

**Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Hearing Minutes**

County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Monday, March 24, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call: Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Russell Beason,
Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Ruppert
2. **Identification of Application and Project Overview:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed solar project application for the construction and operation of Montgomery Springs Solar, an approximately 5-megawatt alternating current ground-mounted solar facility on private land, spanning two parcels in Montgomery County, Illinois. The applicant is the owner of the proposed Montgomery Springs Solar project. The project will be located across two parcels, 29-acre (PRN# 16-24-176-004) and 1-acre (PRN# 16-24-127-007) in Taylor Springs that is owned by Dorothy Race, who has leased the property to the applicant. Located just east of the Village of Taylor Springs along IL Route 127, the property is currently in agriculture production and is bordered on three sides by parcels currently used for agriculture. A village community building lies to the northwest of the project area.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reviewed the rules and procedures and informed those present a verbatim transcript will become part of the hearing minutes.
4. **Presentation by Applicant:** After Committee Chair Ruppert reviewed the qualifications of Apex Clean Energy Development Manager Sido Shira, she testified as an expert under oath about the history of the company, community solar, the project location and site plan, solar panels, the project impact and economic benefits, interconnect, and decommissioning. Shira was assisted by Apex representative Cady Merrick.
5. **Questions for Applicant:**
 - a. **Members of the Development & Personnel Committee** Each member of the committee asked questions covering every aspect of the project plan. Committee Chair Ruppert admitted proof of certified mail service to neighboring property owners as Exhibit A.
 - b. **Members of Units of Local Government** None
 - c. **Other Interested Parties** Dionne Manzer asked questions regarding the site map, and questioned the validity of property value studies
 - d. **Counsel/Consultants for Montgomery County** None
 - e. **Members of the Development & Personnel Committee Follow-Up** Committee Chair Ruppert said the project site seems to be well-chosen, and encouraged the developer to have discussions with organized labor representatives present at the hearing. Committee member Jones expressed concerns about the tightness of the site with a minimum of nine feet between panel supports.
6. **Presentation by Independent Consultants for Montgomery County:** None

7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Receipt of Written Comments Regarding the Application:** None
9. **Closing Comments by Applicant:** None
10. **Date for Deliberation and Vote to Recommend/Deny Application Update/Approval:** The committee will begin deliberations at their regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31. Committee Chair Ruppert anticipates attaching conditions to the recommendation, and informed the applicant those conditions may not be ready by the March 31 meeting.
11. **Adjournment Update/Approval:** Motion by Beason and second by Daniels to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Property Tax Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Time: 6:03 p.m., County Board Room

Roll Call: Members Present: Russ Beason, Chris Daniels, Chad Ruppert, Jesse Boehler, Vince Reincke

Members Absent: Andy Ritchie, John Lentz, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Illinois Realtors Government Affairs Director Ron Deedrick, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Property Tax Consultant Stan Jenkins, Brandi Lentz

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Beason, who then read a statement requesting the committee consider suggesting practices that could be initiated to mitigate the impact of wooded acreage reassessment. Beason also introduced Property Tax Consultant Stan Jenkins, who has served as the Champaign County Supervisor of Assessments, on the Champaign County Board of Review, and worked for the Illinois Department of Revenue.
2. **Public Comments:** Brandi Lentz reported on information she had received from Sales Ratio Studies in 2021, 2022, and 2023, reporting that she believed there were sales such as timber, foreclosures, new construction, auctions, mobile homes, and commercial properties that should not have been included in the study. She said she would like to look at 2024 sales. During substantial discussion that followed, Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus indicated that required real estate closing forms are not always filled out accurately, and Jenkins pointed out that the DOR would pull any invalid sales from the study and only include valid sales. In response to a question from committee member Boehler, Jenkins reported no problems in Champaign County with woodland acres, and then distributed excerpts from DOR Publication 135, particularly noting program participation requirements.
3. **New Legislation Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed SB2320 sponsored by Sen. Steve McClure, HB3217 sponsored by Rep. Wayne Rosenthal, and HB3747 sponsored by Rep. Ryan Spain that would eliminate township assessors in counties with populations less than 50,000.
4. **Best Practices Review Update/Approval:** The committee will review reports on Macoupin, Bond, Logan and Williamson counties next month. Committee member Boehler reported Sangamon County does not require annual recording of leases for owner-occupied exemptions on rented property. SOA Niehaus reported Montgomery County doesn't either, but a notarized application must be completed annually. Boehler also said notification for the postponed woodland reclassification in 2026 (payable 2027) should begin this summer, and pledged his help to do so. The committee reviewed a notification letter drafted by SOA Niehaus, and discussed the possibility of public meetings. **Motion by Boehler and second by Daniels to request the Finance & Budget Committee budget \$5,000 for notification expense. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **SB3455 Review and Discussion Update/Approval:** Daniels will report on Cook County Classification next month, as will Ruppert on Preferential Assessments. Plunkett presented a spreadsheet on the historical growth of local property taxes compared to budgets, pointing out the notable growth in the Hillsboro School District levy occurred between 1997 and 2016 before the 10-year range of the state study.
6. **Next Meeting Date Update/Approval:** The next meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

Motion to adjourn by Reincke and second by Daniels. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call: Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Chad Ruppert, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Members Absent: Mark Hughes, Andy Ritchie

Others Present: Buildings & Grounds Vice Chair Russ Beason, Finance & Budget Vice Chair Connie Beck, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, IS Director Curt Watkins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Donaldson

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** IS Director Curt Watkins reported his department has begun working on court grant projects, has ordered 31 PCs and begun routine replacement, and finished implementing multi-factor log-in. He anticipates needing more internet bandwidth, a possible price increase on the new telephone system due to tariffs, and a switch to ArcPro for GIS.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Director Dan Hough expressed gratitude for a \$3,700 rural development grant awarded to his office by the Montgomery County Farm Bureau for a radio network. He also reported nearly 50 county employees completed AED/CPR training, and the need for an EPA office administrative assistant.
3. **DCEO Grant (East Fork, Drug Endangered Children, Project Third Day) Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported three DCEO grant sub-recipients, East Fork Township, 708 Board for Drug Endangered Children, and Project Third Day, still had substantial unrequested grant funds available.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the next CEO Board meeting was scheduled for April 17 in Carlinville.
5. **Ad Hoc Committee to Address SB3455 Wooded Acreage Assessments Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Beason reported Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus did an excellent job explaining procedures during the committee meeting on March 26, and Stan Jenkins, a former SOA from Champaign County, contributed a lot of information and offered support. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the County Board Room.
6. **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 13-19) Resolution Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution, and 911 Director Ed Boyd along with Sheriff Tyson Holshouser will be invited to the full board meeting for a presentation.
7. **Other Business:** Treasurer Nikki Lohman advised counties may want to offer an opinion on potential township consolidation legislation, and Engineer Cody Greenwood added that he will include the discussion on the Roads & Bridges Committee agenda, although he has been advised that legislation will likely not move forward.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said because the facility is over capacity with 19 animals, Animal Control Warden April Pier is back at work. He said he will inform county board members with an email letter.

2. **Tourism Grant Update/Approval:** The committee will review applications and recommend awards.
3. **City-Wide Clean-Up Update/Approval:** The committee will review applications.
4. **Montgomery Springs Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the committee hosted a public hearing on March 24 and will draft siting approval conditions.
5. **Litchfield Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
6. **Bushue Background Screening Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee, along with the State's Attorney, will review and make a recommendation. Ruppert said the cost is approximately \$45 per request.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
8. **Employee Handbook Update/Approval:** The committee will review the latest revisions being made by Bushue.
9. **Historic Courthouse Notary Update/Approval:** The committee will continue to discuss the possible need for a notary.
10. **Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reported committee member Chris Daniels is researching this initiative.
11. **Other Business:** None

Buildings and Grounds: Russ Beason, Vice Chairman

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss. Vice Chair Beason reported a \$15,198.10 expense to replace two circuit boards.
2. **New Courthouse Chiller Update/Approval:** The new chiller is expected to ship in April.
3. **Historic Courthouse Flower Bed/Pots Update/Approval:** Vice Chair Beason reported Imagine Hillsboro has agreed to maintain them.
4. **Hillsboro Market Update/Approval:** Imagine Hillsboro would like to use the parking lot south of the New Courthouse to host weekend markets this summer.
5. **New Hire for Cleaning Position Update/Approval:** Beason reported the new part-time employee began work on Monday, March 24, in the New Courthouse.
6. **Other Business:** None

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **County & Township MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** The committee will review results and recommend awarding bids.
3. **Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineer Salary Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski reported no action from the state.
4. **Other Business:** Engineer Cody Greenwood said the committee will also consider action on township and county culverts.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Vice Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **University of Illinois Extension Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee will review the agreement and make a recommendation.
4. **County Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Nikki Lohman said the presentation will not occur in April.
5. **Budget Hearing Schedule Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman said Bellwether will schedule hearings this summer.

6. **Solar Credit Proposals/Contracts Update/Approval:** State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said he has reviewed two contracts and proposals, and would prefer the county develop its own solar rather than enter into a solar credit agreement.
7. **Electric Bids Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported a request for proposals has gone out, and the committee will review and recommend in May.
8. **County Travel Ordinance Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
9. **Mobile Home Delinquent Tax Sale Fee Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
10. **UCCI Salary & Benefits Survey Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
11. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman said she has applied for the federal solar tax credits for completed highway department and health department projects.

Appointments:

1. Robert Matli as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District from March 2025 to March 2028 Update/Approval:

Motion to adjourn by Murzynski and second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

Historic Courthouse Annex
201 South Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Monday, March 31, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM – Courthouse Annex

Roll Call: Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Russell Beason, Doug Donaldson **Members Absent:** None

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, County Board Member Ethan Murzynski, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Maggie Poteau and Charles Wilson of UKA

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Ruppert
2. **Public Comment:** Mike White of Irving Township told the committee the county board works for the public. He expressed concerns the assessor got a pay increase, and another issue has arisen with the dog catcher. He said he has gotten fired, and questioned how the animal control warden can continue to work given the lack of public trust.
3. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Animal Control Administrator Ruppert reported 22 animals at the facility with three scheduled to go to foster. He said Litchfield has approved a contract with Animal Control, and anticipates Hillsboro considering action soon. Personnel issues at Animal Control were discussed in executive session.
4. **Tourism Grant Update/Approval:** Fourteen applicants have requested \$11,750 and \$5,000 has been budgeted. Committee Chair Ruppert asked committee members to score applications according to the rubric and be ready to discuss awards at the May committee meeting.
5. **City-Wide Clean-Up Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed applications from the villages of Harvel and Ohlman. **Motion by Beason and second by Bergen to recommend awarding City-Wide Clean-Up Grants of up to \$750 to the Village of Harvel and the Village of Ohlman. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Montgomery Springs Solar Update/Approval:** After a public hearing on Monday, March 24, Committee Chair Ruppert reported a good map, complete application, and no comments from neighbors. He anticipates working with the applicant to develop a set of conditions to be reviewed by the committee next month before making a recommendation. Committee member Jones expressed concern over the planned panels being too close together and the impact that might have on the land. He would like to reach out to Hurst-Rosche for an opinion.
7. **Litchfield Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** A public hearing has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, April 28. The committee reviewed the proposal from Hurst-Rosche. **Motion by Daniels and second by Jones to recommend approval of a proposal from Hurst-Rosche for independent review of the proposed Litchfield Solar project for a fee not to exceed \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Bushue Background Screening Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the background screening proposal from Bushue HR for a base price of \$50 per applicant as needed. State's Attorney Affrunti said he found no issues in his review of the contract. **Motion by Beason and**

second by Jones to recommend approval of a background screening agreement with Bushue HR. All in favor, motion carried.

9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported Phase I remains on schedule, but a grant agreement for Phase II remains pending. Sarah McConnell agreed to share contact information for a status update.
10. **Employee Handbook Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reviewed updates and said he is still working with Bushue on tech language. Bushue will be on site for a meeting on Thursday, April 10.
11. **Historic Courthouse Notary Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a partial list of forms required in the Historic Courthouse that need notarized. State's Attorney Affrunti said county employees should be able to notarize documents needed for county business, but not on behalf of the public because it placed the county in a position he advises against when county employees notarize documents to be filed with the county. The committee hopes to review a complete list of documents requiring notarization next month.
12. **Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval:** Committee member Daniels said she has met with labor leaders, and is researching language with other sources for a packet she intends to have ready next month.
13. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson pointed out the Casey's General Store in Witt has just closed, and the one in Irving has been closed for several years. The Irving property is listed for sale on the Casey's website at a reasonable price (\$40,000), but has been unsold because of restrictions on what the new owner can do with the property for 15 years. Donaldson will approach the corporation to inquire if there is any flexibility in those requirements. Maggie Poteau and Charles Wright of UKA informed the committee that planned wind projects are still ongoing. They are completing title and sub-surface work, and waiting to hear from the FAA. **Motion by Beason and second by Bergen to enter executive session at 5:54 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beason and second by Jones to return to open session at 6:30 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion to Adjourn by Jones and second by Daniels. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Agenda
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call: Members Present: Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Keith Hancock, Evan Young, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Vice Chair Beason
2. **Public Comments:** None
3. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed the items on his report, including 35 work orders completed in the last month. Regarding the elevator at the Historic Courthouse, after replacing the power supply for \$5,920.46, two circuit boards needed replaced totaling \$15,198.10. Otis Elevator said the parts were to be shipped overnight over the weekend. Rob Smith of RL Construction finished repair on Monday, March 31, of the block that fell out of the tower on the northeast corner of the Historic Courthouse. Central Roofing should begin roof replacement at the Historic Courthouse soon, and Ernst shared an estimate for pad work for the new generator of \$6,500.
4. **New Courthouse Chiller Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst confirmed the new chiller is scheduled to ship from Mexico on April 14.
5. **Historic Courthouse Flower Bed/Pots Update/Approval:** Committee Vice Chair Beason reported Imagine Hillsboro volunteers have agreed to maintain the flower pots on the Historic Courthouse lawn and the flower bed on the south side. They have already been on the job.
6. **Hillsboro Market Update/Approval:** Imagine Hillsboro has requested to move their monthly Saturday morning summer markets to the parking lot south of the New Courthouse. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins reported the judges have no issues as long as the grounds are left clean. **Motion by Young and second by Beason to allow Imagine Hillsboro to host monthly Saturday morning markets on the parking lot south of the New Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **New Hire for Cleaning Position Update/Approval:** Both Maintenance Director Ernst and Circuit Clerk Robbins reported the new custodian at the New Courthouse is doing an excellent job, but it appears four hours per day is not enough time for the work. The committee discussed allowing Ernst to schedule him for up to five hours a day as needed, then revisit in a month. **Motion by Beck and second by Young to allow the Maintenance Director to schedule new courthouse cleaning for up to five hours per day. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Other Business:** Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee said he was approached by the owner of the building next door to his Litchfield location about purchasing the property for \$325,000. Neither Satterlee, nor the Buildings & Grounds Committee, expressed any interest. The State's Attorney is continuing to analyze whether a transfer in ownership of the health department solar array property is necessary.

Motion to pay the bills by Hancock and second by Young. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Young and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

Conference Room, County Highway Dept.
11159 IL Rte 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Keith Hancock, Rob Corso

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **County 2025 MFT Oil Letting Results Update/Approval:** The lone bid from Louis Marsch of Morrisonville was opened and reviewed by Engineer Greenwood, and recorded by Bev Seamon. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding low 2025 county MFT oil bid to Louis Marsch. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Township 2025 MFT Oil Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood opened and reviewed bids from Litchfield Bituminous of Hillsboro and Louis Marsch of Morrisonville. Bids were recorded by Bev Seamon. **Motion by Bergen and second by Hancock to recommend awarding low 2025 township MFT oil bids to Litchfield Bituminous and Louis Marsch. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported he will meet with attorneys before the next committee meeting to continue developing the road use agreement. Committee member Ruppert said he had met with UKA officials, who reported experiencing timing delays with federal approval.
5. **Resolution 2025-2 appropriating funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Crabtree Trail, South Litchfield Township Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the resolution and reviewed the map for a pipe culvert replacement on Crabtree Trail in South Litchfield Township. The anticipated \$60,000 cost would be split 50/50 between the county and the township, with the county portion coming from the County Aid to Bridge Fund. **Motion by Bergen and second by Hancock to recommend approval of Resolution 2025-02 appropriating funds for a 50/50 culvert replacement on Crabtree Trail in South Litchfield Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Resolution 2025-3 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2025 Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported no action from the state.
7. **SB2504, SB2217, and HB2515 – Township Consolidation and Low Population Township Dissolution Discussion Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood shared the status of three pieces of proposed state legislation that would eliminate or consolidate various township functions. SB2504 would eliminate township and multi-township assessors in counties with populations less than 50,000. SB2217 would dissolve all townships with a population less than 5,000, and HB2515 would dissolve all townships with a population of less than 500. Greenwood said all three bills are opposed by the County Engineers Association, which believes the bills are stalled. Committee Chair Murzynski said he has been assured Rep. Wayne Rosenthal is opposed to the bills, and Committee member Chad Ruppert added that the Illinois Farm Bureau is also opposed. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Ruppert to recommend Montgomery County express opposition to SB2504, SB2217, and HB2515. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Other Items:** The committee discussed construction that had begun on the new equipment shed.

Motion by Corso, second by Hancock to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Ruppert, second by Bergen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Historic Courthouse Annex
201 South Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call: **Members Present:** Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Dr. Patty Whitworth, Evan Young,
Members Absent: Andy Ritchie, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by committee member Young.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported Board of Review hearings were conducted on Monday, March 31. She has begun advertising for a vacant part-time data collection position, and has a full-time employee who will be retiring in June. Niehaus reported an MTA district under contract to the county may be considering signing another contract with an assessor. She also told the committee she filed an incident report for a senior citizen who fell while coming up the south stairs to the Historic Courthouse.
4. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Vice Chair Beck noted a February coal royalty payment of \$160,901.92.
5. **University of Illinois Extension Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the annual agreement with the University of Illinois Extension service, for which the county has agreed to levy \$157,000 in property taxes. **Motion by Daniels and second by Young to recommend approval of the agreement with University of Illinois Extension. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Coroner Mutual Aid Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the statewide mutual aid agreement submitted by Montgomery County Coroner Randy Leetham. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recommend approval of the Coroner Mutual Aid Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Mobile Home Delinquent Tax Sale Fee Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed a resolution presented by Treasurer Nikki Lohman that will allow her office to collect a \$10 sale and error fee on delinquent mobile homes beginning with the tax sale in October 2025. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Daniels to recommend approval of a resolution authorizing a \$10 fee to be imposed on the sale of delinquent mobile home taxes. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Transfer 5 Coal Rights Parcels to Keyrock Energy Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed five mined coal parcels in Bois D'Arc and Pitman Township sold by the trustee to Keyrock Energy. **Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to recommend transferring parcels 01-27-100-301, 01-26-100-301, and 01-35-100-301 in Bois D'Arc Township, and 03-04-300-302 and 03-02-100-302 in Pitman Township to Keyrock Energy, LLC. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Dispersal of Redemption/Reconveyance Default Funds Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution for parcel 13-06-179-001 in Witt, sold on Oct. 25, 2021 for \$7,206.16. To date, the redemption party has paid only \$1,326. After several attempts by the trustee to collect the

balance, the party has defaulted and the collected funds should be disbursed. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Daniels to recommend the resolution disbursing \$1,326 on parcel 13-06-079-001 in Witt. All in favor, motion carried.**

10. UCCI Salary & Benefits Survey Update/Approval: The committee reviewed and discussed the UCCI Salary & Benefits Survey, which will be available on file in the County Board Administration office.

11. Other Business: Motion to recess at 8:52 a.m. by Whitworth and second by Corso. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to reconvene by Corso and second by Young at 9:03 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

12. Solar Credit Proposals/Contracts Update/Approval: State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said he has reviewed proposals and contracts from Solar on Earth and Nexamp for solar credits, explained the process for buying solar credits, and said he believes it would be in the county's best interest to build its own solar arrays to power county buildings. Committee member Young agreed. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to reject solar credit proposals from Solar on Earth and Nexamp. All in favor, motion carried.**

13. County Travel Ordinance Update/Approval: State's Attorney Affrunti reported after reviewing the proposed amendments to the Montgomery County Travel Ordinance, he does not believe the statute allows the county board to pre-approve overnight travel as suggested in recommended changes to Section II. He did agree with the Section III change that references the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) website for travel location reimbursement rates. The state's attorney reiterated the ordinance does not apply to funds that are not under county board control. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend approval of the amended Montgomery County Travel Ordinance after striking paragraph (1) of Section II referencing prior written approval. All in favor, motion carried (Young voted against).**

Motion to pay the bills and payroll by Daniels and second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Whitworth and second by Corso. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.