered by Bushue and was favorable to proceeding to get further information. He said information will be forwarded to the Development & Personnel Committee and Ritchie requested the County Board Admin office also solicit other proposals. Ritchie reminded members HR is a professional service so competitive bids are not required.
8. **Revised State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor resolution Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Lohman reported to the committee the resolution passed to participate in the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor program referenced an \$8,000 fee that should have been \$9,000. The county has made the required \$9,000 payment, but the state requested the county board to update the resolution to reflect the correct \$9,000 amount. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Resolution with corrected \$9,000 fee. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 65-66).**
9. **Recycling Baler lease with DC Waste Update/Approval:** The 4-year lease to DC Waste for the recycling baler expires in March 2024, and DC Waste has indicated they are willing to renew the lease at the same \$70 per /month terms plus a recycling tote for another 4 years. Treasurer Lohman told the committee the bill from DC Waste to the county increased \$113 this month due to a new dumpster at the jail. County Board Administrator Chris Daniels told the committee her office would talk to DC Waste to resolve the matter.
10. **Elected Official Salaries Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the committee reviewed a spreadsheet of elected officials' salaries before recommending salaries for the Coroner and Circuit Clerk, required to be set 180 days before election. Treasurer Lohman told committee members the salaries need to be set by resolution. The committee requested

the County Board Admin office to research the UCCI salary study and to present findings to the Coordinating Committee.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Policy for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** Murzynski said a drainage district had requested permission to run tile under a road and cut a section. He said his committee will continue to discuss this topic and may have a contract ready for next month.
2. **Declare excess dirt at Highway Department as surplus property Update/Approval:** Murzynski said after consultation with State's Attorney Affrunti, roughly 150,000 yards of excess dirt from the hillside at the Highway Department should be declared surplus property prior to disposal. County Engineer Cody Greenwood called the dirt "clean fill" and said there has been interest, but no buyers yet. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to declare an estimated 150,000 yards of excess dirt as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **2024 Township MFT Rock Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reviewed letting results and recommended accepting low bids. **Motion by Bergen and second by Folkerts to accept low bids for 2024 Township MFT Rock Letting. All in favor, motion carried (Murzynski abstained).**
4. **2024 County MFT Rock Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reviewed letting results and recommended accepting low bids. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to accept low bids for 2024 County MFT Rock Letting. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Irving Twp N. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge replacement supplemental Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the Engineering Services Agreement. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Young to approve Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Supplemental Engineering Agreement with Chastain & Associates LLC for \$19,400 for Irving Twp. N. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge replacement. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 67-75).**
6. **Resolution 2024-04 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave., Irving Twp. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Young to approve Resolution 2024-04 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave. in Irving Township with county portion estimate of \$10,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 76-77).**
7. **Section No. 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Twp. Wonder Trail Land Acquisition Services Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the land acquisition service agreement. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve Section No. 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township Wonder Trail Land Acquisition Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services for \$13,550. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 78-92).**
8. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood informed the committee Hurst-Rosche is working on a cost study to upgrade 12.5 miles of Nokomis Road, between Nokomis and Fillmore, to 80,000 pounds.

9. **New state legislation regarding Bike Trail Signage Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee discussed new state legislation requiring signs on recreation trails along cross roads. The county-owned Green Diamond Trail between Waggoner and Farmersville crosses two township roads. Engineer Greenwood will order the signs and estimated between \$500 and \$600 in material cost.
10. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said he is working on specs in cooperation with Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairman Bob Sneed. The goal is to advertise for bids and have the deadline in time for bid opening at next month's Roads & Bridges Committee meeting.
11. **Other Business:** Young inquired about requests he has received to place striping lines to better mark the curve area of the Nokomis/Fillmore Road. Greenwood said he will check to see if this can be accomplished.

**APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:** Motion by Beason and second by Folkerts to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

1. **MCSO Telecommunicator Division Award:** Chairman Donaldson announced the Telecommunicator Division of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was nominated an Illinois Sheriffs' Association 2023 Award of Merit for their handling of a multi-vehicle accident on Interstate 55. Undersheriff Holshouser congratulated the department, and EMA Director Kevin Schott described their exemplary performance before a round of applause acknowledged the achievement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **DCEO Energy Transition Meeting:** Donaldson said grant requests are due by Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM, and Ad Hoc committee meeting is on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 PM in the County Board Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
2. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Meeting:** Donaldson said the committee will meet on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
3. **EZ Mayor's Meeting:** Donaldson said the meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM at the Courthouse Annex in Hillsboro.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Motion by Young and second by Beason to appoint Mike Plunkett and Ed Boyd as Certified Open Meetings Act Officers. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Motion by Beck and second by Folkerts to re-appoint Kent Sorrells and Joe Chappelle to 3-year terms on Raymond Township Drainage Dist. #1. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Motion by Jones and second by Beck to appoint Garrett Fuchs to 3-year term on Raymond Township Drainage Dist. #1. All in favor, motion carried.



4. **Motion by Young and second by Bergen to appoint Todd Knodle, Kevin Harst, Cheryl Short, Keith Casey, and Shane Davidson to Fillmore Fire Protection District. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL: Motion by Ritchie and second by Beason to pay all approved bills and Payroll. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, Young. Voting no: None. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Murzynski and second by Beck to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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For Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Bill Bergen

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag:** was led by County Board Member David Loucks.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:**

**Motion by Hughes, second by Folkerts to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. Voting no: none. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Beck, second by Whitworth to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.

11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Young and second by Beason to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski said the board reviewed quarterly reports at its Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason had nothing new to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen was not present.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth said the board meets next month.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen was not present.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes said the board heard a presentation at their February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting from historian Tom Emery about Lincoln in Montgomery County.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts said the board will meet on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert said the organization has recently shared communications about webinars.
- **U of I** – Beck had nothing new to report.
- **WCDC** – Jones had nothing new to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Citizen Larry Miller asked the board to reconsider its 6-month euthanasia policy for animals at Animal Control and asked to extend that time to one year. He said older dogs take longer to adopt.
2. Citizen John Galer, owner of The Journal-News and The Raymond News in Montgomery County as well as several publications in Macoupin County, spoke in favor of public notices in newspapers. Active in the Illinois Press Association and the National Newspaper Association, Galer said public notices are frequently under assault, and Illinois HB4512 targets assessment notices. He pointed out the publication of assessment notices is part of public policy and procedure; the date of publication starts the 30-day window for complaints to be filed and is meant to aid transparency. He said the rate for publication is set by legislation and is less than half his newspapers’ ad rate.
3. Citizen Bill Schroeder updated the board on his ongoing efforts to get weather radio service back in Montgomery County. He has repeatedly contacted the offices of U.S. Rep. Mary Miller and U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who both reported the 60-90-day

process is in the hands of the NOAA. He urged the board and public to contact elected officials and encourage expediency.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

**National Agriculture Day Resolution 2024-04 Update/Approval:** The resolution noting the contributions of the Ag industry and community was read by Chairman Donaldson. **Motion by Young and second by Beason to adopt Resolution 2024-04 recognizing March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as National Agriculture Day. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 93).**

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated Information Systems Director Curt Watkins reported 81 work tickets in January. He also shared the Cress Hill fiber project is complete, the redundant fiber loop is almost complete, and the court grant was approved. He is updating switches, dealing with issues on the new website, and is close to being able to train offices on updating their portions of the website. Donaldson said Watkins noted an up-tick in phishing emails and discussed with the committee the need for security camera record procedures, and storage space.
2. **Hazards Mitigation Plan Resolution 2024-05 Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the Hazards Mitigation plan is finished and available for inspection. EMA Director Kevin Schott informed the board his office has been developing a plan to deal with potential heavy traffic for the April eclipse that will attract visitors to Carbondale. **Motion by Beck and second by Folkerts to pass Resolution 2024-05 adopting the Montgomery County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 94).**
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the council met on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and will next meet on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and is progressing toward its goals.
4. **DCEO Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the committee reviewed a spreadsheet detailing department requests for Round 2. The deadline for Phase 1 of the application process is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and Chairman Donaldson reported the county's Phase 1 of the application has been submitted. He also noted the county was informed earlier in the day the grant agreement had been executed on the Round 1 of grant projects.
5. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Donaldson said EMA Director Kevin Schott presented a list of assets needed to respond to any potential future CO2 Sequestration projects at a meeting held on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He said the next meeting is set for Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Donaldson added the County Board Coordinators Office had spoken to Dan Brennan of the IDNR department that permitted the Navigator CO2 test well in Montgomery County, (the Department of Oil & Gas) on Tuesday afternoon, March 12th. He stated Brennan said Navigator has responded to IDNR well inspectors, and the well status is "under administrative review to ensure everyone is safe and the well is in compliance with regulations."
6. **Mayor's Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported Mayors were generally positive about the two animal control contract options, with one based on a per capita cost and the other based on a per call cost. He said new state regulations expanded

the county Enterprise Zone from 15 to 20 square miles, and the next Mayors' meeting was set for Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

7. **Illegal Immigrant Resolution 2024-06 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read Resolution 2024-06. **Motion by Jones and second by Ruppert to adopt Resolution 2024-06 declaring Montgomery County will not spend local tax dollars on the immigration crisis for migrants and asylum seekers entering Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 95-96).**
8. **List of Annual and Multi-Year County Board Action Items Update/Approval:** A spreadsheet of annual action and multi-year action items required by the board was included in county board packets.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed said Maintenance Superintendent Phil Ernst reviewed the 38 items on his monthly report, which was in the county board packet.
2. **Historic Courthouse Chimney Liner Bid Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed a bid from Klein's Chimney Service of Springfield for \$12,720 to install a 70-foot stainless steel liner in the Historic Courthouse chimney, where condensation moisture is damaging brick and has caused a wet spot that continues to grow. **Motion by Sneed and second by Hughes to award a bid for \$12,720 to Klein's Chimney Service to install chimney liner. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported work funded through the DCEO Energy Transition Grant will begin when work in the Courthouse Complex is complete. County Clerk Leitheiser thanked the board for their support.
4. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said the tech grant has been approved, and Thompson Electronics Company was on site on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, for a pre-construction walk-through.
5. **Former Montgomery County Highway Department Lots (East Side of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed said the Montgomery County Highway Department has completed lot work on three lots at their former site on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro. The county has been in touch with the Hillsboro School District to see if there is any interest in using the lots as a potential high school building trades project site. The County Board Coordinators office has invited the school district to next month's committee meeting to discuss interest.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the HRA Usage Per Fund report was included in packet.
2. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the county has applied for DCEO Energy Transition Grant funding for 3 requested updates at the facility and will wait to see if they are approved before proceeding.
3. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the Enterprise Zone mayors meeting was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and mayors were presented with a choice of contract structures, one based on a per capita charge and the

other based on a per call charge. He said the committee will review data and come up with a per capita charge recommendation.

4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the policy remains under review and will be shared with municipalities when ready.
5. **HR Consultant Proposal Update/Approval:** Ruppert said County Board Coordinators' office staff met with Ben Harmening and Kevin Madeira of ICRMT earlier that day regarding HR services offered by ICRMT included in insurance premiums. County Treasurer Nikki Lohman and Trish Roemelin from her office were present for the meeting. ICRMT detailed their HR advisory services and extensive training catalog, and offered to meet with department heads to explain services included in county insurance premiums. The County Board Coordinators office staff will set up a department head meeting with ICRMT, as well as invite Bushue to a future committee meeting.
6. **Drainage District Concerns About Solar/Wind Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Ryan Green and Quint Shambaugh of Pinion Advisory, the consultant from Moweaqua developing the UKA permit application drainage plan, were present virtually. Shambaugh said a local contractor will be on-site during construction with the goal of fixing "every single tile" damaged within 24 hours.
7. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Charles Wright of UKA reported he and Maggie Poteau had meetings with the County Board Coordinators office, as well as Jeremy Connor from Hurst-Rosche. Both Wright and Poteau were present, and Wright said UKA is refining and reviewing standards and will submit a permit application soon.
8. **Review Spreadsheet & Map of Wind and Solar Projects Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported County Board Coordinators office developed a spreadsheet of contacts planning solar and wind projects throughout the county and displayed a framed map with project locations built by Kevin Brink in the county GIS office.
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Status Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Chairman Donaldson signed the DCEO Energy Transition Grant Agreement last week, and the grant process is moving forward.
10. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated as part of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant, the county has been awarded \$182,935 for Small Business Start-Up Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 depending upon the number of employees. The committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Small Biz Grant Application. Ruppert said the county will work with MCEDC in implementing the grant. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve the county Small Biz Grant Application. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Tourism Grant Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee reviewed the application for this year's county Tourism Grant, which can be completed on-line on the county's website. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve the county Tourism Grant Application. All in favor, motion carried.**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Supervisor Kendra Niehaus said her office should have a contract with Grisham-Walshville-East Fork Multi-township Assessment



District ready for approval next month. Her office is roughly one week ahead of last year's tax schedule, and 444 Board of Review tentative notices were mailed on March 6<sup>th</sup>. She is working with the State's Attorney to clarify whether 3 landlords should be getting Disabled Veteran Exemptions.

2. **Resolution of Support for Illinois HB 4512 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Supervisor of Assessments also asked the board to approve a resolution of support for Illinois HB4512, which would give counties the option to publish assessments either by newspaper or county website. Niehaus said in a typical year, publishing assessment changes is just under \$4,400, but in a quad year on average, just under \$22,000. Chairman Donaldson read the resolution and noted passage of HB 4512 would save the county money, but much of the county does not have adequate internet access to find information on the website. Whitworth said having a published record of legal notices is crucial, and advised it is not appropriate for the county board to take a stand. State's Attorney Affrunti said the bill would give the county an option to publish assessment notices on its website, but not mandate it. Hughes pointed out the resolution of support for HB 4512 was not recommended by the Finance & Budget Committee. Ritchie said many county residents, including he and his mother, use the newspaper as a source of information instead of websites. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve a Resolution of Support for Illinois HB4512. ROLL CALL: Voting in favor, none. Voting against: Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, and Young. Motion failed 0-13.**
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the board reviewed reports submitted by County Treasurer Nikki Lohman, noting a coal royalty payment of \$268,795.04 for January, and a January 31<sup>st</sup> Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$1,534,032.92.
4. **Coroner and Circuit Clerk Elected Official Salary Resolution 2024-07 Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed and discussed a spreadsheet of county elected official salaries dating back to 1990. The salaries for Coroner and Circuit Clerk must be set at least 180 days before the General Election. The consensus of the committee was to keep continuity in salaries for elected officials. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve Resolution 2024-07 setting salaries for the Coroner and Circuit Clerk beginning in FY 2025 with \$2,200 increases per year over a four-year term. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 21, pages 97-98).**
5. **DC Waste Recycling Baler Lease Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed a proposed recycling baler lease renewal with DC Waste. The proposed new lease would be for 2 years with lessee options for third and fourth years. The remaining terms would be the same as the previous 4-year lease: a \$700 per month payment plus one no-charge 65-gallon recycling tote for county uses. Since the committee meeting, Chairman Donaldson has inspected the current condition of the baler, and DC Waste has provided proof of insurance. In response to a question from Ruppert, Donaldson said DC Waste has no interest in owning the baler, and at the end of two years of the proposed lease agreement, the lease payments will have surpassed the purchase price of the baler by \$10,000. Young said he believes the county should sell the baler to avoid future problems. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve a two-year lease agreement with options for years three and four with DC Waste for recycling baler. On a voice vote, Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks,**

Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Whitworth voted in favor; Young voted against. Motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 99-103).

6. **Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed ambulance agreements with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service and Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. Agreements with Farmersville-Waggoner and Raymond-Harvel have yet to be returned. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve the agreement with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 104-106).**
7. **Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service had been tabled by the committee pending review of the levy totals, which has since been accomplished, and State's Attorney Affrunti advised the county board could proceed with the agreement. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve the agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 107-109).**
8. **\$10,000 ARPA Ordinance for Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Pagers Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Ruppert to approve an Ordinance to reimburse the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service \$10,000 from ARPA funds for pagers. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 110- this ARPA Ordinance was later found to be a duplicate of a prior ARPA Ordinance passed by the County Board in July, 2023).**

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Wind Farm information from UKA Update/Approval:** Murzynski referred board members to a packet on their desks from a presentation about the Virden Wind project. He said the committee discussed the project and road usage with UKA. Hughes asked how roads will be protected, and County Engineer Greenwood said through a road use agreement yet to be negotiated.
2. **Specifications for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** Murzynski said County Engineer Cody Greenwood is working on specs to be used on a case-by-case basis.
3. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Murzynski said County Engineer Cody Greenwood is working on an engineering agreement for a cost study.
4. **Resolution 2024-05 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Witt Ave. Update/Approval:** **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ruppert to approve Resolution 2024-05 for an estimated \$12,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on Witt Avenue. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 111-112).**
5. **Resolution 2024-06 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on New Bethel Ave. Update/Approval:** **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 2024-06 for an estimated \$8,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on New Bethel Avenue. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 113-114).**



6. **Resolution 2024-07 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Young to approve Resolution 2024-07 for an estimated \$8,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on Fillmore Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 115-116).
7. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Murzynski said County Engineer Cody Greenwood drafted specs, sent them to Chad Ruppert and Bob Sneed for comments, and will incorporate those comments into the specs, then advertise for bids. The first ad has appeared in the newspaper, and bid opening will be at Buildings & Grounds Committee.
8. **Former Highway Department lots Update/Approval:** Murzynski said work is complete on three former Highway Department lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro, and the Buildings & Grounds Committee will inquire if the Hillsboro School District has any interest in them for possible Building Trades Class home sites.
9. **Purchase of Caterpillar Model CW16 Pneumatic Compactor:** Murzynski said County Engineer Greenwood said the rubber wheels on the compactor make it a better option to roll over oil-and-chip roads. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to approve an invoice to Altorfer, Inc., for \$139,265.00 from Coal Fund 375 for a Caterpillar Model CW16 Pneumatic Compactor. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting in favor: Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, and Young. Voting against: None. Motion carried 13-0.**

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

Motion by Beck and second by Young to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to enter Executive Session to discuss pending, probable or imminent litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11) at 6:45 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Whitworth and second by Ritchie to re-enter Open Session at 6:57 pm. All in favor, motion carried. No action was taken.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Primary Election Day:** Chairman Donaldson reminded members polls will be open from 6 am to 7 pm on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for the General Primary Election. County Clerk Leitheiser said early voting turnout has been light so far, and also encouraged all to vote.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to pay all approved bills and payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting in favor: Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, and Young. Voting against: None. Motion carried 13-0.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Murzynski, second by Beck to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**For Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024.

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

**Roll call:** 13 members present, 1 member absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Patty Whitworth

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Ethan Murzynski.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:**

**Motion by Loucks and second by Murzynski to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Young. Voting no were none. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, added her office is preparing for annual abatements.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, and added inspections at the landfill and other sites are on the schedule.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted.

12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, and encouraged residents to download the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office app on their smartphones. He also informed members about a DeKalb County deputy who was recently killed in the line of duty by a DUI driver, and the DUI defendant was released from jail after only two days.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, and added the final Property Tax abstract for 2023 payable 2024 should be completed by her office soon.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted, was present for questions.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Beck and second by Sneed to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski had nothing new to report.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason reported CEFS is looking for another grant agent.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported after the “financial crunch” of recent years, 911 is in good financial standing.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth was not present.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen reported a conference is scheduled for May 15th-17th in Springfield.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes reported the corporation will meet April 18th.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported the board is working on a survey of county seniors.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported a legislative conference is scheduled for the current week.
- **U of I** – Beck introduced U of I representative Sara Marten, who invited county board members to an upcoming “Taste of Extension” event.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the board is “hitting all its numbers” so far.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Citizen Bill Schroeder shared a letter sent to him from Sen. Tammy Duckworth’s office regarding the relocation of a weather radio tower in Montgomery County. He encouraged residents to call her office in support of reinstating our county weather radio tower, and asked county board members to also consider sending her a letter to encourage expedient action. He also referenced current state legislation regarding a CO2 sequestration moratorium and questioned why the board had taken no further action on zoning.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated Information Services Director Curtis Watkins reported Consolidated Communications is finished with their work on the fiber redundant loop and his office is now installing equipment.

Watkins is also purchasing equipment for the court grant; we bought 36 PCs for county office replacements, and is working on a plan to update the county phone system.

2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson deferred to EMA Director Kevin Schott, who reported Dan Hough and Mark Lewis accompanied him recently to a National Weather Service regional meeting in Hannibal, MO, where the service reported they have now identified two potential towers for weather radio sites in Montgomery County.
3. **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the grant period is now open; and the deadline to submit a pre-application is Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated the next meeting will be held April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
5. **DCEO Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the pre-application has been submitted, and a meeting date will be set when funding is approved. Donaldson also reported Project Third Day recently purchased a building in Raymond.
6. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the committee is considering revisions to the current 7-page monthly report and will review the quarterly report submitted to the Health Department Board as a comparison.
7. **Neece Cemetery Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the Coordinating Committee discussed this issue and referred it to the Finance & Budget Committee. He thanked County Board member Ken Folkerts, who researched this need and provided documentation regarding any easements.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed and discussed HRA usage for March, which was \$3,500 for a total of \$28,858 so far for FY 2024.
2. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Warden Emily Gerl shared monthly statistics with the committee. He said updates at the facility are pending DCEO Energy Transition Round 2 Grant approval.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee continues to discuss possible per capita charges for municipal contracts for Animal Control hours (9-5:30 M-F) and a per-call rate after hours. He said the committee is working toward having a municipal contract and policy updates ready for the May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Mayors meeting.
4. **HR Consultant Presentation from Travis Bushue Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Bushue representative Travis Bushue attended the committee meeting and told the committee his company is a human resources and risk management consultant firm based in Effingham, Illinois. Ruppert stated he described services and answered questions from committee members and department heads. He said their annual fee is based on the number of county employees, and the agreement does not limit the number of calls. Young questioned where the initial payment would be made since this expense wasn't budgeted, and Ritchie responded it will be paid from the \$100,000 coal contingency line item. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve a three-year agreement**

beginning April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with Bushue HR for \$9,480 for year one, \$9,600 for year two, and \$9,720 for year three. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 117-118).

5. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert said UKA applied for a permit for the Virden Wind Project on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and according to state law and county ordinance, a public hearing must be scheduled within 60 days. UKA Representatives Charles Wilson and Maggie Poteau were present at the meeting, and State's Attorney Affrunti said he is working with an attorney who may potentially serve as our hearing officer attorney.
6. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Virden Wind Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee discussed an engineering proposal from Hurst-Rosche representative Jeremy Connor to review the Virden Wind Project for compliance. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve a proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the Virden Wind Project for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 to be reimbursed by the petitioner. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 119-120).**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert said DCEO requires agreements be made between the county and sub-recipients for the Energy Transition Grants they receive. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Young to approve of sub-recipient agreements with Lincoln Land Community College, the City of Hillsboro, East Fork Township, and the Hillsboro Area Public Library District. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 121-128).**
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Grants Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee discussed opportunities to share information about Small Business Start-Up Incentive grants with MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery and Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell. They also plan to promote the grants at the upcoming May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Mayors meeting.
9. **Tourism Grant Application Review/Award Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed and discussed the 11 Tourism Grant applications totaling \$9,825. He pointed out the budget this fiscal year is \$10,000, so all applicants will be funded. Applicants and amounts requested are Hell's Burrow Haunted Attraction (\$1,000), Historic Red Rooster 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Party (\$1,000), Historical Society of Montgomery County Looking for Lincoln site tour (\$975), Raymond Celebration (\$1,000), Coffeen Fall Fest (\$1,000), DAR Trivia Night Scholarship Fundraiser (\$1,000), Historical Society of Montgomery County "A Pickin' & A Lickin'" and Ulysses S. Grant (\$850), Litchfield Pickers Market (\$1,000), Imagine Hillsboro Cardboard Boat Regatta (\$400), Old Settlers Concerts (\$600), and Farmersville Irish Days (\$1,000). **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to approve Tourism Grant funding for all 11 applicants. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee will wait until it can discuss potential updates with Bushue HR.
11. **Reparation Payment for Sheep Killed by Dog Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee continues to negotiate with the sheep owner.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee opened bids with base bid amounts ranging from \$110,604 to \$185,500 for a new roof on the future EMA building. The committee and County Engineer Cody Greenwood are reviewing these bids until next month.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Maintenance Director Phil Ernst highlighted many of the 46 items on his monthly report, and he noted Klein Chimney will be on site soon to install a new chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse. He said the maintenance department worked with Dan Heise Plumbing on the Good Friday holiday to install 9 new water shut-off valves at the New Courthouse, and stated new compressors will be installed soon as well.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed said the county is possibly interested in transferring three former Highway Department lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro to the Hillsboro School District for their future building trades' class sites. Hillsboro Superintendent David Powell attended the committee meeting and said the school district is interested. Sneed said the county incurred costs totaling \$14,308 to prepare the lots, according to County Highway Engineer Greenwood. Sneed said Powell told the committee he will take their proposal to the Hillsboro School Board for their consideration.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed and discussed photos of a proposed coal historical marker for the Historic Courthouse grounds and a wall mural for the north side of the Courthouse Annex. He said local historian and artist Jeff Dunn will be at the May committee meeting to discuss these projects further. Sneed said these projects should also be coordinated with the City of Hillsboro.
5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said the DCEO Energy Transition Grant funding has been approved, and the start of work is pending the contractor's schedule. County Clerk Leitheiser reported the contractor will be measuring the space by the end of this week.
6. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins reported he recently made the 50% payment required by the contract, and equipment has been ordered.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee spent an hour in discussion with WHKS, the firm working on the preliminary engineering phase of a potential Walshville bypass. He said Engineer Greenwood recommended Alternate 4A, a bypass along the south and east sides of Walshville, and the committee agreed with Greenwood's recommendation. He said WHKS will now begin working on a Project Development Report which will include public comment.
2. **2024 Township MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the township MFT oil letting. He said low bids were received from both Louis Marsch of Morrisonville and Litchfield Bituminous of Hillsboro. Engineer Cody Greenwood noted on average, bid prices are five cents more than last

year. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve township MFT low bids from Louis Marsch, Inc. of Morrisonville and Litchfield Bituminous Corp. of Hillsboro. All those voting, voted in favor, motion carried. (Murzynski abstained.)**

3. **2024 County MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the lone bid submitted by Louis Marsch of Morrisonville. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to approve the county MFT low bid from Louis Marsch, Inc. of Morrisonville. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Waggoner Ave. Precast Box Culvert Letting Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the lone bid submitted by McCann Concrete Products of Dorsey for a 12' x 3' precast concrete box culvert and end sections. Engineer Cody Greenwood said the funding for the project is in the FY 2024 budget in the County Aid to Bridge Fund. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Beck to recommend approval of the low bid of \$61,525 from McCann Concrete Products of Dorsey for a precast concrete box culvert for Waggoner Avenue. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Specifications for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** Murzynski stated County Engineer Cody Greenwood continues to work on specifications to be used in deciding requests on a case-by-case basis.
6. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Murzynski said Hurst-Rosche continues to work on an engineering study based on work begun in 2007.
7. **Surplus Equipment for sale Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the City of Nokomis recently approached the Highway Department with an interest in purchasing a single-axle truck. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ritchie to declare a 1992 International 4900 truck as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported the tax cycle had been a week behind last year's schedule and is now three days ahead. He said her office has inspected over 200 structures which have now been either added or removed.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie said this month's reports show \$1,603,808.28 in the Capital Improvement Fund after a coal royalty payment of \$60,838.80 in February, 2024. Treasurer Nikki Lohman stated in the first quarter of the fiscal year \$112,860.56 in interest has been added to the Capital Improvement Fund.
3. **Bellwether Quarterly Budget Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Bellwether provided their first quarterly budget report for General Fund revenue and expenses, and one quarter into the fiscal year, the county has spent less than a quarter of budgeted expenses. He said the committee noted some inconsistencies in the way Bellwether reported, and Treasurer Lohman said she would bring this concern to Bellwether's attention.



4. **Sale of Delinquent Mobile Homes Resolution Update/Approval:** Ritchie said there is no need for an update to the contract with Joseph E. Meyer & Associates to allow an annual tax sale of delinquent mobile homes instead of recording liens on them because language to allow the County Trustee to handle the sale of delinquent mobile homes is already included in the contract. Ritchie also stated the County Board approved selling delinquent mobile homes through the trustee in 2021.
5. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed returned signed contracts with Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance and Raymond-Harvel Ambulance. He said contracts with Hillsboro Ambulance and Nokomis-Witt Ambulance were approved last month. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve the contract with the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 129-131). Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the contract with Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 132-134).**
6. **Baler Lease Payment Disposition (Coal or General Fund) Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated recycling baler lease payments totaling \$40,500 (according to 2018 minutes) from DC Waste have gone into the Coal Fund to repay that fund for the purchase of the baler throughout the prior contract. He said the Coal Fund has been repaid \$33,600 as a result of receiving the first 48 payments. Ritchie stated the current lease agreement is for two years followed by two years of providing DC Waste other options. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones for baler lease payments to continue to repay the Coal Fund for another year and then be re-assessed. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said according to minutes from the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, County Board meeting, the Montgomery County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plans contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. He said the grant agreement has been received, but unfortunately did not include the Waggoner project. County Coordinators recently reached out to DCEO to determine if the error is correctible.
8. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed and discussed a letter from a resident about abandoned Neece Cemetery located near the intersection of Oconee Avenue and E. 28<sup>th</sup> Road in Audubon Township. He said the letter asked for county assistance with clean-up and access to the cemetery. Ritchie said County Board member Folkerts reported recent response from Audubon township to resolve the access issue.
9. **University of Illinois Extension Agreement:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed the annual agreement with University of Illinois Extension Service for \$157,000 for the state fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to approve the annual agreement with University of Illinois Extension Service for \$157,000 for the 12 months beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**

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

**Motion by Beck and second by Sneed to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**BLH Electronics Recycling:** Chairman Donaldson stated the next Electronics Recycling Drive will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon at the former Litchfield Recycling Building located at Illinois & Ryder in Litchfield, Illinois.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- 1. Appointment of Christine Daniels as a Certified Open Meetings Act Officer:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Beason to appoint Christine Daniels as a Certified Open Meetings Act Officer. All in favor, motion carried.
- 2. Appointment of Tricia Maulding to the Community Mental Health Board:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to appoint Tricia Maulding to the Community Mental Health Board. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Ritchie and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:21 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.**

## Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**For Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 14 members present, 0 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young.

**Members Absent:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Sheriff Rick Robbins** in honor of National Correctional Officers Week held from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Mileage and Per Diem Approval:**

**Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Beck and second by Sneed to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee was present for questions and discussed the future format of his monthly report.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.

11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted. Ulrici was present and stated four individuals graduated from Drug Court last week, and her office is awaiting final certification for Mental Health Court.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, no report submitted.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted. Affrunti was present and added his office obtained a conviction in a recent homicide trial, and he thanked the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted. Lohman was present and added property tax bills will be mailed by the end of the month.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board had met on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and deferred to Chairman Dan Hough who noted the application period for 708 funding opened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and continues through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Hough also asked residents to watch for and participate in an upcoming needs assessment survey soon.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason reported the fiscal agent for CIPT may change from Shelby County.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported the board meets Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported the Health Department is preparing to open their new Litchfield site.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen reported he will be at a meeting in Springfield on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes reported the board met on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and set the annual meeting date for Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the SCI Center in Litchfield.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts offered condolences to the family of Chairman Gene Knisley who passed on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert said the next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **U of I** – Beck said the next meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the committee has several decisions to make at its upcoming May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Citizen Dionne Manzer presented each board member with a map of the proposed North Sun solar project and its proximity to her and her husband’s residence. She expressed concerns about the project timeline and the county’s loss of local control. Manzer encouraged board members to review the application process and asked the County Board to research options to slow the process down.

Raymond Village President Dennis Held asked board members to reconsider expending ARPA funds for a previously requested village mapping system.

Citizen Phil Hampton thanked the board for agreeing to include the Waggoner ball field project with ADA-compliant restrooms in its DCEO Energy Transition Grant and asked the board to remain committed to funding.

Taylor Springs Village Trustee Sheri Reynolds was present with Village President Harry Jackson and asked the board to reconsider expending ARPA funds for back-up generators. She relayed generators not only power warming centers when needed, but also supply back-up power for village lift stations. Reynolds warned without generators, when power is out and lift stations fail, there is flooding and potential environmental issues.

Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty requested the board reconsider ARPA funding to replace a 20-year-old lake boat. He introduced Lake Superintendent Heather Bell, who shared she had to use a private boat for several lake rescues during the past week.

Citizen Bill Schroeder asked the board to consider capping the number of total county acres used to provide wind and solar power. He also requested the board to look into the Grain Belt Transmission Corridor which could place high-voltage transmission lines across Montgomery County. He referenced a comment period concerning the Grain Belt Transmission Corridor extending through June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

- 1. National Correctional Officers Week May 5-11 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson noted the first full week of May has been recognized as National Correctional Officers Week since 1984. He said this is an important opportunity to give thanks and acknowledge the courage and heroism it takes to work as a Correctional Officer. Chairman Donaldson also noted National Telecommunicators Week was April 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, and thanked them for their service as well. The board and audience applauded the efforts of both.
- 2. Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported work on the redundant fiber ring continues, and he stated this work will require short internet outages during the process. He said cameras funded by the recent court grant are currently being installed, and the Information Systems office is also working on annual PC replacement and reviewing recent election and 911 cyber-security assessments.
- 3. EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA Director Kevin Schott pointed out the deadline for Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant pre-applications is May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. EMA Assistant Dan Hough reported about a weather radio tower discussion with the National Weather Service at a conference last month. He said the National Weather Service is reviewing two potential tower sites scheduled to serve Montgomery, Bond, and Fayette counties. Hough also said he recently spoke with coal mine officials on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and they indicated they have hired a seismic team who will analyze Illinois Route 185 in the coming week, develop a remediation plan, and provide the plan to the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- 4. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reviewed a report about high unemployment in Montgomery County which referenced our increased aging population not working and a shrinking younger population within our county.

5. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the committee was satisfied with the new report format, but the 708 Board would like to continue to see mental health statistics. Administrator Hugh Satterlee said he will report whatever information the board finds useful, and Chairman Donaldson directed Satterlee and Hough to work together on the new report format.
6. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has been following pending pipeline legislation, SB3930 and HB5814. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss both at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
7. **EZ Mayors Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson will meet with county mayors at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to review proposed contracts for Animal Control along with other potential agenda items.
8. **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. **Motion by Sneed and second by Whitworth to designate the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried.** Donaldson presented the signed proclamation to members of Cross Over Ministries, paused for a group photo, and all applauded the group's work. Sheriff Robbins reported the Montgomery County Health Department Board of Directors has recently approved funding for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to hire a new deputy with mental health training to better accommodate those with mental health issues. **(For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 137).**

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted HRA usage was \$7,000 for the month of April for a total of \$35,858 spent for the first five months of the fiscal year.
2. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert said warmer weather has resulted in more dog bite cases in the last two weeks, and a Giardia outbreak has killed three dogs in the past two weeks. Ruppert reported the committee reviewed a proposed municipal contract for \$2.50 per capita during business hours and \$250 per call after hours, and spells out the names and positions of those whom municipalities would allow to authorize Animal Control calls. Eight municipalities have signed our current contract, which will be in effect for them through November 2025. Ruppert stated if approved, Chairman Donaldson will present the proposed contract to mayors at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th. Donaldson said at the last mayors' meeting, the discussion had centered on a \$2 per capita charge. Board Member Whitworth asked about the total difference in revenue between the two amounts, and Ruppert responded about \$15,000 per year. He added the actual cost to run Animal Control is about \$5 per capita, and added if the proposed municipal contracts are signed; the increased revenue would cover adding the cost of an employee. Whitworth pointed out Animal Control is a tax-funded county service not intended for self-supporting status, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti added the proposed municipal contracts cover services not normally provided by county government. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the**

**revised Municipal Contract for Animal Control Services. Voice Vote was held. Motion carried, Donaldson voted no.**

3. **Bushue Update/Approval:** Ruppert said during a “fact-finding” meeting with Travis Bushue on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the HR consultant was familiarized with county procedures and was presented with a copy of union contracts and the county personnel manual. He said a regular monthly meeting will be established and emergency contact information will be furnished to department heads.
4. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported UKA has been talking to individuals who identified concerns with specific turbine locations at the recent hearings held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. He said the recessed hearing will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
5. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Solar Applications Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee recommended proposals from Hurst-Rosche to review solar permit applications from North Sun LLC and Plains Solar LLC for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 each. The public hearing for the North Sun project has been set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse, and the public hearing for the Plains Solar project has been set for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the North Sun LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 138). Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the Plains Solar LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 139).**
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted sub-recipient Lincoln Land Community College requested an extension for expending grant funds. The request was forwarded to DCEO and will be reviewed closer to the June 2025 grant deadline. Sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries are ready for approval. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 140-143).**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported recent requests for grant applications. Information about the grant will also be provided at the mayors’ meeting on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Ruppert acknowledged Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who invited board members to a “Let’s Talk Tourism” event hosted by MCEDC and Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at The Abbey on Board in Hillsboro.

Chairman Donaldson reminded members three public hearings remain scheduled: the Virden Wind project public hearing has been recessed until 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024; the North Sun 22c solar project public hearing has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024; and the Plains Solar project public hearing has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reminded members a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse is scheduled to be installed on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He said the committee accepted a proposal from Altorfer to upgrade the maintenance agreement on a D60GC generator to “Platinum” level for an extra \$550 for five years.
2. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed and discussed an incentive from Schindler Elevator to renew the county’s current elevator service contract and voted to reject the proposal.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee has heard nothing further from the Hillsboro School District regarding lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro for a potential future building trades site.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed noted Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society attended the committee meeting and reported the University of Illinois has agreed to pay the entire estimated \$4,800 cost for a coal historical marker on the Historic Courthouse lawn. He said the text for the marker must be submitted by mid-June, and Dunn anticipates a Spring 2025 dedication ceremony with receptions before and after the event.
5. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Sneed said since the contractor did a good job tuck-pointing the north wall on the Annex Building, paint for a proposed mural can now be applied directly to the brick. He said the new mortar should be given plenty of time to cure, and Sneed anticipates artists will begin work in Spring 2025.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Engineer Greenwood had checked references for the apparent low bidder, Central Roofing of Mattoon, after the bid opening last month for a new roof on the block building at the Highway Department. He said the contractor was highly recommended and the bid appears to be fair. **Motion by Sneed and second by Murzinski to award the low base bid of \$110,604 to Central Roofing LLC of Mattoon for replacing the block building roof at the Highway Department. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said he met with County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Ameresco representatives, and other county employees for a pre-construction meeting on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He said work in the County Clerk’s office should begin in July and be completed well before early voting begins.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins reported equipment has been ordered and another walk-through has been re-scheduled for 3 p.m. May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
9. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the committee discussed the disposition of a replaced generator at the Montgomery County Jail, according to Sneed. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to declare generator model number 30DLG L33658E as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.** Sneed said the surplus generator will be sold by bid.



- 10. Courthouse Complex Roof Replacement Bid Spec Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed bid specs to replace the roof at the Courthouse Complex and the funds have been appropriated in the FY 2024 budget. He said advertising for bids began on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, a pre-bid meeting is set for 11 a.m. Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the bid due date is 4 p.m. Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and bid opening will be on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, at next month's committee meeting.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

- 1. Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported engineers are still working on the bypass, so county forces may blade mix and seal coat through town while working on Elevator Road.
- 2. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said a draft road use agreement prepared by UKA has been submitted to an outside legal consultant. The UKA road use agreement will set a precedent for those who follow.
- 3. Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** After research by Engineer Greenwood, Murzynski said every variance request should be decided case by case; and the county could then approve, disapprove, or modify individual requests.
- 4. White Block Building Roof Update/Approval:** At the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the County Board awarded the low bid earlier in the meeting.
- 5. Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% County scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the resolution to rip rap. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Bergen to approve Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% county scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Trail for an estimated \$20,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 144-145).**
- 6. Section 18-13123-00-BR – Raymond Twp – Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the committee had reviewed and discussed two bids on the bid tab sheet. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to award the bid for Section 18-13123-00-BR Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement in Raymond Township to Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon for \$269,443.21. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- 7. Highway Maintainer position vacancy Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Ethan Beeler has been hired to fill the Maintainer vacancy.
- 8. Purchase of Used Equipment Update/Approval:** Mason County is selling a 2017 Mack tandem truck with 33,000 miles (the oldest truck in their fleet) by sealed bid. Murzynski said State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti affirmed the process.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

- 1. SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed the report. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus added the county's final multiplier for 2023-2024 is 1.0000; all structures 200 square feet and larger will be assessed for the 2024

payable in 2025 tax year, and she has been researching how rural wind and solar farms will impact drainage district's property tax revenue.

2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Based on reports provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported the County received a March coal royalty payment of \$68,230.41 and year-to-date interest in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$142,115.39. Ritchie said the Capital Improvement Fund balance as of March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$1,447,071.44.
3. **ACH Accounts Payable Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Nikki Lohman is proceeding with Automated Clearing House (ACH) checkless payments instead of issuing paper checks for benefit expenses.
4. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed a bid tabulation sheet prepared by the County Board Administration office with two bids for electric rates. Ritchie noted the apparent low bid rate represents a 44% increase from the current rate. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to award a 12-month low bid of 0.06535 from Option One for electric rates. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said due to what he called "errors in process," he was asking for approval of an agenda item not recommended by committee due to a 3-3 tie vote. First, he said discussion was halted but according to Roberts Rules of Order, it should not have been. Secondly, Roberts Rules of Order allow ex-officio members of a committee to vote, which would have resolved the tie. Ritchie then invited Board Member Patty Whitworth to explain the correct procedure, which includes in full board meetings, any member may call for the question, but the motion requires a second and approval of two-thirds of the members present.

Whitworth explained a call for the question motion is never allowed at the committee level. Whitworth also explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, ex-officio members of a committee do not count toward a quorum but are able to vote.

Ritchie explained in July, 2023, the Finance & Budget Committee recommended and the County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. He said the grant was ultimately received, but without specifically naming the Waggoner project, which has subsequently begun. Ritchie said the committee debated either re-allocating unspent ARPA funds for the project or using interest earned on ARPA funds. Motions to recommend both were considered by the committee, and both motions resulted in a tie. State's Attorney Affrunti advised board members that committee recommendations are not required; the County Board has the "final say." **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to re-allocate \$38,000 in ARPA funds for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no were Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **10 members voted yes, 4 members voted no. Motion carried.**
6. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the County Coordinated Services office researched the possibility of available state funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up and found none. He reported there is an easement to the cemetery, Audubon Township is providing a culvert for it, and local contractor Hamlin-Jones is installing the culvert. Ritchie stated this hopefully will resolve the cemetery access issue.

7. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins informed the committee by email an audit extension is needed due to a new form. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to grant an extension for the annual Circuit Clerk audit until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 146).**
8. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed two spreadsheets prepared by the Coordinated Services Office, one with historical County union and non-union wage increases, and the other comparing the salaries of County positions to the state average, national average, and UCCI county average. He said a motion to tie next year's raises to the Consumer Price Index for the Midwest was tabled until next month. Ritchie added changes in overtime requirements for salaried employees could also have an impact.
9. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** Ritchie told the board the sheriff and 911 Committee learned the lock had been cut at the Cress Hill Tower gate. He said although there was no evidence of theft or vandalism, Sheriff Rick Robbins recommended a security camera installed with the \$9,000 estimated cost split with the ETSB. Fiber has already been extended to the tower using ARPA funds. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to re-allocate \$4,500 in ARPA funds for 50% of the cost to install a security camera at the Cress Hill Tower. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Previously Unfunded ARPA Requests Update/Approval:** Ritchie described a list of six previously unfunded ARPA requests, which together with the \$4,500 for half of the Cress Hill Tower security camera, total just over \$135,000. The original funded ARPA list included \$180,000 for an ambulance which is no longer requested, several funded ARPA projects were completed well-under budget, and the ARPA Fund has earned over \$132,000 in interest. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to re-allocate ARPA funds for generators for Taylor Springs for \$50,160.60, repeaters for the Witt Volunteer Fire Department for \$8,680, a police SUV for Litchfield for \$26,100, water maps for Raymond for \$9,600, a culvert for the Health Department for \$1,800, and a patrol boat for Litchfield for \$36,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

**Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. **Re-appointment of William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to re-appoint William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term from March 2024 to March 2027. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**For Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 14 members present, 0 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason (arrived at 5:43 p.m.), Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent: None**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board Member Andy Ritchie.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. (Beason absent for vote). **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Sneed and second by Jones to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted. Leitheiser was present for questions, and she added her office is gathering names of election judges who will need to be commissioned by the Montgomery County Board for their service during the upcoming two year cycle. She stated the pay is \$205 for judges who attend training and \$185 for those who do not.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions. Daniels added 12,672 pounds were collected at the recent April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Electronic Recycling Drive in Litchfield.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.

8. **Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
9. **Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report.
10. **Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted, was present for questions.
11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, no report.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman, no report.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Beck and second by Ritchie to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski had nothing to report.
- **CEFS Board** – Beason was not present at the time of this report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen had nothing to report.
- **Health Department** – Whitworth reported the next meeting will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen reported attending a meeting in Springfield recently.
- **MCEDC** – Hughes introduced Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who invited County Board members to the annual meeting beginning at 12 noon on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Folkerts reported the senior surveys are now available.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert had nothing to report.
- **U of I** – Beck reported the next meeting will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the organization is distributing flyers describing their services within the communities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service Board Member Dan Hough said the district’s new ambulance had just arrived the afternoon of the meeting and it was on display at the Historic Courthouse before the County Board meeting. He thanked the county for the ARPA funding used to purchase the ambulance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said according to IS Director Curt Watkins, the redundant fiber ring is complete and equipment is in place. He stated Watkins’ office is making switch upgrades, upgrading security cameras

in the Court Complex, and is in the process of switching out 36 county PCs. Watkins asked the County Board to establish policies on security video recording and software/hardware/tech purchasing.

2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said EMA Director Kevin Schott reported to the committee on the recent Hazmat incident which shut down the northbound lanes of Interstate 55 for 11 hours. He also stated EMA Assistant Director Dan Hough continues to monitor the sink hole off Route 185.
3. **Labor Disaster Relief Team Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported Brad Schaivy of LiUNA attended the committee meeting and offered the services of highly-trained QRF (quick response force) LiUNA disaster response teams to deploy after disasters such as weather events. He said when requested by local EMA, LiUNA teams from Rock Island to Marion, including a new team headquartered at the Labor Local office in Hillsboro, can respond quickly with manpower, heavy equipment and highly-trained operators, as well as with light equipment such as chainsaws with highly-trained operators. Donaldson said the teams are licensed, insured, and work at no cost to the county. They deploy to remove downed trees and other structures from public and private property so utility and rescue work is not delayed. Donaldson stated State's Attorney Affrunti has reviewed and endorsed the MOU for county use and Schaivy will work with EMA Director Schott to set up the necessary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to begin the process.
4. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 4 pm Wednesday May 22 Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the committee discussed the ramifications of SB1289, which was recently approved by the state legislature.
5. **EZ Mayors Meeting 5 pm Wednesday May 29 Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated items discussed at the meeting included the county Small Biz Start-Up Grant, the Natural Hazard Mitigation siren grant, and potential municipal Animal Control contracts.
6. **Other Business:** Board Member Patty Whitworth said the local Christiana Tillson DAR Chapter is recognizing the 13 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Montgomery County with a traveling display honoring each one. She said the display was at the Hillsboro Veterans Memorial for Memorial Day, and she said the local DAR can to make it available "to every corner of the county" at upcoming events upon request.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Animal Control Municipal Contract Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Chairman Donaldson reported at the Mayors Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, mayors were dissatisfied with the proposed municipal contract requiring a per capita fee of \$2.50 and \$250 for after-hours calls. He said the committee then reconsidered and recommended changing the contract from \$2.50 per capita to \$2.00 per capita. Vice Chairman Young asked the difference in revenue between the two amounts. Chairman Donaldson said if all contracts are signed, the \$2.00 per capita would result in \$53,276 total county revenue, which is about \$13,000 less than \$2.50 per capita's result. Loucks asked about municipalities already under contract, and Ruppert confirmed their contracts remain in effect through November 2025. Vice Chairman Young expressed concern, stating signing new municipal contracts would result in more wear and tear on the Animal Control facility and vehicles. Board member Beason said the contracts are intended to

spread the cost of the animal control service as equally as possible to municipalities served. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to amend the Animal Control Municipal Contract from \$2.50 per capita to \$2.00 per capita. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **Motion carried 11-3.**

2. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Assistant County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett reported at a meeting with Travis Bushue on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The HR consultant discussed how the county pays quarterly unemployment insurance, reviewed the current FOP contract, discussed new hire and 1099 portal reporting, and is developing standardized employment applications and new hire paperwork. Ruppert stated monthly meetings with Bushue will likely follow the monthly Coordinating Committee meetings.
3. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Anacott Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed and discussed the proposal. Jeremy Connor was present to answer questions. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the Hurst-Rosche proposal to review Anacott application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 147-148).**
4. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the County Board Administration office learned on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the county has been selected to receive \$1,351,928 in the next round of DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant funding. Chairman Donaldson stated he scheduled an Ad Hoc Committee meeting for 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to discuss the county's application.
5. **Sheep Reparation Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the county is statutorily responsible for a sheep killed and another one injured by a neighbor's pit bull on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The vet bill for the injured sheep was \$289.50 and Ruppert researched the average livestock value for the deceased sheep at the time of the incident. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Bergen to recommend the county pay \$600 in reparations from the Animal Control Fund for killed and injured sheep to Noah Gallion. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert displayed the permit application and transcript, and introduced special attorney for the county Andrew Keyt, who described the 18-turbine 122-megawatt Virden Wind project and the five-night public hearing process. Keyt said according to a January 2023 Illinois siting statute, if a project meets ordinance requirements it "shall be approved." Attorney Keyt suggested the County Board adopt an ordinance to approve the siting with conditions. Committee Chairman Ruppert detailed those conditions. Vice Chairman Young asked about shadow flicker, Board Member Loucks asked about enforcement of conditions, and Board Member Sneed asked about local homeowner participation. Chairman Donaldson commended the Development & Personnel Committee for the 12-15 hours spent in public hearings. Whitworth also commended the process and UKA's conflict resolution, and Beason commended UKA for proposing a project with greater setback distances than required, but said he could not support an alternative energy project. Vice Chairman Young asked if Hughes should abstain from voting due to a private renewable energy contract. After a brief out-of-the-room conversation with Hughes, State's Attorney Affrunti said Hughes has no conflict of interest. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to adopt Ordinance 2024-08 approving the application of Virden Wind LLC**



**for the construction and operation of a commercial wind energy facility subject to the draft conditions provided by the Development & Personnel Committee. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Beason, Beck, Folkerts, Loucks, Sneed, and Young. Motion carried 8-6. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 149-166).

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed highlighted Maintenance Director Phil Ernst's report, including replacement of a leaking plastic diesel fuel tank at the Animal Control incinerator. Hughes asked if anyone knew who installed the plastic tank, but no answer was given.
2. **Chimney Liner Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Klein Chimney representatives returned on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with a lift to install the new chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse.
3. **Courthouse Complex Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Sneed said the county has been in contact with the insurance agent to request an adjuster determine if roofs at the Courts Complex, Historic Courthouse, and Jail had been impacted by hail damage. He said an adjuster has yet to arrive; but because of this possibility, the committee postponed opening the received Courts Complex roof bids until the July Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting.
4. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Process Update/Approval:** Sneed said County Board Administrators Office staff has begun the process to advertise for bids to sell the surplus older jail generator. Sneed reported, and Ernst confirmed, the surplus generator works well. Bids will be opened at the next Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting.
5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said work should begin mid-June or July.
6. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said another walk-through was held on Tuesday afternoon, June 4<sup>th</sup>, and Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins reported the meeting went well.
7. **New Outdoor Historic Courthouse Benches Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the committee expressed gratitude for four new outdoor benches at the Historic Courthouse, provided by the Big Dawg Dare through the City of Hillsboro. He said the committee informed the city the benches may now be bolted down at their present locations.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said UKA emailed a traffic analysis, County Engineer Cody Greenwood indicated he would be spending the next few months reviewing a potential road use agreement for the project.
2. **Resolution 2024-09 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave., Irving Twp. Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Beason to approve Resolution 2024-09 to appropriate \$10,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 50/50 \$20,000 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Avenue in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 167-168).

3. **Resolution 2024-10 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Loucks to recommend Resolution 2024-10 to appropriate \$21,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 100% county culvert replacement on Walshville Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 169-170).
4. **Resolution 2024-11 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to recommend Resolution 2024-11 to appropriate \$25,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 100% county culvert replacement on Walshville Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 171-172).

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service Ambulance Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the less-than-one-hour-old new Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service ambulance was available for inspection at the Historic Courthouse before the meeting. The new ambulance was funded through county ARPA.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus affirmed farmland values are established by the Illinois Department of Revenue and not subject to county or Board of Review control. He said she stated any complaints must be filed at the state level. She also said her office now requires signatures for name and address changes as required by law, and she is working with County Board Administration to outline the process for assessing solar and wind farm projects. She is working with IS regarding a computer to enter data remotely from the field, and she said the pickup truck formerly used by her office may be declared surplus.
3. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** According to reports provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported the April coal royalty payment was \$124,452.87 and the Capital Improvement Fund has a balance of \$1,436,867.20. Thus far this fiscal year, county coal funds have earned \$197,276.80 in interest.
4. **FY 2024 Audit & FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie relayed auditors are working on a projected timeline for their report to be complete. He said Bellwether is preparing FY25 budget packets, which should be out by the end of June. Ritchie stated the Treasurer reported an overall 8% increase in county EAV to over \$630,000,000, and she anticipates more than one ambulance district will request levies higher than 5% over last year's, which will require a Truth-In-Taxation hearing process.
5. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said after considering salary increases for non-union staff between 3% and 6% for FY 2025 and substantial discussion, the committee settled on recommending a 5% increase with an anticipated cost to the General Fund of \$128,521. Vice Chairman Young said the cost of living index is 2.8%, and any salary increases greater than this percentage is a disservice to the taxpayers. Jones said raises should be on top of Cost of Living Adjustments or they are not a raise. In response to a question from County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said raises to salaries paid from special funds are up to the office holder who administers those funds. Bergen expressed concern and stated 5% increases might set a negative precedent for union negotiations. Whitworth stated at the Finance & Budget Committee meeting, Department Heads reported difficulty in

recruiting and retaining staff. Loucks said he preferred salary increases as dollar amounts rather than percentages. County Clerk Leitheiser said county offices are only as good as their staff, and Montgomery County is currently “behind the curve” pay-wise. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to budget 5% General Fund salary increases for non-union staff for FY 2025. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **Motion carried 11-3.**

6. **ARPA Ordinance Update/Approval:** Based on projects approved at the May meeting of the Montgomery County Board, the committee recommended adoption of the nine accompanying ARPA ordinances.

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to approve Ordinance 2024-09 authorizing \$50,000 of ARPA funds to be made available for Cellbrite Forensic software. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 173).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve Ordinance 2024-10 authorizing \$38,000 of ARPA funds to be made available for the Waggoner Baseball & Soccer Field Revitalization. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 174).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Hughes to approve Ordinance 2024-11 authorizing \$4,500 of ARPA funds to be made available for a Cress Hill Tower Camera. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 175).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve Ordinance 2024-12 authorizing \$50,160.60 of ARPA funds to be made available for Taylor Springs Generators. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 176).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Ruppert to approve Ordinance 2024-13 authorizing \$8,680 of ARPA funds to be made available for Witt Volunteer Fire Department Repeaters. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 177).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to approve Ordinance 2024-14 authorizing \$21,600 of ARPA funds to be made available for a Litchfield Police SUV. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 178).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve Ordinance 2024-15 authorizing \$9,600 of ARPA funds to be made available for Raymond Water Maps. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 179).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Hughes to approve Ordinance 2024-16 authorizing \$1,800 of ARPA funds to be made available for a Montgomery County Health Department Culvert. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 180).**

**Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve Ordinance 2024-17 authorizing \$36,000 of ARPA funds to be made available for Litchfield Patrol Boat. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 181).**

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

**Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **DCEO Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
2. **Long Term Recovery Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
3. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

1. **Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. **Re-appointment of Tonya Flannery to the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board:** Motion by Sneed and second by Jones to re-appoint Tonya Flannery to the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board for a three-year term from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:** Motion by Beck and second by Hughes to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Ritchie and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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For Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 – 5:30 PM

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The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, July 9th, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll call was taken** – 14 members present, 0 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** None

Chairman Donaldson observed a moment of silence in memory of former Montgomery County Board member Gene Knodle, who served from 1984 through 1992 in roles including Vice-Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman of the County Board. Mr. Knodle also was Chairman of the Public Building Commission when the Courthouse Complex was built. He passed away on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at age 85.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Chad Ruppert.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Beason and second by Sneed to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, Young (Jones was absent for the vote). **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Beck and second by Bergen to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.

8. **Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
9. **Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report.
10. **Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.
11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted, was present for questions.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, no report.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions. She informed members she is scheduled for a presentation to the Litchfield Senior Club on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions. She added the first property tax installment due date is Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and said to date her office had collected just over \$25 million, about 45% of the total.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board met last night and reviewed its FY2025 budget.
- **CEFS Board** – Beason had nothing to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen had nothing to report.
- **Health Department** – Whitworth reported the board next meets next on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen had nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** – Hughes had nothing to report.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Folkerts reported the board is awaiting DCEO reimbursement and will review senior surveys on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The board has two vacancies to fill.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported an upcoming meeting will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
- **U of I** – Beck reported the committee needs more Montgomery County members.
- **WCDC** – Jones had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Citizen Dionne Manzer expressed appreciation to the Montgomery County Board, Development & Personnel Committee and the County Board Administration office for their additional work on solar and wind farm siting. Citizen Bill Schroeder asked the board to continue to press for updates on the CO2 test well in Audubon Township, the sink hole on Route 185, and the need for reinstating weather radio status for Montgomery County.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said according to IS Director Curt Watkins, county buildings are now connected to the redundant fiber ring; the HVFD has yet to be connected. Watkins has been prepping for both the court grant work and the interior door work in the County Clerk's office. He recommended the county use IS contingency funds for a \$95,000 phone system upgrade and hopefully reimburse the fund with the DCEO Energy Transition grant.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson deferred to EMA Director Kevin Schott, who invited board members and office holders to a Montgomery County Community Wellness Committee summit, a legislative and town hall meeting set for Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 p.m. at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the next meeting is set for Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
4. **Labor Disaster Relief Team MOU Update/Approval:** Donaldson said last month LiUNA offered the services of highly-trained QRF (quick response force) to Montgomery County. He said LiUNA's disaster response teams deploy after disasters such as weather events. When requested by local EMA, LiUNA teams from Rock Island to Marion (including a new team headquartered at the Labor Local office in Hillsboro) can respond quickly with manpower, heavy equipment and highly-trained operators, along with light equipment such as chainsaws with highly-trained operators. He said the teams are licensed, insured, and work at no cost to the county. They deploy to remove downed trees and other structures from public and private property so utility and rescue work is not delayed. Donaldson said EMA Director Kevin Schott worked with LiUNA to set up the necessary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to begin the process and State's Attorney Affrunti reviewed and endorsed the MOU. **Motion by Young and second by Jones to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Montgomery County and the Laborers Disaster Response Team. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 182).**
5. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the ad hoc committee met on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 in preparation for the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 grant application deadline. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Hughes to approve applying for the allocation of DCEO Energy Transition Grant funds as presented. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Long Term Recovery Meeting (COAD) Update/Approval:** Donaldson said COAD is a process through which tax-exempt donations can be accepted and disbursed in the case of a natural disaster or other emergency. County Board Administration is working with MCEDC to appoint a committee to receive tax-exempt donations and distribute funds utilizing the COAD process for Montgomery County emergency use.
7. **Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) System Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported learning about IRAD, a department of the Illinois State Archives that potentially offers micro-filming and scanning at no cost. Chairman Donaldson stated the County Board Administration, the Supervisor of Assessments, and Sheriff's Office are interested in learning more about these potential services.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Animal Control Municipal Billing Update/Approval:** Ruppert said new contracts will be discussed at the next Mayors Meeting. He said Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl is meeting with the Irving Village Board tonight.
2. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee is still working on the policy. He reported he visited Animal Control earlier in the day and noted the facility is over capacity. He said Warden Gerl showed the committee a “no kill” shelter award the facility received based on euthanasia rate statistics.
3. **Wind & Solar Permit Fees Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed information from UCCI compiled by County Board Administration from 25 counties throughout the state. Currently, Montgomery County’s ordinances require a \$2,500 fee for a solar siting permit and \$50,000 fee for a wind siting permit. After discussion, the committee favored a fee structure based on a “per megawatt” with a fee cap. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to change language in the county Solar Ordinance to reflect a non-refundable application fee equal to \$2,500 per megawatt of proposed nameplate capacity up to a maximum fee of \$250,000 effective immediately. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 183-200). Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to change language in the county Wind Ordinance to reflect a non-refundable application fee equal to \$2,500 per megawatt of proposed nameplate capacity up to a maximum fee of \$250,000 effective immediately. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 201-227).**
4. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** Ruppert said County Board Administration has scheduled a meeting for all office-holders to attend after the next Coordinating Committee meeting. The Bushue meeting will begin at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, July 25th, 2024.
5. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee will consider all applications received to date at their next meeting. So far, there are nine applications for this grant.
6. **North Sun 22c Solar Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated after two nights of hearings, the committee found the North Sun 22c project meets state requirements. HE reported neighbor agreements have been reached with the two closest to the project, and both neighbors signed letters expressing no opposition to the project. A new project map indicated setbacks had been increased to 100 feet to the north and west and 200 feet to the south. Ruppert said the developer has also been working with the local draining district and communicating progress with the county. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Bergen to approve a siting permit for North Sun 22c on the condition the project reach an agreement regarding the existing tile main with the Raymond-Rountree Drainage District. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, Young. Voting no: Folkerts. **Motion carried 13-1.**



7. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the public hearing on the proposed Witt Road project, southeast of the Ameren underground gas storage facility began on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and was recessed until Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ruppert noted this date may be changed to a time later in the fall because another adjacent landowner needs to be notified. He said the committee has also requested an updated site plan map, updated contact information, and maps with distances from the project to neighboring residences.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed noted Maintenance Director Phil Ernst highlighted many of the 52 items on his monthly report.
2. **DAR Traveling Display Request Aug. 3-9, 2024 Update/Approval:** Sneed said the Christiana Tillson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has requested permission to display their Revolutionary War Veterans display on the Historic Courthouse lawn for Old Settlers, and Sneed said the committee unanimously agreed to grant the request. The display will be up August 3-9, 2024.
3. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Jeff Dunn was unable to attend the committee meeting and asked to be placed on the August committee agenda. Through email, he complimented the Historic Courthouse lawn and offered to provide bricks from his building that match the Historic Courthouse for the county to use as spares. Sneed said the county appreciated and accepted the offer.
4. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee opened four sealed bids for the project, ranging from \$108,000 to \$188,000. After substantial committee discussion, the committee determined the low bid meets specs. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to award the low bid of \$108,380 to Central Roofing of Mattoon to replace the Courts Complex roof.** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee opened two bids, one for \$1,550 and other for \$1,700 for the old jail generator the County Board declared as surplus last month. Sneed said the committee voted to sell the generator to the high bidder, Brad Niemann, for \$1,700.
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported work is progressing, and County Clerk Leitheiser thanked the county board for their support.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said electric work has been completed on schedule.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Engineer Cody Greenwood has been working with UKA and their consultant on a road use agreement. The Virden Wind developer has not finalized the construction haul route yet, and Greenwood needs to study the final haul route before determining pre-construction road needs.
2. **Vistra Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee discussed a request from Vistra for the county to let the Illinois EPA know if it prefers an impoundment structure at Coffeen Power Station be closed in place rather than closed by removal. Engineer Greenwood told the committee closure by removal would result in over 46,000 truckloads of material transported to a local landfill, averaging out to a truckload every two minutes. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to express by letter to Illinois EPA the county believes an impoundment structure at Coffeen Power Station should be closed in place. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported a meeting date will be set at a location in Walshville, likely at Village Hall, to discuss the proposed bypass with the public. The meeting should be within the next few months.
4. **Surplus Equipment Update/Approval:** Murzynski said Engineer Greenwood asked the committee to declare two Bush Hog rotary cutters as surplus property so they can be sold. Murzynski said the equipment has not been used since it was replaced by John Deere bat wing cutters. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to declare a 2021 and a 2022 Bush Hog rotary cutter as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie noted Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported to the committee her department is spending 2-3 days per week in field work. Wooded acres are now being reassessed as they are sold, because wooded acres sold after 2007 are no longer assessable as farmland.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Based on reported provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported a May coal royalty payment of \$98,671.17. Through May 2024, coal funds have earned \$214,658.14 in interest. Ritchie reported a Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$1,454,248.54 and a total coal balance of \$9,490,522.08.
3. **Commission Election Judges Update/Approval:** Ritchie noted County Clerk Leitheiser presented the committee a list of potential Election Judges as provided by the Republican and Democrat Party Chairmen for County Board approval. After the list is approved by the County Board, the County Clerk will publish a legal notice on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 announcing the date, time and location for the Court Commission approval of the list. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the list of Election Judges as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 228-248).**
4. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Nikki Lohman reported the audit should be completed by July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

5. **FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Department Heads should have budget forms this week, and the Treasurer is working with Bellwether on hearing dates. Two ambulance districts have requested levies substantially greater than 5% over last year's, which will require at least two Truth-In-Taxation hearings. The Treasurer and County Board Administration will work on a schedule for the hearings.
6. **State's Attorney Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the State of Illinois has made a 4.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the State's Attorney salary, which will also result in changes to the other county office holder salaries determined by the State's Attorney's salary. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the State's Attorney COLA salary increase of 4.7%. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the Illinois Department of Revenue PTAX-451 Salary Adjustment for the Public Defender. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of PTAX-451, see Resolution Book 21, pages 249-250). Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the Illinois Department of Revenue PTAX 451 Salary Adjustment for the Sheriff. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of PTAX-451, see Resolution Book 21, pages 251-252).**
7. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser presented the committee with a revised Pre-Approved Vendors list, reflecting a vendor name change from Benefit Planning Consultants to Chard Snyder, and adding Direct Energy Business as the new power supplier. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve two changes to the Pre-Approved Vendors list. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 253-254).**
8. **Declare Supervisor of Assessments F-250 Surplus Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Supervisor of Assessments' office no longer needs a 2000 Ford F-250 originally purchased by the Montgomery County Highway Department. County Board Administration will advertise the truck for sale by sealed bid. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Hughes to declare a 2000 Ford F-250 regular cab pickup truck as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

**Motion by Whitworth and second by Young to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Next Bushue Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson noted the next meeting with our HR consultant Bushue will be at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 following the Coordinating Committee meeting. Office holders and department heads are invited to attend.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Appointment of Bryan Fesser, Ed Goebel and Montgomery Elvidge to the Bois D' Arc King #3 Drainage District Board:** Motion by Young and second by Jones to appoint Bryan Fesser, Ed Goebel and Montgomery Elvidge to the Bois D' Arc King #3 Drainage District Board. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

Motion by Beason and second by Ritchie to pay all approved bills and payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Murzynski and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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For Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, August 13th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 11 members present, 3 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Bill Bergen, Mark Hughes, Bob Sneed

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Patty Whitworth.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beason to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Jones and second by Ritchie to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, July 9th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted. Daniels reminded the County Board the next electronic recycling drive has been set for Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Montgomery County Highway Department.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, report not submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici, report submitted.
- 12. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.

13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** — Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted. Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, was present for questions.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions. Treasurer Lohman reported as of Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 68% of property taxes had been collected.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Whitworth and second by Young to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board met Monday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and reviewed funding applications.
- **CEFS Board** — Beason had nothing to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen was absent.
- **Health Department** — Whitworth had nothing to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** — Bergen was absent.
- **MCEDC** — Hughes was absent.
- **Planning Commission** — Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** — Folkerts said Chris Daniels is tabulating survey results. He stated the board is also looking for volunteers to help seniors with yard waste.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert had nothing to report.
- **U of I** – Beck had nothing to report.
- **WCDC** – Jones had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson told the board IS Director Curt Watkins reported to the committee he has been working on switch upgrades, moving computers in the Circuit Clerk’s office, working on the court grant and on County Clerk’s office renovations. Donaldson stated Watkins is beginning the ARPA-funded video storage project and plans to use coal reserves reimbursed through the DCEO Energy Transition Grant to begin phone system upgrades.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said Kevin Schott reported he plans to retire as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and thanked him for his service. The board expressed their gratitude with applause. **Motion by Young and second by Beck to accept the resignation of Kevin Schott as EMA Director effective at 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30th. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported officers were seated at a meeting on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The organization requested the Montgomery County Board adopt a

proclamation naming September as Workforce Development Month. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Jones to approve a proclamation recognizing September as Workforce Development Month in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 255).**

4. **Nextlink Presentation Update/Approval:** Craig Hall of Nextlink, assisted by Jason Talley of Nextlink, reported the company has “made a tremendous amount of progress” in its mission to provide broadband internet to unserved and underserved areas of Montgomery County as a result of the federal grant this company received. Hall told board members the project is “way ahead of schedule” from its original 18-to-24-month prediction. He showed the board a map of wireless towers and said Nextlink will soon begin to test towers and hire installers. The company is still looking for some tower locations. A tower in Hillsboro will be fed by fiber and then relayed to other towers by fixed point-to-point wireless. Hall stated Nextlink’s minimum service will be 100/20 for \$49.99/month.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert said his committee reviewed the monthly HRA report and heard from Assured Partners representative Tony Johnston regarding the status of the group health plan. Johnston stated during the 2023 policy year and so far in 2024, claims are running ahead of premiums. Because of these higher claims, Johnston told the county to expect up to a 35% renewal premium increase. When this new number becomes available in late August or September, Johnston said Assured Partners will begin final negotiations and begin bidding health insurance coverage.
2. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert said the included monthly Animal Control report was typical. He added the department is running over budget, and said board members can anticipate changes.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert said he is continuing to work with Animal Control after the department requested a \$370,000 budget for FY 2025 which would operate at a predicted \$265,000 deficit. A new budget is in the works with a predicted Animal Control deficit of \$28,000.
4. **Solar Ordinance Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert reported the committee reviewed a document describing the wind and solar permit procedure developed by County Board Administration, the Supervisor of Assessments, County Clerk and Recorder, and independent engineer Jeremy Connor for inclusion in both ordinances. The procedure document describes steps in the county process from application through operating permit. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to amend the county solar ordinance to include the permit procedure. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Wind Ordinance Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ruppert and second by Young to amend the county wind ordinance to include the permit procedure. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert said after the Plains Solar public hearing that began on July 1<sup>st</sup> had been recessed to August 12<sup>th</sup>, both the applicant and the county expressed an interest in postponing resumption of the hearing.

He reported the committee rescheduled resumption of the Plains Solar Public Hearing until 6 p.m. Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Ruppert said he had spoken with Rebecca Cheatham of Cypress Creek the previous day and they may consider adjusting the hearing schedule.

7. **Oil Sun Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert reported 22cc Inc. submitted a second solar application on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> for Oil Sun Solar, a 10-Mw project on Oil Field Avenue in Raymond Township, and the \$25,000 application fee was paid on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. He said this was the first application fee paid on the new fee schedule. The committee set a public hearing date for this project on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the County Board room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL.
8. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** During a meeting in July, Ruppert said Travis Bushue of Bushue HR presented a universal county employment application to be used by all or most county offices and posted on the county website. Applications completed online could be sent to all county officeholders. Committee Chairman Ruppert reported Bushue also presented an FMLA flowchart, discussed county vehicles, helped prepare an employee reprimand, and continues to work on the employee manual. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve the universal employment application developed by Bushue HR. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert informed the board the final phase of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant Application was been submitted on July 30th, a day ahead of the deadline, and received by DCEO.
10. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** After hearing from 10 of the applicants at his committee meeting, Ruppert said the committee reviewed and scored applications and made recommendations to award \$125,000 of the \$336,594.55 available grant funds. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to award the following Small Biz grants: \$40,000 to Noko Sugar Rush in Nokomis; \$20,000 to Willow Lane in Litchfield; \$20,000 to Neon Café in Hillsboro; \$10,000 to The Revived Soul in Hillsboro; \$10,000 to Cosmo's Place in Litchfield; \$7,500 to Majors Ink in Litchfield; \$7,500 to Que-One-Seven in Hillsboro; \$5,000 to Interurban Designs in Hillsboro; \$5,000 to Scout House in Hillsboro. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.**

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee member Russ Beason:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Beason reported estimates were received from Hillsboro Electric to replace bulbs with higher lumen LED lights with a 5-year warranty. The Courthouse Complex parking lights will be \$3,071.95 and the replacement of 10 lights at the jail with higher lumen LED lights with a 5-year warranty will cost \$6,744.50.
2. **Health Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Beason told the County Board the committee heard from Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee regarding a request for some county-owned land behind the health department to build solar arrays. Satterlee shared a diagram of how the project would look. The committee will look into the request.



3. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Beason said the committee learned the remodel project is moving along and both entrances to the office have been reopened. The glass for the counters still needs to be installed.
4. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Beason said the technology upgrades to the board room should begin next month. Ameresco has been on site to evaluate the space and Hillsboro Electric has completed the electrical upgrades for the new equipment.
5. **Two-Year Plan Update/Approval:** Beason reported the committee will be working with Maintenance Director Phil Ernst on a two-year plan for Building & Grounds projects to present next month. The committee discussed cleaning the outside of the windows on the Historic Court and decided to wait until the roof is replaced.
6. **Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** The elevator maintenance contract will be addressed in November.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Murzynski said Engineer Cody Greenwood shared a map of the proposed haul route for the UKA Virden Wind Project for committee members to review. The map was in the County Board packet, and Greenwood said UKA has begun testing road and anticipates upgrades will need to be made.
2. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Murzynski said Engineer Greenwood attended the public information meeting regarding the Walshville Trail Improvement Project held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall. There were 4 alternatives for the project prepared by WHKS Engineering shared with the public. Greenwood stated there were about 22 people in attendance and the meeting went well. Some written comments were received and Greenwood said the next step is to address those. Greenwood noted comments will be accepted through August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a comment form is on the county website.
3. **Sale of Surplus Property Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Murzynski reported two surplus mowers advertised for sale on a government surplus website did not meet the reserve. The 2022 mower had a reserve of \$15,000 and the high bid came in at \$13,200. The 2021 mower had a reserve of \$14,000 and the high bid came in at \$12,200. Greenwood said he has recently relisted the surplus property with a lower reserve amount.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported to the committee she will no longer require structural improvement notifications for residential solar installation. She also told the committee she would like to change her budget request by transferring some of the funds in her salary line item to the line for her staff salaries.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie noted a coal royalty payment of \$79,887.87 in June and a Capital Fund balance of

\$1,468,337.15 as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ritchie reported the Coal Fund totals as of June 30<sup>th</sup> were \$9,646,514 before a July coal royalty payment of \$111,127.43.

3. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said according to Treasurer Nikki Lohman, the audit is finished and will be presented to the County Board in September. Lohman also informed the committee she would like to group grants in one grant fund next fiscal year, which will require a resolution to transfer funds.
4. **Convey Parcel 08-27-134-035 to Village of Coalton Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said Treasurer Lohman had prepared resolutions to transfer two Trustee parcels in Coalton, 08-27-310-012 and 08-27-134-035, to the Village of Coalton. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to convey parcel 08-27-134-035 to the Village of Coalton. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 256).**
5. **Convey Parcel 08-27-310-012 to Village of Coalton Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to convey parcel 08-27-310-012 to the Village of Coalton. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 257).**
6. **ARPA Ordinance 2024-18 for Information Services Video Back Storage Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said the committee reviewed ARPA ordinances funding three previously approved projects. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$24,000 made available from ARPA funds for the purchase of Data Storage Monitoring for the IT Department. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 258).**
7. **ARPA Ordinance 2024-19 for Health Department Generators Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$14,558.98 made available from ARPA funds for the purchase of Generators for the Public Health Department. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 259).**
8. **ARPA Ordinance 2024-20 for Health Department Panic Buttons Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$6,623 made available from ARPA funds for the purchase of Panic Buttons for the Public Health Department. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 260).**
9. **Surplus Ford F-250 Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said the committee opened two bids for the surplus Ford F-250, the first bid was for \$251 and the second bid was for \$650. Both bidders were present at the committee bid-opening and the low bidder declined the option to raise his bid. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to sell the surplus Ford F-250 to winning bidder Harry Jackson for \$650. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **MCSO Dodge Durango Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the lone bidder for a new Dodge Durango squad was Victory Lane in Carlinville for \$43,193. He stated the Montgomery County Health Department is providing funds to purchase and equip the vehicle, which will be available in a few weeks.

**11. FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie reported the committee discussed several remaining issues from the August 1<sup>st</sup> FY 2025 budget meeting conducted by Bellwether, most notably in Animal Control but also in the Highway Department, State’s Attorney, and Sheriff’s budgets. He said the committee will be ready to present a tentative FY 2025 budget at the September County Board meeting. Ritchie said at present, the predicted FY 2025 General Fund deficit is just over \$400,000. He set a special Finance & Budget Committee meeting for Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 8:30 AM to try to balance the budget.

**12. Truth-In-Taxation Discussion Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie reminded the County Board the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance, Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance, 708 Board and VAC have all requested levies requiring a truth-in-taxation hearing, and the tentative levy for county funds would also require a truth-in-taxation hearing. He said the county board must approve an estimated tax levy during the September meeting and then schedule and publish any required truth-in-taxation hearing notices according to statutory requirements. State’s Attorney Affrunti said the truth-in-taxation hearings for the two ambulance special service areas must be held in those respective taxing districts.

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

**Motion by Whitworth and second by Jones to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

1. Chairman Donaldson reported on a meeting held on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with a developer who is working on bringing what they are calling a “total sports and entertainment venue” to Montgomery County. He said he hopes to have more details to report soon.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chairman Donaldson reminded the board the Oil Sun 22c solar project public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Historic Courthouse.
2. Chairman Donaldson noted the BLH Fall Electronics Recycling is set for Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at the Highway Department in Taylor Springs.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

1. Chairman Donaldson reminded the board next month’s Development & Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> instead of Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting time remains unchanged at 5:00 p.m.
2. Chairman Donaldson noted the resumption of the Plains Solar public hearing has been rescheduled for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Beason and second by Ruppert to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Loucks and second by Beck to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.**

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**For Tuesday, September 10th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, September 10th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 14 members present, no members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board Member Bob Sneed. Following the Pledge, Chairman Donaldson observed a moment of silence in memory of the lives lost in the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 terrorist attacks.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No member voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Beck and second by Beason to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, August 13th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – No report submitted.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted, present for questions.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, present for questions.
- 6. EPA Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, present for questions.
- 7. Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, present for questions.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, present for questions.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted.
- 12. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.
- 13. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted.

14. **Sheriff's Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, present for questions.
16. **State's Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, present for questions. Affrunti added an attorney in his office has resigned and he will be short-staffed.
17. **Treasurer's Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, present for questions. Lohman added the second property tax installment deadline has passed.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted, present for questions.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Jones and second by Young to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the committee met the previous evening and made grant awards.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason reported Shelby County will no longer be the CIPT lead county as the transportation grantee, and the board would like Effingham County to take over this designation.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported a new dispatcher had been hired.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported the next meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen had nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes reported the board met on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported the board continues to review surveys.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported a meeting is scheduled soon.
- **U of I** – Beck reported the next meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the board met last month and they are working with rural broadband provider Nextlink to fill their open positions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Citizen Bill Schroeder gave an update on his efforts to encourage replacement of the local NOAA weather radio towers. He said according to a letter from U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth's office, the federal government is still working on it. Schroeder said he continues to make calls. He also raised concerns about the announced closure of Route 185, pointing out the mine continues to cause the closure of a state highway without consequence. He asked the board to join him in raising a complaint, since he recalls language in the Deer Run Permit 399 requiring fines to be paid by the coal mine if road closures occur.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated at the request of Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, the committee budgeted \$17,000 for a part-time data collector rather than \$27,000 for the full-time vacant field position; and this change will

be part of the proposed budget. She also reported she is continuing to work on completing wooded acreage reassessments.

2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported as of the end of July, after a coal royalty payment of over \$111,000, the total Coal Funds are \$9,812,364.24 and the Coal Fund has earned over \$285,000 in interest this year.
3. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Robyn Klingler and Katelin Feldmann of Scheffel Boyle in Alton summarized the FY2023 audit. Klingler described the audit process and the reports contained therein. She said the county earned a clean opinion on its cash-basis accounting practices, a clean opinion on its Federal Expenditure Report, and noted one Internal Control deficiency due to the practice of the auditors completing the financial statements. Klingler added, however, most counties follow the same practice. Feldmann reported the county's net change of position for FY2023 was an increase of \$2 million now totalling \$33 million. She said the general fund lost \$25,000 and the Health Department balance was up \$500,000 due to new grants. Feldmann said coal royalty payments remained consistent.
4. **EMA Roof ARPA Ordinance 2024-21 Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed an ARPA Ordinance to partially fund the roof replacement at the under-development EMA building at the Highway Department. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to approve an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$30,000 of ARPA funds to be made available for Montgomery County EMA. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 261).**
5. **Convey Parcel Number 13-06-231-013:** The committee reviewed and discussed resolutions to convey 24 parcels as a result of the Montgomery County Trustee sealed bid auction. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to convey parcel number 13-06-231-013 in Witt Township to the City of Witt. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 262).**
6. **Convey Parcel Number 10-03-408-014:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to convey parcel number 10-03-408-014 in North Litchfield Township to the Country Bend Campground LLC. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 263).**
7. **Convey Parcel Number 08-22-483-001:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Fokerts to convey parcel number 08-22-483-001 in Nokomis Township to Altimond Shaw. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 264).**
8. **Convey Parcel Number 08-27-178-024:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Ruppert to convey parcel number 08-27-178-024 in Nokomis Township to David Eric Christensen. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 265).**
9. **Convey Parcel Number 08-27-179-019:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to convey parcel number 08-27-179-019 in Nokomis Township to Jason Lupton and Angela Lupton. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 266).**
10. **Convey Parcel Number 16-02-477-008:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to convey parcel number 16-02-477-008 in Hillsboro Township to the Laporte Investments LLC. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 267).**

11. **Convey Parcel Number 17-35-378-001:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to convey parcel number 17-35-378-001 in East Fork Township to Jeremy Anderson. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 268).
12. **Convey Parcel Number 01-18-100-302:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to convey parcel number 01-18-100-302 in Bois D'Arc Township to Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 269).
13. **Convey Parcel Number 01-18-300-302:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to convey parcel number 01-18-300-302 in Bois D'Arc Township to Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 270).
14. **Convey Parcel Number 02-06-100-302:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to convey parcel number 02-06-100-302 in Bois D'Arc Township to Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 271).
15. **Convey Parcel Number 10-33-480-013:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to convey parcel number 10-33-480-013 in the City of Litchfield to John K. Orzel II. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 272).
16. **Convey Parcel Number 08-23-204-008:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to convey parcel number 08-23-204-008 in the City of Nokomis to Virgil Wright. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 273).
17. **Convey Parcel Number 15-04-410-017:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to convey parcel number 15-04-410-017 in the City of Litchfield to Nicole S. Thompson. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 274).
18. **Convey Parcel Number 08-27-316-014:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to convey parcel number 08-27-316-014 in Nokomis Township to Steven C. Lee and Kay L. Lee. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 275).
19. **Convey Parcel Number 10-32-435-006:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to convey parcel number 10-32-435-006 in North Litchfield Township to Eli P. Issaacs. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 276).
20. **Convey Parcel Number 10-32-435-007:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to convey parcel number 10-32-435-007 in North Litchfield Township to Eli P. Issaacs. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 277).
21. **Convey Parcel Number 10-33-176-004:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Ruppert to convey parcel number 10-33-176-004 in North Litchfield Township to Malissa J. Talbert and Rebecca A. Tarter. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 278).
22. **Convey Parcel Number 10-33-476-022:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to convey parcel number 10-33-476-022 in North Litchfield Township to Dennis Cox. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 279).
23. **Convey Parcel Number 10-33-480-007:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to convey parcel number 10-33-480-007 in North Litchfield Township to David L. Hollo and Ann M. Hollo. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 280).



24. **Convey Parcel Number 13-06-378-010:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Ruppert to convey parcel number 13-06-378-010 in Witt Township to Shawn P. Isaacs. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 281).
25. **Convey Parcel Number 15-04-427-002:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to convey parcel number 15-04-427-002 in South Litchfield Township to Shawn P. Isaacs. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 282).
26. **Convey Parcel Number 16-01-380-007:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to convey parcel number 16-01-380-007 in Hillsboro Township to David E. Davidson and Delise A. Davidson. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 283).
27. **Convey Parcel Number 17-07-136-002:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to convey parcel number 17-07-136-002 in East Fork Township to Thomas A. Justison and Thomas F. Justison. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 284).
28. **Convey Parcel Number 20-22-356-023:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to convey parcel number 20-22-356-023 in Grisham Township to Renfro Properties LLC, Logan Renfro. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 285).
29. **FY2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed several budget changes, including removing grants from the General Fund, removing the proposed new FOIA officer, changes in Supervisor of Assessments and County Board Administration staffing, HRA usage, and property tax revenue. He said the budget contains a recommendation by the Finance & Budget Committee to use Coal Fund interest earned in FY2024 as General Fund revenue in FY2025, and to likewise use any remaining available ARPA interest as General Fund revenue in FY2025. Ritchie said with current interest rates at the level they are, the Finance & Budget Committee also recommends maintaining a \$10 million Coal Fund reserve, using any Coal Funds in excess of \$10 million only for non-recurring expenses, and dedicating Coal Fund interest as General Fund revenue. Since the Finance & Budget Committee met, the State of Illinois revised its Personal Property Replacement Tax revenue estimate substantially upward. Ritchie stated with those changes, the committee is presenting a budget for the County Board's review calling for General Fund expenses of \$8,531,753 and he predicts a FY2025 General Fund budget surplus of \$59,139. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to place the tentative FY2025 budget on display for public review. All in favor, motion carried.** Ritchie said the Finance & Budget Committee will present any budget changes for review next month and ask the County Board to take action on the final FY2025 budget in November.
30. **Ambulance Districts FY2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed proposed budgets from the Farmersville-Waggoner, Hillsboro, Nokomis-Witt, and Raymond-Harvel ambulance districts. He said because three of the four ambulance special service areas have requested tax levy increases requiring Truth in Taxation hearings, the committee voted to forward all four budgets to the board without a recommendation.
31. **Estimated FY2025 Montgomery County Tax Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee spent substantial time reviewing and discussing requested Montgomery County tax levies. The levies requested would result in a 13.4687% levy increase, and

the committee debated whether this increase was advisable given the relative health of the proposed FY2025 budget and the current level of Coal Fund reserves. The committee ultimately decided a 13.4687% levy increase is not the best idea, and instead voted to drop the Corporate General Fund Levy by \$371,889 to reduce the levy increase to a total of 4.999%. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve an estimated FY2025 Montgomery County Tax Levy of \$4,906,619 which would result in a 4.999% increase over FY2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 286).**

- 32. Estimated FY2025 Hillsboro Area Ambulance Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Hillsboro Area Ambulance special service area has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$300,000. State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti informed the County Board the process requires them to approve a tentative levy, allow the taxing body to explain the request at a Truth in Taxation hearing if required, then vote on the final levy at the October County Board meeting. He reminded them the County Board has the final decision on all levies. In answer to questions from the board, Hillsboro Area Ambulance Director Barb Schmedeke said staff costs continue to increase because nearly all her staff are highly-trained paramedics; ambulances need repairs; and the service has been under-levying in recent years. She also reported Hillsboro Ambulance has covered 143 calls to the Nokomis-Witt special service area this year. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to approve an estimated FY2025 Hillsboro Area Ambulance Tax Levy of \$300,000 which would result in a 164.5104% increase over FY2024, and to schedule the subsequent Truth in Taxation hearing for 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 287).**
- 33. Estimated FY2025 Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance special service area has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$114,200. Ambulance Board Member Mike Webb described escalating costs and the difficulty in recruiting new staff. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve an estimated FY2025 Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Tax Levy of \$114,200 which would result in a 38.2487% increase over FY2024, and to schedule the subsequent Truth in Taxation hearing for 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, at the Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Building in Farmersville. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 288).**
- 34. Estimated FY2025 Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance special service area has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$500,000. Ambulance Board member Dave Schweizer said his special service area is trying to recover financial stability, retain staff, and hopefully purchase a used ambulance. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve an estimated FY2025 Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Tax Levy of \$500,000 which would result in a 56.6552% increase over FY2024, and to schedule the subsequent Truth in Taxation hearing for 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 25, at Nokomis City Hall. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 289).**
- 35. Estimated FY2025 Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance special service area has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$88,738. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve an**

estimated FY2025 Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Tax Levy of \$88,738 which would result in a 4.9997% increase over FY2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 290).

36. **Estimated FY2025 Veterans Assistance Commission Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Veterans Assistance Commission has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$113,086. VAC Superintendent Cassandra Hampton was present for questions. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve an estimated FY2025 Veterans Assistance Commission Tax Levy of \$113,086 which would result in a 105.4328% increase over FY2024, and to schedule the subsequent Truth in Taxation hearing for 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 291).**
37. **Estimated FY2025 Community Mental Health (708) Board Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the 708 Board has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$945,411. 708 Board Chairman Dan Hough said his board would like to levy at its voter-approved tax cap to meet funding requests, and said 708 has not levied at its rate cap since 2016. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Hughes to approve an estimated FY2025 Community Mental Health Board Tax Levy of \$945,411 which would result in a 40.0156% increase over FY2024, and to schedule the subsequent Truth in Taxation hearing for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 292).**
38. **Estimated FY2025 Senior Social Services Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Senior Social Services has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$119,762. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve an estimated FY2025 Senior Social Services Tax Levy of \$119,762 which would result in a 4.5942% increase over FY2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 293).**
39. **Estimated FY2025 Extension Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Extension Service has requested a FY2025 tax levy of \$157,000. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve an estimated FY2025 Extension Service Tax Levy of \$157,000 which would result in a 0.0202% decrease from FY2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 294).**
40. **FY2024 Animal Control Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated due to changes in Animal Control staffing, Development & Personnel Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert asked the committee to give him a few weeks to recommend a solution to the FY2024 Animal Control budget issues.

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said IS Director Curt Watkins told the committee his department is working on courtroom multimedia projects, implementing the Montgomery and Christian County CAD-to-CAD connection, and has noticed an uptick in phishing e-mails caught by the county firewall.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported Kevin Schott said transition work continues, and Dan Hough reported he has been training and reaching out to contacts.
3. **EMA Director Appointment Update/Approval:** Donaldson recommended promoting Dan Hough to EMA Director. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Beason to**

approve of the appointment of Dan Hough as Montgomery County EMA Director effective October 1, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported goals were exceeded for this year and will increase for next. He stated the council meets next in October.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Tony Johnson from Assured Partners presented a monthly report and stated the United Health Care renewal came back at a 39% increase due to claims running \$235,000 over premiums for the past year. Johnson said he has already started the process of seeking other insurance companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield and Aetna, and is making the argument that several of this year's large claims are non-recurring. Johnson shared BCBS is offering an 8% rate cap for 2025 and offers bundling discounts. Ruppert said employee open enrollment will take place in mid to the end of October and Johnson will have insurance numbers ready at next month's committee meeting.
2. **Employee Performance Appraisal Update/Approval:** Ruppert said his committee reviewed and discussed the draft of the Employee Performance Appraisal form as prepared by Human Resource Consultant Bushue. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to approve the Employee Performance Appraisal Form. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Employee Exit Policy & Procedures Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the committee reviewed and discussed the draft of the Employee Exit Policy and Procedures form prepared by Bushue. He said this form is basically a check-list for when an employee is leaving county employment. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve the Exit Policy and Procedure form. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Animal Control Warden Resignation Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the county received a resignation letter from Emily Gerl effective August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, after she accepted a position with Macoupin County Animal Control. **Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to approve the resignation letter from Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Animal Control Warden Hire Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the county received three applications for the vacant Animal Control Warden position and he has interviewed all three applicants. Ruppert stated April Pier is very qualified and received good written references from both Dr. Alan Probst and his office manager Tracy Collins. Ruppert stated he also called Dr. Probst and Ms. Collins for additional input. He said she is available to begin employment on September 23, 2024, and with the help of Bushue HR he has created an offer letter. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to hire April Pier as Animal Control Warden. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated a Public Hearing remains in recess until November 4th, 2024.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the county received word that Round Two of the Energy Transition Grant in the amount of \$1,351,928 has been awarded to Montgomery County for Montgomery County projects, and we are now waiting for a contract from DCEO. Ruppert said monthly expense reports have been

submitted every month since April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and there have not been any reimbursements yet from the State of Illinois.

8. **Grain Belt Express Appellate Decision Update/Approval:** Ruppert said since the recent appellate court decision was made, there is nothing new to discuss.
9. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Oil Sun Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee reviewed the proposal from Hurst-Roche Engineers for services to review the Oil Sun Solar Application for an amount not to exceed \$3,500. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the Hurst-Roche proposal to review the Oil Sun Application for an amount not to exceed \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 295).**
10. **2025 County Holiday Schedule Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee reviewed a draft of the 2025 Holiday Schedule and discussion took place on possibly making adjustments to include Christmas Eve as a holiday. Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins told the committee he was instructed by the Judge's Office not to schedule anything for this Christmas Eve. Ruppert said county offices are in favor of closing this day as there is very little activity. Some suggestions were discussed of exchanging other holidays such as Election Day or Columbus Day to have Christmas Eve off. He said the discussion and approval of the 2025 Holiday Schedule will be addressed at the October meeting.
11. **Employee Manual Dress Code Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the committee was approached about implementing a county dress code, and Bushue will be asked for input at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
12. **Oil Sun Solar Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported his committee reviewed the following permit condition for the drainage discussion on the Oil Sun Solar Project Application. *"Applicant shall, at Applicant's sole cost, upgrade the main tile line on Applicant's property to approximately thirty inches (30") in width from its existing approximately twenty-two inches (22") and Applicant, pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-12020 (s-5), shall use reasonable efforts to cooperate with neighboring property owners to provide updated tile and solar plans if requested by such neighboring property owners prior to construction. In addition, Applicant may extend any of the new approximately 30" tile line onto neighboring properties if in accordance with the provisions of Illinois Drainage Code and if it is mutually agreed upon between Applicant and any adjacent property owner(s) next to Applicant property".* **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to approve the Oil Sun Solar Application with the conditions as stated. All in favor, motion carried.**

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed said Maintenance Director Phil Ernst highlighted many of the 63 items on his report for the committee to discuss. The roof on the Montgomery County Courthouse Complex is now complete, and Sneed apologized to those who work in the building for the noise during the process. He also pointed out Maintenance is addressing a faulty chiller at the building.
2. **Two-Year Plan Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee reviewed and discussed eight items on a 2-year building maintenance plan developed by Ernst and

Sneed. The committee discussed adding sealing and repainting the north wall of the Courthouse Annex building.

3. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed said Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society was present at the committee meeting to review text to be placed on a historical marker which will be located on the Historic Courthouse lawn in 2025. Sneed said the marker, “Hillsboro – A Town of Industry and Innovation” pays homage to the industrial history of Hillsboro, Taylor Springs, Schram City, and Kortkamp. Dunn said he has raised the \$5,600 cost for the marker through sponsors (Schram City and the Old Settlers Association). Sneed said Dunn is also planning a dedication ceremony and private reception in Spring, 2025.
4. **Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Sneed said plans for the Health Department to acquire land owned by Montgomery County government near the Highway Department for a solar array are pending.
5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said work is nearing completion for this project, with security glass installation and work by Wareham’s Security among items yet to be completed.
6. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said work remains pending.
7. **Surplus Office Equipment Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee discussed surplus office equipment at the Montgomery County Courthouse Complex. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins said once the items are declared surplus, he will dispose of them by offering them to other offices, by bids, or by throwing away unusable surplus. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to declare unused Montgomery County Courthouse office equipment as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee discussed the continued cost of maintaining the Green Diamond Bike Trail between Farmersville and Waggoner. He said County Board members are reaching out to nearby units of local governments to determine if there is any interest in taking over the trail, and County Board Administration will reach out to Natural Area Guardians (NAGs) to determine if there is interest in a maintenance agreement similar to the one for Arches Rail Trail.
9. **Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed said County Board Administration will notify Schindler the county intends to request bids for an elevator service contract, and Ernst will begin developing a list of possible bidders.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said Engineer Cody Greenwood reported to the committee his office is waiting on UKA’s traffic impact analysis before developing a Road Use Agreement (RUA) and any required pre-construction plans.
2. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed comments provided by consultant WHKS from a public information meeting held August 6<sup>th</sup> regarding a proposed Walshville bypass road.
3. **Solar Panels Bid Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported his committee reviewed and discussed a tabulation sheet with two local bids to install solar panels at the Montgomery County Highway Department in an attempt to offset the cost of power used

by the department. According to Trent Laughlin of LMD Solar, the apparent low bidder, the project is eligible to receive a 30% federal income tax credit of \$43,750 and a 10% federal Energy Community credit of \$13,291 plus a state Illinois Shine payment averaging \$11,600 per year paid over the next seven years. Murzynski said the Highway Department has more than \$150,000 left in the Building Maintenance budget line item in Office 225. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Young to award the low bid of \$132,918 to LMD Solar of Hillsboro for solar panels at the Montgomery County Highway Department.** (Member Jones had left the meeting prior to this vote). **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

4. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 2 Bid Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the committee reviewed and discussed a tabulation sheet provided by Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche, representing Bid Package 2 for a 13,248 square foot heavy equipment shed at the Montgomery County Highway Department. Bid Package 2 was bid before Bid Package 1 (concrete work) because the County Board has approved ARPA funding for the project, which requires a signed contract before the end of the year. Four bidders requested bid packets and three returned bids. Bids ranged from \$496,448 to \$517,990. After the committee recommended accepting the low bid, Murzynski said it was discovered the lowest bidder improperly submitted the bid electronically and not in a sealed envelope as required by bid specifications. Murzynski said after discovering the issue, he and County Engineer Cody Greenwood met with State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti on Tuesday morning, September 10<sup>th</sup> and the State's Attorney advised rejecting the improperly submitted bid. Ruppert asked if the low bidder had received permission to submit it electronically, and Greenwood said he had not, and the low bidder indicated he was unable to get a sealed bid turned in by the deadline and acknowledged his bid may not be acceptable. Engineer Greenwood said he has since checked the references on the second-lowest bidder, Stutz Excavating of Alton, and got no negative responses. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to award the bid of \$505,921 to Stutz Excavating of Alton for Bid Package 2 of a heavy equipment shed at the Montgomery County Highway Department.** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, Whitworth. Voting no: Ruppert and Young. **Motion carried 11-2.** (Jones had left the meeting prior to this vote).
5. **Heavy Equipment Shed ARPA Ordinance 2024-22 Update/Approval:** Murzynski reminded the County Board they had previously approved \$670,000 in ARPA funds to cover the cost of the Highway Department Heavy Equipment Shed, and an ordinance was required. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ritchie to approve an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$670,000 of ARPA funds to be made available for the construction of a Heavy Equipment Shed at the Montgomery County Highway Department.** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 296).** (Jones had left the meeting prior to this vote).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chairman Donaldson reminded the board the BLH Fall Electronics Recycling is set for Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9 a.m-12 noon at the Highway Department in Taylor Springs.
2. Chairman Donaldson said an Extension Board FY2026 levy meeting is set for Wednesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Extension Office, and he requested Finance & Budget Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration attend.
3. Chairman Donaldson reiterated the Truth In Taxation hearing schedule as follows: Monday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. at Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Building in Farmersville; Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro; and Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m. at Nokomis City Hall.
4. Chairman Donaldson read a letter from Montgomery County Sheriff Rick Robbins announcing his retirement effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and endorsing Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser as his replacement. Donaldson said Montgomery County Democrat and Republican Party Chairmen will be notified of the vacancy as required by law.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. **Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to re-appoint John L. Welch of Farmersville to the Farmersville-Waggoner Fire Protection District for a 3-year term September 2024 through September 2027. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to appoint Randall Singler of Irving to the Mutual Drainage District No. 1 of the Towns of Irving, Witt, Nokomis and Rountree through the first Tuesday in September 2027. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Folkerts and second by Bergen to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Loucks and second by Hughes to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:51 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.



## Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 pm in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 14 members present, 0 members absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by Vice Chairman Evan Young.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Beck and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Beason and second by Whitworth to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, September 10th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – April Pier, no report submitted, present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions. She reported since Early Voting and Vote By Mail periods began on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 552 Early Voting ballots have been cast and 471 Vote-By-Mail ballots have been returned of 1586 requested. She asked members to encourage their constituents who received a Vote By Mail ballot to return it soon due to potential post office delays. Leitheiser also stated all Polls will be open on Election Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, present for questions.
- 6. EMA Report** – Dan Hough, report submitted, was present for questions. He reported about a COAD meeting held earlier in the day.
- 7. EPA Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, present for questions.
- 8. Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, present for questions.
- 9. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted.
- 10. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report submitted.
- 11. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.

12. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, no report submitted, present for questions.
13. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.
14. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, no report submitted.
15. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser and Chief Deputy Jeff Roach were present for questions.
16. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, present for questions.
17. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted, was present for questions. He reported results of the Truth-In-Taxation hearings and thanked county officials for their support and attendance during this process.
18. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions. She reported delinquent notices will be published later in the week and the tax sale is set for October 28<sup>th</sup>.
19. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board had not met this month.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason reported the board is still working on a change in the transportation funding agent from Shelby County to Effingham County.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen had nothing to report.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported the board will meet next on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen reported on the new salary transparency law which will go into effect at the first of the year.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes had nothing to report.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported the board had signed a solar contract.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported he will be attending the fall conference on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **U of I** – Beck reported the board will meet next on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **WCDC** – Jones had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Vice-President of the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Board Dave Schweizer introduced fellow board members Dennis Aumann and Joletta Hill. He said his board asks to increase their tax levy due to the lingering effects of COVID, inflation, prior mismanagement, and county billing errors. He said the special service has survived due to community donations in excess of \$85,000. The ambulance board has asked for a levy of \$500,000 but will likely hit their rate cap at \$425,000. He said they are trying to staff the service with 24/7 Basic Life Support, but hope to add a paramedic. Hill said she has dedicated 32 years to the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. She said throughout their financial difficulties, the service has remained in operation through volunteers, mutual aid, and support from the community. Hill stated her hope is to return to an award-winning Advanced Life Support service. Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service Director Barb Schmedeke said she was representing the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Special Service Area, and said the service has not asked for a tax levy increase for 16 years. She said eight of their nine full-time employees are paramedics. She

said the service has answered over 2,000 calls so far this year, including frequently covering for Nokomis-Witt Ambulance and answering ALS calls for Raymond-Harvel Ambulance.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said Information Services Director Curt Watkins had reported to the committee the new front desk for court security is in and his office is working on connections as well as finishing work in the Circuit Clerk's office. Watkins reported courtroom equipment has been delayed, and his office is still updating PCs and tracking phishing emails. Watkins' future plans for IT include security video storage, multi-factor log-ins and a phone system upgrade.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson said new EMA Director Dan Hough reported the transition is going well, and he intends to make an inventory list and attend training sessions in November.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the next meeting is set for October 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Extension Budget Presentation to County Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie and Mike Plunkett met with Extension Director Sara Marten on September 18<sup>th</sup> and invited her to make a presentation to the board. Marten was present, and said Extension is asking for no increase in their tax levy next year. She said they have no major staffing changes, and programming has reached 6,000 youth and adults.
5. **Operation Green Light for Veterans Resolution 2024-23 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read a resolution in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans by lighting the Historic Courthouse green November 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Jones to approve Resolution 2024-23 supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 1).**
6. **Accept Retirement Letter Sheriff Robbins as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval:** **Motion by Young and second by Beck to accept the letter of retirement by Sheriff Rick Robbins effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Appointment of County Sheriff as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee has submitted a letter recommending the appointment of Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser as Montgomery County Sheriff. **Motion by Jones and second by Whitworth to appoint Tyson Holshouser as Montgomery County Sheriff effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.** The board applauded the appointment.
8. **Review of Executive Session Minutes Update/Approval:** Donaldson said he joined County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser and County Board Administration Office staff and reviewed Executive Session Minutes on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, with the following recommendations: **Motion by Beck and second by Ritchie to open Coordinating Committee Executive Session minutes from March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019; June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019; December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Safety & Elections Executive Session minutes from July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Development & Personnel Executive Session minutes from August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022; November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023; November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023; November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023; December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Infrastructure Committee Executive Session minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022;**

and Full Board Executive Session minutes from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023; December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Sneed and second by Young to forever seal Coordinating Committee Executive Session minutes from November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Finance & Budget Executive Session minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020; March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023; May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Development & Personnel Executive Session minutes from January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021; October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022; February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023; March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023; September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Safety & Elections Executive Session minutes from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Infrastructure Committee Executive Session minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022; Buildings & Grounds Executive Session minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022; June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023; and Full Board Executive Session minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021; December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the Supervisor of Assessments office reported EAV has increased \$23 million to over \$600 million for tax year 2024 payable in 2025, and has also been working on woodland assessment compliance.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the August coal royalty payment was \$185,829.42 and interest was \$41,662.14. In response to a question from Bergen about the transfer of Coal Fund interest to the General Fund for FY 2025, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said this decision must be made annually.
3. **Kane County Intergovernmental Agreement for Juvenile Detention Update/Approval:** Due to the closure of Juvenile Detention centers in Franklin and Sangamon County, Ritchie said the Probation office has reached an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County as a back up to Juvenile Detention services in Madison County. The cost to Montgomery County will be \$175 per day when utilized. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for Juvenile Detention services. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 2-9).**
4. **Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the State's Attorney is reviewing a resolution requiring state agencies pay the same recording fees as the public. The resolution will be considered by the committee next month.
5. **FY 2023 Audit Update/Approval:** The County Board has been reviewing the audit report presented in September. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve the FY 2023 Audit Report. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie said according to the latest information from Treasurer Nikki Lohman, the tentative FY 2025 budget predicts a \$179,861 General Fund surplus after changes in several line items, most notably a change in predicted health insurance costs. He said there are changes still to be made, including final property/casualty, workers comp, and unemployment insurance premiums. Ritchie stated there is still \$213,478 in ARPA funds yet to be committed. He said the committee will come up with specific projects which could offset predicted General Fund expenses, develop a plan at the November committee meeting, and contract for the projects in December.
7. **FY 2025 Aggregate Tax Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee spent ample time discussing the estimated tax levies, most notably the five districts who hosted

Truth-in-Taxation hearings last month. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve a Montgomery County Aggregate levy of \$4,906,619 (an increase of 4.9999%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

8. **FY 2025 Hillsboro Area Ambulance Tax Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the committee considered two motions, one for a \$300,000 levy and one for a \$226,834 levy, and both recommendations ended in a tie vote. Sneed asked if it would have been better for the taxpayers if the levy had increased gradually over time rather with this one large increase now. Whitworth pointed out Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service had dropped their tax levy in the past. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve a Hillsboro Area Ambulance levy of \$300,000 (an increase of 164.5104%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Murzynski, and Young. **Motion carried 10-4.**
9. **FY 2025 Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Tax Levy Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve a Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance levy of \$114,200 (an increase of 38.2487%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **FY 2025 Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Tax Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie said at the Finance & Budget Committee meeting, the motion to recommend the Nokomis-Witt levy request of \$500,000 died for a lack of second. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve a Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance levy of \$500,000 (an increase of 56.6552%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, and Young. **Motion carried 11-3.**
11. **FY 2025 Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Tax Levy Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve a Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance levy of \$88,738 (an increase of 4.9997%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**
12. **FY 2025 Veterans Assistance Commission Tax Levy Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve a Veterans Assistance Commission levy of \$113,086 (an increase of 105.4626%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**
13. **FY 2025 Community Mental Health Tax Levy Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported in committee, the motion to recommend the requested 708 levy failed 2-4. Vice Chairman Young said he opposed the levy because half of the money goes to other taxing bodies, such as school districts and the health department. Whitworth responded school districts maximize their levies just to stay afloat; Young said school districts are in better financial shape than in the past. Jones said the 708 Board does wonderful things, and helping youth saves future money. Loucks said his property taxes increase 10% annually, and Sneed said in the future other taxing bodies need to consider funding their own needs. Beason responded it is difficult for school districts to meet their own needs. Chairman

Donaldson said mental health problems are an epidemic in the country as well as this county. 708 Board Chairman Dan Hough said he believes the work funded by his board is making a difference, referencing 10 overdose deaths and 8 suicide deaths last year and only one of each so far this year. In the future, Hough said the 708 Board hopes to provide scholarships to eventually secure a local psychiatrist to increase our mental health services. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve a Community Mental Health levy of \$945,411 (an increase of 40.0158%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert and Young. **Motion carried 10-4.**

**14. FY 2025 Senior Social Services Tax Levy Update/Approval: Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve a Senior Social Services levy of \$119,762 (an increase of 4.5942%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**15. FY 2025 Extension Services Tax Levy Update/Approval: Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend an Extension Service levy of \$157,000 (a decrease of 0.0202%).** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**(For copies of all Levies approved, see Resolution Book 22, pages 10-18).**

**16. FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval:** Ritchie said since an extra payroll happens to fall on the final day of the fiscal year, a budget amendment will possibly be necessary because our county accounting is done on a cash basis and not on an accrual basis. Treasurer Lohman stated she is checking with the auditor regarding this need.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

**1. DCEO Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee heard from and asked questions of DCEO Small Biz Grant applicants Dan Rogers of First Due Consulting, Tyler Yount of Salon RE, Matt Weiss of Weiss Construction, and Chris and Melanie Sherer of Mel's Slots. Near the end of the meeting, the committee discussed and scored their applications. Murzynski asked if each qualifies as a new business, and Ruppert stated either new businesses or expansion of businesses qualify for grant funds. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to award the following Small Biz grants: \$15,000 to Mel's Slots in Taylor Springs, \$15,000 to First Due Consulting in Irving, \$12,500 to Weiss Construction in Hillsboro, and \$5,000 to Salon RE in Coffeen for a total of \$47,500. All in favor, motion carried.**

**2. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the county has had \$40,751 in HRA expenses to date. Tony Johnson of Assured Partners informed the committee after a 39% renewal increase from United Healthcare, he is recommending switching to Blue Cross Blue Shield at an 11.2% increase with an 8% rate cap next year. Ruppert said the proposal would make the county's cost the same across four offered plans, eliminate the HRA, and by-and-large be less expensive than current options for employees. He stated open enrollment will begin October 21<sup>st</sup>. **Motion by Ruppert and Second by Ritchie to accept the Assured Partners Blue Cross Blue Shield employee health insurance proposal for 2025 for a total annual**

**premium of \$1,524,415.56** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth (Young had left the meeting at 6:55 pm). **All in favor, motion carried.**

3. **2025 Holiday Schedule Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee discussed the proposed 2025 Holiday Schedule, which adds Christmas Eve as a county holiday. He said since there is no Election Day federal holiday in 2025, the committee recommended the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule with 14 holidays as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 19).**
4. **FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the committee will begin contract negotiations at 5 pm on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Ruppert introduced new Warden April Pier, who was applauded by the board. He stated she has been attending training and cleaning up the facility.
6. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Project Manager Rebecca Cheatham of Cypress Creek Renewables was present at the Development & Personnel meeting and told the committee due to impact of Hurricane Helene on her company's home office in North Carolina, resumption of the Plains Solar public hearing should be postponed until no earlier than November, 2024.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant/Nextlinke Payment Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported after contact with the Governor's office, response from DCEO has improved and the first DCEO Energy Transition Grant reimbursement payment arrived Monday. He said Nextlink provided the committee with a written update; their towers in the northern part of the county are up and running, and they are finalizing locations on towers to the south which will be partially funded by the DCEO grant. A voucher for the \$100,000 grant amount is among this month's bills. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve a voucher for \$100,000 to Nextlink for improved broadband services to be reimbursed by the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth. **All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert reviewed a history of the account established by former Treasurer Ron Jenkins from the sale of surplus delinquent properties from which the county would fund up to \$500 to municipalities and townships for dumpsters for city-wide or township-wide clean-up days. He said the program was paused in 2012 when the fund was depleted, but it has since built back up and Treasurer Lohman suggested reinstating the program. She also asked the committee to consider funds for TV drop-offs at the Electronic Recycling drives and a potential county shred day. Ruppert said Lohman will continue to research details. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to reinstate the municipal clean-up program, increasing reimbursable dumpster expenses from \$500 to \$750, beginning in Fiscal Year 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Project Labor Agreement Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the committee and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti are reviewing the resolution passed in 2011 requiring the County to attach a project labor agreement (PLA) to projects over \$100,000.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed said a 13-year-old chiller is down at the Montgomery County Courthouse Complex, and Maintenance Director Phil Ernst is researching repair and replacement costs.
2. **Arches Rail Trail Signs Prohibiting Motorized Vehicles Update/Approval:** Sneed said NAGs President Glenn Savage asked the county to consider installing signs to prohibit motorized traffic on the Arches Rail Trail between Bremer Sanctuary and Butler. Sneed said NAGs has maintained the county recreational trail since its inception in 2011, and Savage reported motorized vehicles are cutting muddy ruts interfering with foot and bicycle access. Four signs are needed. NAGs will, with input from the State's Attorney, suggest wording for the signs and research costs.
3. **Schindler Elevator Non-Renewal Letter Update/Approval:** Sneed said the current contract with Schindler expires February 27<sup>th</sup>, and Sneed said a non-renewal letter will be sent out on November 7<sup>th</sup> per contract requirements.
4. **Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Maintenance Director Ernst is soliciting proposals and the committee will review them next month.
5. **Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Sneed said a survey has been ordered and the Montgomery County Health Department solar project is moving forward.
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said Security glass was installed last week completing the project.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Due to a change in staff at Thompson Electronic Company, Sneed reported a new project manager is back at a beginning point with the project.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the county is still waiting on a traffic impact analysis, and said the company should have the analysis to the county by the end of October or early November.
2. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the consultant continues to work on response letters to public comments. A meeting with a local land-owner has been planned.
3. **Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township – Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed a tabulation sheet from the bid letting held on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. He said two bids were received and the low bid was from C Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill for \$816,789.70. Murzynski said the project is 10% County, 10% Township, and the rest from the state. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Hughes to award the low bid of \$816,789.70 from C Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill for Section 17-05121-00-BR Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement in Fillmore Consolidated Township. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth. **All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Arches Rail Trail Sign Request from Natural Area Guardians Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the Montgomery County Highway Department can order and install the signs. Details will be finalized next month.

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



**Motion by Donaldson and second by Ruppert to approve the five committee reports and minutes for September. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beck and second by Murzynski to approve the five committee reports and minutes as well as the five Truth-In-Taxation Hearing minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Donaldson announced the following:

1. The next meeting with Bushue HR is 1 pm Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
2. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
3. The County Board has been invited to tour the Vistra site at 2 pm Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which is before the next board meeting. More details to follow.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Chairman Donaldson announced the following:

1. Development & Personnel Committee will meet at 5 pm on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to begin FOP negotiations.
2. Buildings & Grounds Committee is rescheduled to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Appoint Kevin Murphy to Harvel Drainage District #1 Update/Approval: **Motion by Jones and second by Beck to appoint Kevin Murphy to a three-year term on Harvel Drainage District #1 effective November 2024 through November 2027. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. Re-appoint Dennis Held to Harvel Drainage District #2 Update/Approval: **Motion by Beck and second by Jones to re-appoint Dennis Held to a three-year term on Harvel Drainage District #2 effective November 2024 through November 2027. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. Appoint Robbin Huffman to Litchfield Area Ambulance Special Services Area Board Update/Approval: **Motion by Sneed and second by Hughes to appoint Robbin Huffman to the Litchfield Area Ambulance Special Services Area Board to fill the seat vacated by Dan Newkirk. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Beason and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried.**

**RECESS:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Loucks to RECESS the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting RECESSED at 7:24 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 PM.

**Roll call was taken** – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Mark Hughes

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by retiring board members Folkerts, Loucks and Sneed.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Folkerts and second by Sneed to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – April Pier was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions. She reported an over 80% election turnout and thanked voters and election workers.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. EMA Report** – Dan Hough, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. EPA Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 8. Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 9. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 10. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, report submitted verbally to the Coordinating Committee.
- 11. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.
- 12. Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici, report submitted.
- 13. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted.
- 14. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
- 15. Sheriff’s Report** – Tyson Holshouser, report submitted, was present for questions.

16. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
17. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted.
18. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, was present for questions.
19. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted, was present for questions.

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Murzynski had nothing to report.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason had nothing to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen had nothing to report.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported the Litchfield office is in operation.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen reported a meeting will be held Monday in Normal.
- **MCEDC** -- Executive Director Bill Montgomery gave a brief report.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported a meeting will be held next Monday.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert had nothing to report.
- **U of I** – Beck had nothing to report.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported a meeting is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson said IT Director Curt Watkins reported to the committee the county will likely qualify for another court grant in 2025. His department has been working on server upgrades and operating systems, integrating the 911 server, and moving forward with multi-factor authentication and password management on county computers.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson noted the report in the Consent Agenda.
3. **2025 Meeting Dates & Times Update/Approval:** **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to approve the County Board and Committee meeting schedule for 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the last meeting was held on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Carlinville. He said the council is on track in its goals and is currently working with Ronk Electric in Nokomis.
5. **Appointment of EPA Inspector/Administrator as of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval:** **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to appoint Dan Hough as EPA Inspector/Administrator as of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Accept Retirement Letter Coordinator Daniels as of Nov. 30, 2024 Update/Approval:** **Motion by Whitworth and second by Jones to accept letter of intent to retire as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from Christine Daniels. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. **Appointment of County Coordinator as of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval:** Motion by Young and second by Beason to appoint Mike Plunkett as County Coordinator as of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Appointment of Enterprise Zone Administrator as of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval:** Motion by Young and second by Sneed to appoint Mike Plunkett as Enterprise Zone Administrator as of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Set County Board Reorganization Meeting for Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval:** Donaldson reminded the board the County Board Reorganization Meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse. Newly elected and reelected board members will take the oath of office before the meeting, and the Development & Personnel Committee will meet immediately after the special meeting.
10. **Navigator CO2 Test Well Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported IDNR Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management Director Dan Brennan notified the county by email the Navigator CO2 test well has been plugged.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee heard from four applicants: Natasha Downs of Mara Elizabeth Hair, Kory Brink of Shug Smoke Shack, Jennifer Helgen of Just Off Route 66 Car Wash, and Heather Greenwood of Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to award Small Biz Grants of \$5,000 to Mara Elizabeth Hair; \$20,000 to Shug Smoke Shack; and table awards to Just Off Route 66 Car Wash and Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness. All in favor, motion carried.** Ruppert reported the county has approximately \$150,000 left in the fund.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee heard a report from Tony Johnson of Assured Partners. All 152 county employees have completed open enrollment. Of those, 101 chose a medical plan, 75 chose the dental plan, 74 chose the vision plan, and 69 chose the voluntary life insurance.
3. **County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee is reviewing the PLA passed in 2011. He said the State's Attorney has reviewed it, and the County Board needs to determine if the amount triggering it (currently \$100,000) needs to be changed. The committee will review and make a recommendation next month.
4. **FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported after two meetings a tentative agreement was reached. The four-year contract calls for base raises of 5.5% the first year, 5% the second, 5% the third, and 5% the fourth resulting in base hourly wages for each contract year of \$33.94, \$35.64, \$37.42, and \$39.29 respectively. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to approve a four-year contract beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, between the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police and Montgomery County.**  
**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **Motion carried 12-1** (Murzynski abstained).
5. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Ruppert said according to Warden April Pier, the facility currently had nine dogs after four dogs and one cat have been adopted out in recent weeks, in addition to several others sent out through PAWS.

6. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the public hearing will resume at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert referred to County Board Assistant Mike Plunkett, who reported the county has received grant payments of \$19,887.56 and \$29,665.75 and has been assigned a new grant manager.
8. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the committee reviewed survey results indicating communities could use county assistance. He said the committee will continue to review and make program recommendations.
9. **Bushue HR Employee Handbook Revision Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the next meeting has been set for 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, in the County Board Room, where work on the employee handbook will continue.
10. **Nokomis TIF Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted Chairman Donaldson has been notified the City of Nokomis is pursuing a TIF district.
11. **Other Business:** Ruppert reported several members toured the VISTRA Solar/Battery Storage plant before the meeting and said VISTRA is ready to go online December 9<sup>th</sup>, with future expansion planned.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed said Maintenance Director Phil Ernst highlighted many of the 90 items on his monthly report, and presented a proposal from Dan Heise Plumbing to replace bad water fountains in the Courthouse Complex. The committee voted to accept the proposal. .
2. **Entec Project Proposal Update/Approval:** Sneed said Jared Bergman of Entec presented a proposal to the committee to investigate the compressor failure in the existing chiller for a cost not to exceed \$4,250. The committee voted to accept the proposal.
3. **Operation Green Light for Veterans Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the Historic Courthouse, the Courthouse Complex and Jail were illuminated green through Veterans Day for Operation Green Light for Veterans.
4. **Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed elevator service contract proposals from Allrise, Kone, Otis, and TK, for three and five years. The committee had previously opted out of the current contract with Schindler for \$10,986 per year. Otis provided the least expensive full maintenance bid. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beck to approve a three-year elevator maintenance agreement with Otis for \$6,899.40 per year. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **New Postage Machine Lease Update/Approval:** Sneed reported after research, the current two postage meters will remain certified through December 2027. **Motion by Sneed and second by Bergen to approve a 30-month agreement with Midwest Mailing for postage meters at no price increase. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said Engineer Cody Greenwood reported his office had received an updated traffic impact analysis but it was missing data. He said UKA is working to correct the omissions before a road use agreement is developed.

2. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the consulting engineer is finalizing the project development report, which will then be forwarded to IDOT.
3. **Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township – N. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the three submitted bids, but the Township needs to review the project before the County Board takes action.
4. **Resolution 2024-12 appropriating funds from the Federal Aid Matching Fund for Construction Engineering fees for Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd./Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Ruppert to approve Resolution 2024-12 appropriating up to \$100,000 to match federal funds for engineering fees for Section 20-00145-00-PV Coffeen Road and Seven Sisters Avenue intersection improvement. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.** (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 20).
5. **Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd. /Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection Joint Funding Agreement Update/Approval:** Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve Section 20-00145-00-PV Coffeen Road/Seven Sisters Avenue Intersection Joint Funding Agreement. **All in favor, motion carried.** (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 21-31).
6. **Resolution 2024-13 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer’s Salary for 2025 Update/Approval:** Murzynski said no information has been received from the state.
7. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 1 Letting results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported he anticipates a bid opening for concrete and electric packages at the next Roads & Bridges meeting.
8. **Green Diamond Recreational Trail Update/Approval:** Murzynski said board member Jeremy Jones has reached a verbal agreement with the Village of Waggoner to take over the Green Diamond recreational trail pending the county oiling it. He stated Louis Marsh has shut down operations for the year so oiling will have to be completed next year.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported to the committee her office is conducting field work and hopes to have data entered by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Board of Review met on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and Attorney Chris Sherer will be representing the county in Property Tax Appeal Board hearings. Ritchie also said the SOA office has also sent out MTA invoices. He stated Niehaus also noted an increase in EAV does not necessarily lead to a state multiplier. Ritchie said there was substantial discussion about Woodland Acreage Reclassification at the Finance Committee meeting, and that topic will be the subject of a special meeting set for Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Lodge on Main in Hillsboro.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie said according to reports filed by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, after a baler lease and coal royalty payment of \$173,282.53 in September, the total Coal Royalty balance is \$9,842,602.50. Interest earned to date is \$355,720.52.

3. **Assessment Issue Request/Tim Loveless Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Mr. Loveless was not present at the Finance & Budget meeting but did attend the Buildings & Grounds meeting on Friday. He stated a copy of his comments is in the County Board Packets on-line and the committee will discuss them next month.
4. **PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval:** Ritchie said filing this form is required for salary reimbursement for the new Sheriff. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to approve filing the PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 32).**
5. **Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser presented a resolution as a result of a new state law requiring state agencies to pay the same recording fee as the public. Currently the state pays \$11 instead of the \$88 public recording fee. Leitheiser said the resolution has been reviewed and approved by the State's Attorney. Due to notification requirements, the Fee Schedule Resolution will be on next month's agenda.
6. **Surplus ARPA Plan Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Lohman reported the county currently holds remaining uncommitted ARPA funds which must be allocated by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
  - **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve ARPA ordinance 2024-24 to allocate an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for the purchase of a Motorola Flex Server for 911. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 33).**
  - **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve ARPA ordinance 2024-25 to allocate an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the purchase of AEDs and CPR training for EMA. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 34).**
  - **Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to approve ARPA ordinance 2024-26 to allocate an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for the purchase of Meals on Wheels for CEFS. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 35).**
  - **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve ARPA ordinance 2024-27 to allocate an amount not to exceed \$216,500 for the purchase of infrastructure improvements recommended by the Building & Grounds Committee. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 36).**
7. **FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman presented a FY 2024 Budget Amendment Resolution required because an extra payroll falls on the final day of the fiscal year. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to approve an ordinance amending the FY 2024 budget. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 37-40).**
8. **Property Casualty/Workers Comp/Unemployment Insurance Renewals Update/Approval:** According to Ritchie, Agent Eric Braasch of Dimond Brothers Insurance recommended the county remain with ICRMT for property/casualty and with IPRF with workers comp. He said the total is up 16%, and Treasurer Lohman reported the new premium numbers are in the FY 2025 budget.

**9. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee recommended a FY 2025 budget predicting \$8.5 million in General Fund expenses and a General Fund surplus of \$156,708. The surplus was reached after the board cut the General Fund levy by more than \$300,000 and will transfer only interest from the Coal Fund to the General Fund. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve the FY 2025 budget predicting \$8,507,192.62 in General Fund expense. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**10. FY 2025 Budget Appropriation/Levies/Resolutions Update/Approval:**

- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to adopt the FY 2025 Appropriation Ordinance 2024-28 for \$38,432,981. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to adopt the General Corporate Fund Levy Resolution 2024-29 for \$904,415. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to adopt the County Health Department Levy Resolution 2024-30 for \$819,356. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Sneed to adopt the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Levy Resolution 2024-31 for \$618,100. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to adopt the Social Security Fund Levy Resolution 2024-32 for \$625,200. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to adopt the Insurance Premium Fund Levy Resolution 2024-33 for \$679,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to adopt the County Highway Fund Levy Resolution 2024-34 for \$630,274. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to adopt the County Highway Federal Aid Matching Fund Levy Resolution 2024-35 for \$315,137. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to adopt the Special Aid to County Bridge Fund Levy Resolution 2024-36 for \$315,137. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to adopt the Hillsboro Special Service Area Levy Resolution 2024-37 for \$300,000. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, and Young. **Motion carried 10-3.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to adopt the Farmersville-Waggoner Special Service Area Levy Resolution 2024-38 for \$114,200. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to adopt the Nokomis-Witt Special Service Area Levy Resolution 2024-39 for \$500,000. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, and Young. **Motion carried 10-3.**



- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to adopt the Raymond-Harvel Special Service Area Levy Resolution 2024-40 for \$88,738. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to adopt the Veterans Assistance Levy Resolution 2024-41 for \$113,086. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to adopt the Montgomery County Community Mental Health Board Levy Resolution 2024-42 for \$945,411. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **Motion carried 9-4.****
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to adopt the Senior Citizen Social Services Levy Resolution 2024-43 for \$119,762. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to adopt the County Extension Service Levy Resolution 2024-44 for \$157,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to adopt the State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Resolution 2024-45 for \$12,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to adopt Resolution 2024-46 to Set Certain Salaries for the Supervisor of Assessments (\$63,070), Probation Officer (\$113,924), and Assistant Probation Officers (285,371). All in favor, motion carried.**  
(For copies of Budget and Levy documents, see Resolution Book 22, pages 41-60).

**11. Convey Parcel 16-13-305-023 to Kaulunahenahe Samson Update/Approval: Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to transfer parcel number 16-13-305-023 in Hillsboro Township to Kaulunahenahe Samson. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 61).**

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

**Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chairman Donaldson recognized retiring board members Ken Folkerts, David Loucks and Bob Sneed, noting each invested an incredible amount of personal time to an often thankless job out of a feeling of civic duty. He presented each with a plaque and told them their service is appreciated.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Chairman Donaldson announced the following:

1. Bushue HR meeting set for 1 p.m. Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. Special County Board Meeting to discuss Woodland Reclassification at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Lodge on Main in Hillsboro.
3. Coordinating Committee is 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.
4. County Board Reorganization meeting is set for 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5. Personnel & Development Committee will meet immediately following the reorganization meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

1. Chairman Donaldson asked for a motion to appoint Janice Katelynn Huber to the Coffeen Fire Protection District. **Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to appoint Janice Katelynn Huber to the Coffeen Fire Protection District. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

**Motion by Beason and second by Bergen to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ADJOURN:**

**The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Loucks and second by Sneed to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board Special Meeting Minutes

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**Wednesday, November 20th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a special meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. at the Lodge on Main in Hillsboro, Illinois on Wednesday, November 20th, 2024. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:33 PM.

**ROLL CALL was taken** – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Ethan Murzynski

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** to the flag was led by Chairman Donaldson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Donaldson began by reviewing rules for public comments and informing those present the County Board was there to actively listen. He said the Supervisor of Assessments has developed a plan that has been shared with state legislators to implement the law with little impact on landowners. He emphasized threats need to stop, and any alleged unfair practices will be investigated. Twenty of 21 members of the public who filled out a Public Comment Card and handed in prior to the meeting addressed the board.

- **Kenny Hanners** gave a history of the enacting legislation and concluded it was not about conservation but instead about taxes. He said there was no public announcement from the County Board before implementation, and property tax revenue belongs to the taxpayers, not the County Board.
- **Christian County Supervisor of Assessments Chad Coady** said his office implemented this law last year. His office sent out notices to landowners and offered assistance in enrolling in a conservation program, and only four affected landowners chose not to enroll in a program. He stated the Supervisor of Assessments has to follow the law, which provides no extra funding for county government.
- **Montgomery County Fair Board representative Marti Benning** said she wanted to correct misinformation by the Supervisor of Assessments, pointing out that the Montgomery County Fair has been a not-for-profit organization since its formation, and files the required documentation with the State each year. She said the fair has paid taxes since purchasing the land, but fair boards in other counties are tax exempt. She stated taxing the fair's parcel as commercial property could prevent the fair from continuing. She also pointed out that the fair board maintains the access road to the county-owned Arches Rail Trail at no cost to the county.
- **Jerry Miles** said he owns 120 acres of timber ground that serves as drainage for his farmland. If enrolled in a government program, he said he would not be thrilled with the state telling him what he has to do with his ground, and prefers not to do it. He said the County Board members are welcome to walk the ground.
- **Former County Board member Donna Yeske** questioned the definition of wooded acreage, pointing out that no ground in Montgomery County meets the definition of "woodland." Playing a recording from a previous County Board Finance Committee meeting, she also questioned the uneven application of the reclassification.

- **Junior Whitlow** said timber is almost useless to the owner and its high taxes are not worth it. He said the University of Illinois reports pasture rental rates averaging from \$30 to \$62 per acre annually with insurance, maintenance costs, and assessments continually increasing.
- **Local Government Affairs Director for Illinois Realtors Ron Deedrick** said no other county has had this much difficulty implementing woodland reclassification. He said there have been serious communication errors in the county, and told the County Board members the assessor answers to them. He said the Illinois Department of Revenue urges a phase-in for this tax, and said his organization will help with educational efforts.
- **Gerry Spinner** reminded board members that the public voted them into office to help figure out options to keep local landowners in place and find solutions to issues such as the woodland reclassification.
- **Brandon Wille** said he would like to know how much more money woodland reclassification will bring in, and if those funds have been budgeted. He also asked if this reclassification results in surplus funds whether those funds can be returned to the landowners.
- **John Cearlock**, who said his father-in-law was former County Board member Bonnie Branum, said he believes it was the County Board's obligation to fill vacancies in Township Assessors. He said not doing so robbed taxpayers of a local level of appeal. He asked the County Board why this law hasn't been implemented until now.
- **Coral Christian** said in her job she serves families in poverty and believes increased taxation will also put middle and upper classes in poverty. She also stated increased taxes result in people not having the funds to donate to local food pantries, which are already low on supplies.
- **Jesse Boehler** said he has sent multiple emails to the County Board expressing concerns with fairness. He said he believes of the Supervisor of Assessments had been honest and transparent from the start, this issue would not be happening. He stated the taxpayers deserve fairness, transparency and accountability.
- **Joe Gray** said many senior citizens own only 20-40 acres as their only source of income. He questioned where the increased tax revenue would go, and said getting into conservation programs is costly. He also referenced the prior history of County Board decisions that impacted taxpayers, such as the coal mine and building a new courthouse.
- **Nicole Huber** said her family looked for the right spot of land for 13 years in Montgomery County and is worried they will lose their property if woodland reclassification is implemented. She said the woodland pasture where her animals are raised is farm ground, but the Supervisor of Assessments would not look at her paperwork. She said she believes the Supervisor of Assessments is incompetent at her job. She also stated the Woodland state statute needs repealed, because if it isn't only outside landowners will be able to afford property in Montgomery County.
- **Larry Morgason** told the board the Supervisor of Assessments works for them and is not doing her job. He said the County Board has control and is not exercising it and should also do their job.
- **Ruth McCario** said frustration could have been avoided if the process was transparent. She stated after hearing the audio of the meetings, she was disappointed in the actions of the Supervisor of Assessments and County Board, adding that the laughing heard on the audio is very concerning. She said she and her husband are first-generation farmers and they did not purchase the land to hand it over to a state-run program. She stated these tax changes will destroy their livelihood and government programs are not the solutions. She asked who will be able to live here to attend the new Hillsboro High School if this higher tax burden is put in place. She said the County Board members are failing us and asked them to fight for change at the state legislative level.
- **Sondra Templeton** said she recently bought a farm in Montgomery County and doesn't like government control of land. She is concerned she won't be able to afford her farm if this new

assessment is implemented. She said other Illinois laws aren't prosecuted, and urged the County Board to fix the problem.

- **Former County Board member and Finance Committee Chairwoman Megan Beeler** thanked those who attended the meeting, and she stated her family is ashamed of the current County Board members. She asked the County Board members if they work for the people or not, and said state statutes are open to interpretation. She said she feels the Supervisor of Assessments should have given public notice and time to react before reclassification. She said she believes the Supervisor of Assessments circumvented publication of a public notice, has been wasteful in the use of resources, and incorrectly told those affected the statute cannot be appealed. She believes the Supervisor of Assessments position should be elected and accountable to the voters. She said the County Board can vote to make this position elected, but if they don't a petition will be passed to make this position elected.
- **Dwayne Fenton** declined to speak, but said the last three speakers did a great job.
- **John Lentz** said the turnout at tonight's meeting was impressive. He stated the pursuit of happiness includes the right to own property, and he said one of the proudest days of his life was when he bought his first piece of ground at age 19. He said if he had been Supervisor of Assessments, he would have stepped down rather than enforce the reclassification. He said he saw only three options if this reassessment was forced on the landowners: 1) the landowner would be forced to enroll in a government program; 2) the landowner would bulldoze the woodland area; or 3) the landowner would lose the property due to high taxes. He asked the board to draft letters to state officials about the negative impacts of the law and advocate on behalf of the landowner.
- **Brandi Lentz** thanked everyone for coming. She said much of the woodland that has been reclassified may qualify as "wasteland" and be eligible for a one-sixth fair market value assessment. She called former Supervisor of Assessments Ray Durston an amazing assessor who cared about his community and asked for a round of applause for his service. She advocated for changing the office from an appointed position to an elected position and reviewed the petitioning process required to place the public question on the ballot to do so. She said there can be consequences for participating in government programs, and relayed a transaction story in which the buyer did not want to continue in a government CRP program and had to pay a penalty to be removed. She also encouraged landowners to check their property tax record cards for accuracy and report and changes to the Supervisor of Assessments office.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

#### **FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. **Woodland Acreage Reclassification Update/Approval:** Vice Chairman Evan Young reinforced statements that government programs can be a nightmare, and he believes there needs to be more flexibility. He said he also believes the issue needs to be pursued through state legislators, and said he feels confident the county can make something work. Chairman Donaldson said after speaking with state legislators, if a landowner presents documentation that he or she is trying to get effected woodlands enrolled into a program, the county would grant a two-year grace period to allow time for that enrollment to take place.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Special Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

**Montgomery County Board  
Reorganization Minutes**

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**Monday, December 2nd, 2024 – 5:00 PM**

The following are minutes of a reorganization meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:00 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

**OATH OF OFFICE** was administered by Judge Kit Hantla.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser at 5:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** 12 members present, 2 members absent.

**Members Present:** Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Rob Corso, Christine Daniels, Doug Donaldson, Keith Hancock, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Patty Whitworth

**Members Absent:** Russell Beason, Evan Young

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by County Board Member Christine Daniels.

**SELECTION OF REORGANIZATION MEETING CHAIRPERSON BY COUNTY CLERK SANDY LEITHEISER:**

**1. Nomination & Election of Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairperson**

**Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser asked for nominations for Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairperson.

**Nomination by Whitworth and second by Corso to nominate Hughes.** County Clerk Leitheiser asked three times for further Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairperson nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to elect Hughes Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairman by acclamation. All in favor, motion carried.**

County Clerk Leitheiser turned over the meeting to Temporary Chairman Hughes.

**SELECTION OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRPERSON BY TEMPORARY REORGANIZATION MEETING CHAIRMAN MARK HUGHES:**

**1. Nomination & Election of Montgomery County Board Chairperson**

**Update/Approval:** Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairperson Hughes asked for nominations for Montgomery County Board Chairperson. **Nomination by Murzynski and second by Beck to nominate Donaldson.** Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairperson Hughes asked three times for further Montgomery County Board Chairperson nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ritchie to elect Donaldson Montgomery County Board Chairman by acclamation. All in favor, motion carried.**

**SELECTION OF COUNTY BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON BY TEMPORARY REORGANIZATION MEETING CHAIRMAN MARK HUGHES:**

1. **Nomination & Election of Montgomery County Board Vice-Chairperson Update/Approval:** Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairman Hughes asked for nominations for Montgomery County Board Vice-Chairperson. **Nomination by Jones and second by Daniels to nominate Patty Whitworth.** Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairman Hughes asked three times for further Montgomery County Board Vice-Chairman nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. **Motion by Jones and second by Daniels to elect Patty Whitworth Montgomery County Board Chairwoman by acclamation. All in favor, motion carried.** Temporary Reorganization Meeting Chairman Hughes turned the meeting over to Chairman Donaldson, who thanked the board.

**RULES OF ORDER AD HOC COMMITTEE BY COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN DONALDSON:**

1. **Appointment of Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson appointed Beck, Whitworth, Bergen, Hughes and Daniels to the Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Hughes to appoint Beck, Whitworth, Bergen, Hughes and Daniels to the Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Time & Date Update/Approval:** The Ad Hoc Committee set a meeting time and date of 5 p.m. Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Announcement of Committee Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, & Members Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson announced the following committees:
  - Coordinating Committee: Chairman Doug Donaldson**  
*8:30 a.m. last Thursday of each month*  
*County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049*  
Vice Chairwoman Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Mark Hughes, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie
  - Development & Personnel Committee: Chairman Chad Ruppert**  
*5:00 p.m. two Mondays before Full Board meeting*  
*County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049*  
Vice Chairman Bill Bergen, Russ Beason, Jeremy Jones, Chris Daniels
  - Building & Grounds Committee: Chairman Mark Hughes**  
*8:30 a.m. Tuesday before Full Board meeting*  
*County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049*  
Vice Chairman Russ Beason, Connie Beck, Keith Hancock, Evan Young

**Road & Bridge Committee: Chairman Ethan Murzynski**

*8:30 a.m. Wednesday before Full Board meeting*

*Montgomery County Highway Department, Route 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049*

Vice Chairperson Bill Bergen, Patty Whitworth, Keith Hancock, Rob Corso, Chad Ruppert

**Finance & Budget Committee: Chairman Andy Ritchie**

*8:30 a.m. Thursday before Full Board meeting*

*County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049*

Vice Chairperson Connie Beck, Chris Daniels, Rob Corso, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young

**Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee: Chairwoman Connie Beck**

*County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049*

Vice Chairwoman Patty Whitworth, Bill Bergen, Mark Hughes, Chris Daniels

2. **Other Announcements:** Chairman Donaldson announced the UCCI County Board New Member Training will be held on Monday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

1. **Development & Personnel Committee Meeting:** Chairman Donaldson announced the Development & Personnel Committee will meet immediately following this meeting on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
2. **Plains Solar Public Hearing:** Chairman Donaldson announced the Development & Personnel Committee will reconvene the public Hearing for Plains Solar at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to adjourn until the regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.



## **Montgomery County Board Minutes For Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 – 5:30 PM**

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The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, December 10th, 2024. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 PM.

**Roll call was taken** – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Doug Donaldson, Keith Hancock, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young

**Member Absent:** Bill Bergen

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board Member Russ Beason.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. **Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:**

**Motion by Whitworth and second by Ritchie to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024; the special meeting held on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and the reorganizational meeting held on Monday, December 2, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Animal Control Report** – April Pier, present for questions
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, present for questions
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted, present for questions
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, present for questions
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Mike Plunkett, report submitted, present for questions
- 6. EMA Report** – Dan Hough, report submitted
- 7. EPA Report** – Dan Hough, report not submitted
- 8. Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee, report submitted
- 9. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted, present for questions
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted
- 11. Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici, report submitted
- 12. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, report submitted
- 13. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman, report submitted
- 14. Sheriff’s Report** – Tyson Holshouser, report submitted, present for questions
- 15. SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, present for questions
- 16. State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted
- 17. Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted, present for questions
- 18. VAC Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted

## APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

**Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

## LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Murzynski had nothing new to report.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason had nothing new to report.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen was not present.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth reported a special meeting is set for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen was not present.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes reported a meeting is planned in January.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Chairman Donaldson reported he will fill the liaison vacancy soon.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert reported new board member training is planned for January.
- **U of I** – Beck reported a meeting is set for December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the committee is meeting its goals.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Donna Yeske** said she is disappointed after listening to the audio recording of the December 5<sup>th</sup> Finance & Budget Committee meeting. She reminded the board all elected officials work for the people, and said other assessors in the state have told her the timberland reclassification law is far from black-and-white. She requested the County Board give the Supervisor of Assessments a 30-day notice to remove her from office, and also said it is time for some new County Board members.
- **Jesse Boehler** said the County Board behaves differently when people are in the room. He said the Supervisor of Assessments unfairly retaliates against taxpayers and filed her certification late but refused a deadline extension for a taxpayer. He also asked the County Board to give the Supervisor of Assessments a 30-day notice to remove her from office to make the job an elected position.
- **Brandi Lentz** said the Supervisor of Assessments filed her certification of education on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which was 17 months late, but denied Tim Loveless an exception to a deadline despite the fact his office had a fire. She also asked why Montgomery County requires additional burdens like recording leases. She said Sangamon County accepts recorded leases throughout the year, and Christian County has a March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline but accepts applications up to the day before the tax sale. She also referenced inconsistencies in statements made on the number of reclassified woodland parcels and has found no examples of parcels which had been previously reclassified by township assessors. She said it was troubling to hear the special meeting crowd referred to as a mob and asked the County Board to begin the process of making the Supervisor of Assessments position an elected one.
- **Bill Schroeder** addressed the board on the Deer Run Mine permit revision application, and said he believes the permit will expand the coal refuse site because the mine anticipates selling coal to City Water Light and Power (CWLP) in Springfield and accepting combustion waste from the public utility. He asked board members to attend any public hearings on the application and to defend the county.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said IS Director Curt Watkins reported his department has been working on end-of-year projects and requesting quotes for tech items to be supplied by the new court grant. Donaldson said Watkins reported the Cress Hill camera project is almost complete and his department is integrating the 911 server into the county system. Future work for the IS Department includes multi-factor authentication implementation, security video storage, and a phone system upgrade. In response to a question, he said his department could train offices to post items on the county website, such as committee agendas and minutes.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported Dan Hough said his department recently purchased 14 new AEDs through ARPA funding, and he brought one to display. He said employee training will be scheduled after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. He also mentioned a National Weather Service storm spotter class has been scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln Land Community College Litchfield campus, and EMA Director Hough said he has had positive conversations with Vistra Energy about returning a weather radio to their tower site.
3. **Ad Hoc Committee to Address SB3455 Wooded Acreage Assessments Update/Approval:** Donaldson said a committee of county board members and the public will be appointed to a Wooded Acreage Assessments Ad Hoc Committee to work on statutory changes to present to state legislators. He said he has spoken to potential committee members and all expressed a willingness to serve. He anticipates the committee will begin meeting in January.
4. **Vistra & UKA Donations Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the county received a \$5,000 donation from Vistra Energy to offset the county portion of weather sirens planned near Coffeen Lake. Vistra also intends to donate to the proposed Coffeen Veterans Memorial. He said UKA will be making a \$3,000 donation to the Panhandle Food Pantry, a \$1,000 donation to the Farmersville Illuminatus Motorcycle Club, and a \$300 donation to Panhandle Project Third Day for their Farmersville Polar Express Day.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee heard presentations from Heather Greenwood of Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness, Dalton Downs of Downs Plumbing, Caleb Osborne of Manifesto Wine Bar, Abby Barcum of State Street Event Center, Jamee and Jennifer Dunn of Dunns n' Roses, and Alan Reynolds of R Custom Cuts. He stated after the December awards were made, over \$94,000 in grant funds remains available. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to award Small Biz Grants of \$10,000 to Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness; \$5,000 to Downs Plumbing; \$7,500 to Manifesto Wine Bar; \$10,000 to State Street Event Center; \$7,500 to Dunns n' Roses; and \$5,000 to R Custom Cuts. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Matt Blankenship of Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA) distributed information on PLAs to the committee and was supported by local union representative Dale Stewart. He said the committee will continue to research and consult with the State's Attorney before proceeding.

3. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Ruppert said Animal Control Warden April Pier informed the committee she learned prices for veterinary services are increasing at local veterinary offices, and is reviewing costs for county Animal Control services. She will continue to research potential fee changes for adoptions and cremation. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to increase the cost of one-year rabies tags to \$15 and the cost of three-year rabies tags to \$30 effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the Public Hearing will resume at 6 p.m. Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
5. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert said monthly reports have been approved through October and payment is pending submission of Business Enterprise Program (BEP) lien waivers.
6. **Other Business:** Ruppert said County Clerk Leitheiser informed the committee about potential new TIF districts coming to Litchfield, Hillsboro, and Nokomis. She also reported Hillsboro Energy's significant permit revision applications were recently provided to the County Clerk's office and the County Board Chairman's office.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Historic Courthouse Roof Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Hughes stated the committee opened two bids, one for \$116,931 and the other for \$179,880. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to award the low bid of \$116,931 to Central Roofing of Mattoon for Historic Courthouse roof project. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 62-63).**
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Maintenance Director Phil Ernst provided a detailed monthly report.
3. **Montgomery County Treasurer's Office Carpet Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the committee discussed using allocated ARPA funds to replace carpet in the Treasurer's office and break room, but he is unhappy with the bid. He said the committee also discussed the cleaning contract for the Courthouse Complex.
4. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval:** Hughes said the State's Attorney is preparing Quit Claim deeds to provide the property and approximately \$22,000 in maintenance funds to the Village of Waggoner.
5. **Courthouse Complex HVAC Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the committee heard from TMI Service Administrator Tim Weisner, who described the process of repairing the Courthouse Complex's HVAC system and replacing it. Currently, the county has two new compressors provided under warranty. Installing them will cost over \$20,000 and the system needs to be running to diagnose the cause of the system failure. That diagnosis may or may not lead to the need to replace the system. Hughes said he has ordered a chiller to cut down on the 5-6-month lead time, but the order can be cancelled. An advertisement for installing the specified chiller has been placed. Hughes asked members if they had objections to this process and heard none.
6. **Property Transfer for Health Department Solar Panels Update/Approval:** Hughes said the survey for property needed by the Montgomery County Health Department for solar panels has been completed. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beason to transfer**

property to the Montgomery County Health Department for solar panels. All in favor, motion carried.

**ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Engineer Greenwood received a draft of the Traffic Impact Analysis and shared a map with the committee. He said the haul route is from Interstate 55 to Route 48 and up Black Diamond Trail and utilizes 13 miles of county highway, plus township roads in Harvel and Bois D'Arc. Greenwood said he will continue to review the Traffic Impact Analysis and consult with an outside attorney on drafting a Road Use Agreement.
2. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 1 Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported three bids were opened ranging from \$1,281,900 to the low bid of \$787,700 from Stutz Excavating in Alton, which is higher than the allotted ARPA funds for the project. Engineer Greenwood explained the 72x184 Heavy Equipment Shed has been awarded \$670,000 in ARPA funds. He said a bid package for \$505,921 for the building shell has already been awarded to Stutz Excavating leaving \$164,079 in ARPA funds. An additional \$300,000 has been appropriated in Highway Funds in the FY 2025 budget, leaving a shortfall of \$323,621 to complete the project. Murzynski said the committee discussed eliminating some concrete and site work from the bid. In answer to a question from Chairman Donaldson, Greenwood said he would put off purchasing a new tandem truck he had anticipated purchasing in FY 2025 from \$500,000 in appropriated Coal Funds. Questions were raised from Board Members Young, Hughes, Daniels, and Jones about the cost of the building and opportunities to trim the cost, such as eliminating the concrete apron and some of the concrete floor. Board member Ritchie said the floor design needs to be 80,000-pound, and Engineer Greenwood said plans call for six-inch reinforced concrete. Greenwood said many of the ARPA awards to non-county projects contained a match component and the Montgomery County Highway Department is meeting its match to the \$670,000 ARPA award. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ruppert to award the low qualified bid of \$787,700 to Stutz Excavating of Alton. All in favor, motion carried. ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth. Voting no: Young. **Motion carried 12-1.**
3. **2025-2026 Bulk Fuel Purchasing Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee opened one bid at the committee meeting and a second bid post-marked eight days before the deadline arrived later that day. After consultation with the State's Attorney, the low bid was submitted by M&M Service Company. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to award the low bulk fuel two-year bid to M&M Service Company of Carlinville. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township – Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Construction Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed an IDOT engineering agreement with WHKS & Co. of Springfield for \$149,296 for replacement of a bridge on Wonder Trail, 1.8 miles northeast of VanBurensburg. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Construction Engineering Agreement with WHKS & Co. of Springfield for \$149,296. ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 64-73).**

5. **Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township – N. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the three submitted bids last month and recommended awarding the low bid. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Hughes to award the low bid for Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township North 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge replacement to Stutz Excavating of Alton for \$287,693. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Resolution 2024-13, 2025 County MFT Resolution Update/Approval:** Murzynski said this year's annual resolution appropriates \$1.2 million in County Motor Fuel Tax, which is the same amount as last year. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Beck to approve of the 2025 County Motor Fuel Tax Resolution 2024-13 for \$1.2 million. ROLL CALL VOTE** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 74).**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported her office has been reverting parcels she had reclassified this year due to the 2007 woodland reclassification statute. He stated she said she looks forward to working with the County Board and the proposed Ad Hoc Committee to suggest legislative changes, include suggesting a new separate preferential classification for rural timberland.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the October coal royalty payment was \$147,889.57 and the Coal Fund has earned \$403,508.84 in interest this year.
3. **Assessment Issue Request/Tim Loveless Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Macoupin County resident Tim Loveless told the board he has rental houses in Litchfield but due to a fire in his office on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, he missed the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 deadline to record leases for Homestead Exemptions. He presented written requests to the committee to 1) make an exception to the deadline based on the hardship his business endured, and 2) do away with the requirement of recording leases. Ritchie said a motion to direct the Supervisor of Assessments to grant Tim Loveless an exception to the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, deadline to record leases died in committee for lack of second. Vice Chairwoman Whitworth said the committee motion died because the committee felt the County Board cannot direct the Supervisor of Assessments to take action. Chairman Donaldson said a motion to direct the Supervisor of Assessments to take action would be letting her know the board feels she should make an exception; however, she is not legally bound to do so. **Motion by Young and second by Hughes to DIRECT the Supervisor of Assessments to grant Tim Loveless an exception to the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, deadline to record leases. Subsidiary motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to amend the motion to RECOMMEND the Supervisor of Assessments grant Tim Loveless and exception to the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, deadline to record leases. All in favor, amendment carried. Amended motion carried 12-1 (Corso voted against).**
4. **Fee Schedule Resolution 2024-47 Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported County Clerk Leitheiser said the resolution to require state agencies to pay the same recording fees as the local level customers recommended by the committee last month has since been approved by the State's Attorney and been legally posted. Ritchie stated upon County

Board approval, it will take effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Daniels to approve the County Clerk/Recorder Fee Schedule Resolution. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 75-76).**

5. **Decennial Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the committee reviewed a list of Decennial Reports submitted to the County Board by local units of government and also reviewed a list of those local units of government who have not yet submitted Decennial Reports. He said County Board Administration plans to post all reports on the Montgomery County website. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Daniels to acknowledge receipt of local government Decennial Reports. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval:** Ritchie said filing the form is required for State of Illinois salary reimbursement for the Supervisor of Assessments. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Corso to approve filing the PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 77).**
7. **IRS Mileage Rate Effective Jan. 1 Update/Approval:** As of the County Board meeting, the IRS has not yet announced the new mileage rate.
8. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated County Clerk Leitheiser presented the committee with changes required by the new health insurance carrier. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to add Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dearborn Life Insurance to the Pre-Approved Vendor List and to remove Metropolitan Life. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **ARPA Ordinance 2024-48 for MCHD Phone Upgrade Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie said an ordinance needs to be passed for the previously approved Health Department telephone upgrade. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to approve an ordinance to expend ARPA funds not to exceed \$48,000 for a telephone system upgrade at the Montgomery County Health Department. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, page 78).**
10. **MTA Agreement Update/Approval:** Ritchie said two intergovernmental agreements have been returned to provide township assessor services. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Daniels to approve a contract with the Butler Grove/Irving/Rountree Multi-Township Assessment District for \$7,000 for assessor services. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 79-80). Motion by Ritchie and second by Corso to approve a contract with South Litchfield Township for \$12,000 for assessor services. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 22, pages 81-82).**
11. **Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Vehicle Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Sheriff Holshouser asked for and received committee consent to advertise for the purchase of two new squad vehicles in the FY 2025 budget.
12. **Assured Partners Compensation and Fee Disclosure Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Lohman distributed a Compensation and Fee Disclosure document to the committee provided by Assured Partners regarding commissions earned with the new health insurance plan. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to allow Montgomery County Treasurer Nikki Lohman to sign the Assured Partners Compensation and Fee Disclosure. All in favor, motion carried.**

Committee Chairman Ritchie asked Treasurer Lohman to close his committee report with remarks on the budget and tax levy process. She said Montgomery County's general fund expenses over the last five years have gone from \$6.5 million in 2021 up to \$11.9 million in 2024, and back down to a predicted \$8.5 million in 2025. Coal spending has

increased proportionately but ARPA money took on a large portion of tangible item spending over the last two years. Lohman stated if the interest rates continue, the county can add this additional interest from coal funds to the general fund each year and directly save the taxpayers money. The Treasurer said the levy for this year allowed \$1,276,304 to be collected at the statutory rate, but the County Board voted to lower the general fund line to \$904,415.00 and add the interest from the coal account to keep the burden off the taxpayers. Lohman said the Montgomery County Board is ultimately in control of the budget and department head spending. Lohman asked those with questions or concerns to contact her office. Clarifying the EAV versus the levy versus the budget, she stated the EAV is a measure of property value for tax purposes and determined by the local assessors based on market value and other value criteria. Lohman stated in Illinois, the EAV is 33 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of market value, but farmland is valued differently. The Illinois Department of Revenue adjusts local assessments by utilizing a multiplier if the sales ratio of a county is not equalized at 33 1/3%. Lohman stated the levy is the amount of money a taxing district is asking for, and whether it's the county, school, or any other local government, the levy represents the request the local government is making to property owners to fund the services it provides. She emphasized the total levy is not directly the amount taxpayers pay, and used simple math examples to clarify her point. She said the budget determines the financial plan, which then determines the levy (the amount needed for services), and the county also takes into consideration anticipated revenues. Lohman stated the tax rate can only increase if it's statutorily allowed or if the EAV allows for it, and a tax levy increase more than 5% triggers a Truth in Taxation hearing.

**RULES OF ORDER AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Connie Beck:

- 1. Rules of Order Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations Update/Approval:** Beck said the committee reviewed the Montgomery County Rules of the County Board document page by page and made several small clarifications. Committee Chairwoman Beck said there is still work to do on the document, and she plans to schedule another Ad Hoc Committee meeting in the near future.

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

**Motion by Daniels and second by Young to approve the six committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** made by Chairman Donaldson:

1. The monthly meeting with Bushue HR will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
2. The Supervisor of Assessments has scheduled a County Farmland Assessment Review Committee meeting for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None



**APPOINTMENTS:**

Motion by Jones and second by Young to re-appoint Gregory Weitekamp to a three-year term on the Pitman-Zanesville #2 County Zone #33, Drainage District. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Beck and second by Jones to re-Appoint Melvin Wempen to a three-year term on the Zanesville #3, County Zone #15, Drainage District. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Young and second by Ruppert to re-Appoint David Beal and Michael Smalley to three-year terms on the ETSB Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to appoint Lori Hopwood to Community Mental Health (708) Board to fill the vacancy created by Dan Hough's resignation. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Young and second by Beck to reappoint Richard Lyons, Kris Reynolds, and Eric Helgen to the County Farmland Assessment Review Committee. All in favor, motion carried.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:**

Motion by Beason and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and payroll. All in favor; motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Whitworth, Young. All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Murzynski and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.