

# 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.