

# Montgomery County Board

## Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 - Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Historic Courthouse - #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL. 62049 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor County Board Room

**Members Present:** Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth, Russell Beason, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes and Doug Donaldson

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Daniel Robbins, Phil Ernst, Jeremy Conner, Barb Hewitt, Sarah McConnell and Don Karban

The committee met today to discuss the following:

### Buildings & Grounds Committee:

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Sneed requested a moment of silence be held in recognition of the victims and first responders of Monday's Interstate 55 accident.

- 1. Public Comments:** Barb Hewitt, resident of the City of Hillsboro, was present to speak about the old highway department property on Seymour Avenue. She said she would like the property to be sold as one unit so it can be developed into a subdivision. She said it is important the county sell it to a party who will do that.
- 2. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance superintendent Ernst presented his monthly report to the committee. He stated he has had to put refrigerant in several air conditioning units. He said C&C Heating and Cooling has dye tested the AC units and they found leaks. Ernst said they fixed what they could. He said the air conditioners at the jail have been short cycling every spring and fall. Sneed said those units are not that old and asked if those could be repaired for free. Ernst said he is going to speak with the vendor to work something out. Sneed said the air conditioning units at the old courthouse are well past their service time, and Ernst and maintenance tech Roger Cassidy have been babying them to keep them working. Ernst said the first unit that should be replaced if the committee chooses to go that route should be the unit in the basement that feeds to the Information Services equipment. He said the machine is 20 years old and he has been filling it with coolant four times a year.
- 3. Jail Generator Maintenance Update/Approval:** Sneed reported they received an estimate from Hillsboro Electric for electrical work at the jail for the new generators that were purchased. The price is \$29,999.14. Sneed said this is the high price and the cost will not exceed that amount. **Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to recommend the full board approve the estimate from Hillsboro Electric for generator electrical work at the jail in the amount of \$29,999.14. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 4. Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Jeremy Conner with Hurst-Rosche engineers reported he has established a scope and understanding with the City of Hillsboro regarding their portion of the sidewalks that will be replaced around the Historic Courthouse.
- 5. Recommend Approving Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Hillsboro for Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Conner stated the next step in the process is to have the County approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City. He said the County would be the lead agency and would pay for the sidewalks. The City of Hillsboro would then reimburse the County for their share of the costs. Conner presented a draft of an IGA similar to what they have used before. He said he sent it to State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, but has not heard back yet. Sneed said they could vote to recommend pending the State's Attorney's approval. **Motion by Folkerts and second by Whitworth to recommend the full board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hillsboro for sidewalk repair and replacement around the Historic Courthouse, pending approval from the State's Attorney. All in favor, motion carried.** Sneed reiterated the need to get this project done.
- 6. Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser is hopeful to be allocated money from the county's DCEO Energy Grant to pay for door and security upgrades for her office. Assistant County Board Administrator David Jenkins stated

she presented pricing information from Ameresco to the Energy Grant ad hoc committee. Sneed said the grant would pay for the entire cost of the estimate, which is \$161,584. Whitworth said the Finance and Budget Committee will be discussing the projects at their meeting Friday, May 5.

7. **Soil Testing at County Farm Update/Approval:** Sneed reported soil testing has been completed, but they haven't received the paperwork yet.
8. **New Courthouse Improvement Committee/Courthouse Improvements Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported Judge Jim Roberts would like to create a volunteer subcommittee to address aesthetic improvements made to the interior of the new courthouse. He said Roberts plans on attending the next committee meeting.
9. **Recommend Bidding Out Elevator Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Sneed reported this item is on the agenda as a reminder to address the issue in the fall.
10. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (not needed)**
11. **Other Business:** Sneed reported National Maintenance and Cleaning has been cleaning the Historic Courthouse for approximately 11 weeks now since the custodian has been on workers compensation. He said the committee will have to address the issue at some point to see about what the permanent solution may be. Donaldson stated the cleaning crew has been doing a wonderful job. Whitworth asked if there was a plan for the old highway department property since the committee advertised for bids but didn't go any further. Sneed said they are waiting on a few things, such as the details of how to re-advertise for bids and what to do with EMA. Donaldson said the item probably needs to go back on the agenda to discuss. Sneed said the committee has not forgotten about it. Hewitt begged for the committee to act on it sooner rather than later. She said she has heard from a developer who would like to purchase the property and develop it as a subdivision. Sneed and Donaldson said they have not heard from that party. Donaldson said they heard from three parties interested in the property, two of which wanted to leave the old office building standing. Sneed said the item can be placed back on the agenda.

Motion to pay the bills by Hughes and second by Beason. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

**Date:** Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 8:30 AM – County Board Room

**Members Present:** Doug Donaldson, Evan Young, Mark Hughes, Andy Ritchie and Bob Sneed

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Ethan Murzynski, Daniel Robbins, Nikki Lohman, Cody Greenwood, Tyson Holshouser, Curt Watkins, Dan Hough, Sandy Leitheiser, Sarah McConnell, Don Downs, Bob Buda and Andrew Evans (via telephone)

The committee met today to discuss the following:

**Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman -**

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Information Services manager Watkins reported his office has been working on court server replacement, swapping out PCs and putting new machines in the Adult Redeploy office, which used to be the ambulance billing office. He also reported they are proceeding with the fiber ring redundancy project. He stated he needs to have a conversation with the sheriff about body cam footage storage. He said he is leaning towards cloud-based storage. Watkins also reported they are moving towards website updates. The new website will be cloud hosted instead of hosted in-house. The initial cost will be paid for with court grant funds and the county will be responsible for the ongoing costs.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA Coordinator Hough reported Director Kevin Schott is attending a conference in Indianapolis. Hough stated EMA has been actively busy this week. He also reported the next Hazard Mitigation plan meeting is scheduled for May 24.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported they held a meeting April 20. He said they are looking for a chair and vice chair of the CEO board, and he is considering that position.
4. **Montgomery County Mental Health Committee Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported he spoke with ad hoc committee chair Hough and everything the committee has been working on can be handled by the 708 Board. He said the ad hoc committee will be dissolved and everything that was being worked on will now be handled by the 708 Board.
5. **Proclamation Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the board will vote on a proclamation recognizing May as mental health awareness month.
6. **County Board Seat Vacancy Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the board has a vacancy after the untimely passing of Gene Miles. He stated Miles was a member of the board since 2006 and will be difficult to replace. He said he sent notices of vacancies to the chairs of the Republican and Democrat Central Committees.
7. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
8. **Other Business:** Donaldson reported he has been contacted by several mayors about getting a mayors meeting scheduled.

**Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:**

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reported National Maintenance and Cleaning has been cleaning the historic courthouse for 10 weeks now and they will have to decide how to continue further since the custodian remains on workers compensation.
2. **Jail Generator Maintenance Update/Approval:** Sneed reported they will move quickly with the jail generator after next week's committee meeting.

3. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Sneed reported State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti is working on an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hillsboro. Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs said the IGA is needed in order to protect both the city and county and prevent either agency from being taken advantage of by prospective vendors. Sneed said the agreement would simplify the process as the county would receive the bill, and the city would reimburse the county for their share of the work completed.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported she submitted a proposal to the Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee for interior doors and security in her office. It will now be discussed at the Finance and Budget Committee meeting.
5. **Soil Testing at County Farm Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the soil testing has been completed, but they have not received the paperwork yet.
6. **New Courthouse Improvement Committee/Courthouse Improvements Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Judge Jim Roberts would like to discuss some of the old artwork and tidying up the new courthouse. He stated he hopes Roberts will attend the committee meeting to present his ideas.
7. **Recommend Bidding Out Elevator Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Sneed reported this item is on the agenda to discuss later in the year.
8. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (not needed)**
9. **Other Business:** Downs stated he would like to talk about the old highway department property. He said he believes the property is an economic development opportunity, and he would like to see the old office building torn down.

**Development & Personnel Committee: Mark Hughes, Chairman -**

1. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the annual meeting was held April 27, and another meeting has been scheduled for May. He stated MCEDC is looking for a new Executive Director, and they have \$38,000 budgeted for the position. He also reported meetings will now be held at the Farm Bureau. Ritchie asked if there is any plan to re-establish the Planning Commission. Young said it is currently short a couple members.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Insurance Representative Amanda Mast will be at the next committee meeting to give a report.
3. **DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the committee held a meeting April 26<sup>th</sup>, and made recommendations for the allocation of funds.
4. **Recommend Approving Phase II Application/Projects for DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed by the Finance and Budget Committee.
5. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Hughes stated he will have a report for the Development and Personnel Committee meeting.
6. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
7. **EPA Report Update/Approval:** EPA Administrator Chris Daniels reported there will be an electronics recycling drive in Litchfield April 29<sup>th</sup>. She stated the Hillsboro drive will be held in September. Treasurer Lohman reported there will be a drive in Nokomis May 13<sup>th</sup>. Daniels said this drive is independent from the County.
8. **Recommend Approving Contract for Supervisor of Assessments Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the Board has to approve the contract for the SOA position.
9. **Statewide Siting of Wind & Solar Facilities – Public Act 102-1123 Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Affrunti is reviewing the ordinances to make sure they are in compliance with the state's revisions.
10. **Solar Provider Group - Permit Application and Setback Waiver Update/Approval:** Andrew Evan with Solar Provider Group LLC called into the meeting to talk about an application for a solar project between Donnellson and Panama. Hughes stated a public hearing needs to be held, and they would like to have it before the full board meeting May 9<sup>th</sup>. Sneed stated the City of Litchfield usually has

someone walk around the property in question to look at it before moving forward with a hearing. County Board Administrator Daniels said they do not have the signed setback waiver yet.

11. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (if needed)**
12. **Other Business:** None.

**Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman -**

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated they will have a report at their committee meeting.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated they will have a report at their committee meeting.
3. **IMRF Update:** Lohman reported she received rates for the next year, which include 7.87 for the regular and 6.87 for SLEP. She stated she believes those rates are down a little bit.
4. **Recommend Approving Resolution to Convey Deed to Parcel ID #10-03-405-011 in North Litchfield Township to Yvonne Hunt Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
5. **Approve Signing Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with ETSB for Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
6. **County Website – Recommend Approving Annual Fee for Website Update/Approval:** Nothing additional to report.
7. **Recommend Approving Resolution/Ordinance to Transfer Revolving Loan Funds Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the board voted to dissolve the RLF, and Lohman stated she needs a resolution or ordinance authorizing the transfer of funds back into the capital improvement fund.
8. **Assistant State’s Attorney Position and Salary Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the county just lost one of our assistant State’s Attorneys and the vacancy is being felt in the office. He stated Affrunti found an individual who is willing to come to Montgomery County, but is requiring a salary of \$100,000. Lohman stated she believes the vacant position needs to be advertised first, as the board has addressed this before and came to that conclusion. Ritchie said they will proceed with advertising the vacancy as the next step.
9. **Recommend Approving Allocation of Funds for Phase II Application/Projects for DCEO Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the Energy Grant ad hoc committee reviewed approximately 15 projects, and voted to recommend allocating grant funds for projects.
10. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
11. **Other Business:** Leitheiser stated non-union salary increases are typically discussed during the May meeting cycle, and asked where the board was with those. Lohman stated she will talk with Dustin Harmon from Bellwether about that issue.

**Roads and Bridges Committee: Evan Young, Vice Chairman**

1. **Old Highway Department White Truck Shed Update/Approval:** Young reported the white truck shed at the old highway department is gone, and it looks great.
2. **Illinois House Bill 2781 – Increase of Township Bridge Funds Update/Approval:** County Engineer Greenwood reported he found another county’s template of a resolution of support for Illinois House Bill 2781, which would increase the amount of township bridge funds.
3. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (not needed)**
4. **Other Business:** Young stated the committee needs to take a look at weight limits for county roads. He said there is a bill being discussed in the House regarding that issue. Lohman said she believes it is House Bill 6427. Greenwood also stated he believes his name has been dragged through the mud in regards to the CO2 pipeline. He said Navigator has been working on an observation well and he issued a Right of Way Access permit and a slew of oversized/overweight permits. He said Navigator has been following all the guidelines when submitting information for permit applications, and he does not

believe it is his responsibility to deny permits if the rules are being followed. Ritchie agreed, stating as long as the guidelines are being met he has the authority to grant permits. Donaldson reported one of the CO2 sites was vandalized recently, and Navigator will be increasing security around the area.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting:**

Motion to Adjourn by Hughes and second by Ritchie. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

# Montgomery County Board

## Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Historic Courthouse - #1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor County Board Room

**Members Present:** Mark Hughes, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason (arrived at 5:30 p.m.), Jeremy Jones (arrived at 5:25 p.m.), Ethan Murzynski and Doug Donaldson (appointed as voting member)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Daniel Robbins, Sandy Leitheiser, Emily Gerl, Sarah McConnell and Jacob Fleming

The committee met today to discuss the following:

### Development & Personnel Committee: Mark Hughes, chairman -

*Prior to the start of the meeting, Doug Donaldson was appointed to the committee as a voting member to ensure necessary quorum requirements. Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to temporarily appoint Doug Donaldson to the Development and Personnel Committee. All in favor, motion carried.*

- 1. Public Comment:** Jacob Fleming, who was recently elected to the position of alderman for the Litchfield City Council, stated he had questions regarding the disagreements between the County and City when it comes to Animal Control. He said he is afraid of both the city and county being liable if an incident happens with an animal since the city has no leash law. Animal Control Warden Gerl stated she gets calls from Litchfield but tells them she cannot do anything without a signed contract. Bergen said the county is able to handle bite cases, rabies incidents and humane investigations. Fleming said it appears the major population centers in the county have not signed their municipal contracts. Donaldson stated they have been working with Hillsboro, who wants the list of authorized individuals to call animal control adjusted, as well as an opt-out after the first year of the contract. Fleming said he is here to gather information and see what could be done to bring the two sides together. Donaldson said Fleming could talk to Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty and see if there are any other issues preventing the contract from being signed and the county will work on them.
- 2. MCEDC Update/Approval:** Hughes reported MCEDC hosted their annual meeting April 27<sup>th</sup>. He stated they are looking for a new executive director. The next meeting will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Farm Bureau.
- 3. Planning Commission Update/Approval:** Hughes reported there have been questions about the status of the County Planning Commission. Assistant County Board Administrator David Jenkins reported the Planning Commission ordinance states the commission shall have 10 members, with three being ex-officio: Chairman of the County Board, MCEDC Executive Director and County Highway Engineer. Jenkins said seven of the 10 are voting members, and three are currently vacant, with two more active members' terms set to expire at the end of June. Donaldson asked if the two whose terms are expiring are interested in remaining on. Jenkins said that is not known at this point.
- 4. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Hughes presented the HRA report to the committee. Jenkins stated Treasurer Nikki Lohman submitted a report for the Member Advocacy Program. He said the board approved the program in October or November of last year, and the report shows what they've been doing and the value it brings. He said they've taken 22 inquiries so far at a savings for the county of approximately \$45,000.
- 5. County Salaries Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Chris Daniels reported the county hired the University of Illinois to conduct a salary study years ago, and she has been tasked with keeping it up to date. She said the spreadsheets take a lot of work to update, and she would do it if the board wanted her to continue; however, the last few times she has updated it, no action has been taken. Hughes stated he would be interested in information from counties similar in population to Montgomery, but he has no interest in counties that are more than double the size of ours. Circuit Clerk Robbins stated they could look at counties with a population range of 25,000 to 35,000. Daniels said she and Jenkins will work on that and have figures to present at the next committee meeting.

6. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Gerl reported there are currently 21 dogs at the facility. She also reported they will be having an adoption event on Saturday at Cake it On in Nokomis. She said the business is hosting the event as a donation for Animal Control.
7. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Gerl reported she met with representatives from the City of Hillsboro. City officials presented a list of questions, and she presented answers to those questions. Sarah McConnell, representing the City of Hillsboro, said the Chief of Police had questions about overtime hours and how that figures into the price of after call charges. McConnell stated a lot of the original issues will be squashed when the list of people who can contact animal control on the city's behalf is addressed. Gerl stated she would also like the committee to consider increasing certain fees, such as adoptions and cremations. Hughes said that cremation services have never been offered. Hughes said Gerl should put together a list and bring it to the next committee meeting for a discussion. Gerl also reported there is a euthanasia training event taking place in June and she and another employee would like to attend. She said the cost is \$150 per person and a \$75 registration fee. She said the training is held in Chicago.
8. **Illinois Department of Agriculture Annual License for Animal Control Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the county has to submit the annual application for licensure with the Department of Agriculture, which is coming up due.
9. **EPA Report Update/Approval:** EPA Administrator Daniels reported an electronics recycling drive was held April 29<sup>th</sup> at the old recycling facility in Litchfield. She said she doesn't have final numbers back yet, but is hopeful to have those for the next committee meeting.
10. **Recommend Approving Contract for Supervisor of Assessments Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Kendra Niehaus was appointed Supervisor of Assessments and is currently serving in the position, but State's Attorney was not able to approve the contract before her appointment. He stated the contract has been approved and the board now has to approve it. **Motion by Jones and second by Bergen to recommend the full board approve the contract for the Supervisor of Assessments.** Murzynski asked how long it is for. Hughes said it is a four-year contract. **All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the county stands eligible to receive up to \$7.2 million for broadband to rural areas. He said a representative from Nextlink wants to address the committee, and he will invite the individual to speak at the next committee meeting; however, the county is in the process of completing a grant application from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) where funds could be used for broadband. Donaldson stated the deadline to submit the application is May 31<sup>st</sup>, and he would like to see what they would expect from the County. He said he also plans on visiting CTI to ask about their plan for fiber/broadband internet to rural areas of the County.
12. **Statewide Siting of Wind & Solar Facilities – Public Act 102-1123 Update/Approval:** Hughes reported State's Attorney Affrunti is reviewing the ordinances to make sure they are in compliance with the revisions from the state.
13. **Solar Provider Group - Permit Application and Setback Waiver Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the applicant for the solar provider needs to submit a waiver signed by two property owners, but does not have those yet. He said the group would like to hold a public hearing, but that won't happen until the waivers have been signed. Donaldson said they could tentatively schedule the public hearing before the next Coordinating Committee meeting, which is scheduled for May 25.
14. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
15. **Other Business:** None.

Motion to pay the bills by Murzynski and second by Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Donaldson and second by Bergen. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.



# Montgomery County Board Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 8:30 AM – County Board Room

**Members Present:** Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Ethan Murzynski, Patty Whitworth and Doug Donaldson (arrived at 8:45 a.m.)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Mark Hughes, Kendra Niehaus, Daniel Robbins, Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Andrew Affrunti, Curt Watkins, Wayne Wedekind, Jodi Reynolds, Sarah McConnell, Danny McCallum, Erica Petcher and Ryan Owens

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Jodi Reynolds from Crossover Ministries stated she would like to apologize for recent comments that may have been made about their request for funds from the DCEO Energy Grant. She stated Crossover Ministries is here to serve the community and they want an open and positive relationship with the County Board.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus presented her monthly report to the committee. She stated she has been looking to hire an employee in their office, but has been unsuccessful in doing so as of now.
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the April coal royalty check, which will show up during the June report, was only \$35,000. She stated the reason for the larger checks recently was because of stockpiled amounts. She said the mine will be in full mode in June and the amounts will likely increase, but the county will see smaller checks for a couple months until then.
4. **IMRF Update:** Lohman reported the county received the tentative preliminary rates for 2024. She said the regular employees' rate increased from 6.69 percent for 7.87, which will make the county's cost higher. She said the SLEP rates will decrease from 7.65 to 6.87, and the ECO will decrease from 0.91 to 0.90 percent.
5. **Recommend Approving Resolution to Convey Deed to Parcel ID #10-03-405-011 in North Litchfield Township to Yvonne Hunt Update/Approval:** Lohman reported this parcel is located near the Deer Creek Campground. She said Yvonne Hunt has wants to purchase a lot of the parcels around that area and plans to build some kind of school. Lohman also reported there is a church group that owns a bulk of the parcels in the middle of that area, and the roads accessing those parcels are not public. Beck said she would feel more comfortable tabling the issue until they have more information. **Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to table recommending the resolution for one month. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Approve Signing Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with ETSB for Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported the committee is waiting to hear if the agreement has been signed by the ETSB.
7. **County Website – Recommend Approving Annual Fee for Website Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported he received a court grant that will pay for the cost of redoing the website, as well as the first year of maintenance. Information Services manager Watkins said the annual maintenance cost is around \$560, and will come out of his budget. Robbins said he reached out to 15 companies, and three responded. He said one was offering to redo the site for \$25,000 and another was not located in the state. The company he chose is based out of Carlyle. County Clerk Leitheiser asked if there would be additional costs for maintenance for a part of the website like her department. Watkins stated departments like the County Clerk and Health Department have their own offshoots of the County website, and if they wanted to incorporate their current site into the redesigned county site,

he would not anticipate any additional costs; however, if they wanted their sections overhauled completely, then he would anticipate added costs. Watkins said his office usually has five website change requests per week now, so this new website would potentially help with that as office holders could be granted control to post their own content. **Motion by Whitworth to recommend the full board approve paying the annual maintenance cost for the website.** State's Attorney Affrunti stated the board does not have to take action on anything right now because the maintenance cost can be put in the Information Services budget for next year. **Motion dies for lack of a second.**

8. **Recommend Approving Resolution/Ordinance to Transfer Revolving Loan Funds Update/Approval:** Lohman stated the board previously agreed to dissolve the Revolving Loan Fund and the board needs to approve a resolution dissolving said fund and returning the money to the Capital Improvement Fund. Affrunti said he could draft a resolution by the full board meeting. **Motion by Loucks and second by Whitworth to recommend the full board approve the tentative resolution to transfer Revolving Loan Funds to the Capital Improvement Fund. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** Affrunti requested the committee enter into executive session to talk about the assistant state's attorney salary. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. All in favor, motion carried. Committee entered into executive session at 10:21 a.m. Motion by Whitworth and second by Folkerts to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Committee returned to open session at 10:50 a.m. Action taken is reflected in the next item on the agenda.**
10. **Assistant State's Attorney Position and Salary Update/Approval:** **Motion by Murzynski and second by Beck to recommend the Full Board allow the State's Attorney to exceed his budget for the Assistant State's Attorney Salaries. VOICE VOTE: Voting YES: Beck, Folkerts, Murzynski, Ritchie and Whitworth. Voting NO: Loucks. Motion passes with 5-1 vote in favor.**
11. **Recommend Approving Allocation of Funds for Phase II Application/Projects for DCEO Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Whitworth, who chaired the Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee, reported they voted to recommend allocating funds for the energy grant as follows: \$102,000 for the Hillsboro Library to finish their basement; \$625,000 to Lincoln Land Community College to renovate the science lab at the Litchfield Outreach Center and for their College NOW Scholarship program; \$100,000 for Senior Services for their parking lot and solar panels; \$125,000 for Community Mental Health to develop the NAMI program, Drug-Endangered Children program, and for Project Third Day Panhandle; \$50,000 for East Fork Road District; \$50,000 for East Fork Township; \$50,000 for MTA Grisham-Walshville-East Fork; and the remaining balance of \$1,162,879 for Montgomery County. She said the estimated grant writing cost for Phase II is \$2,000 and the Phase I cost is \$455. Whitworth stated the county projects under consideration are as follows: \$408,000 for the City of Litchfield for utilities for their Interstate 55 Commerce Complex; \$250,000 for the City of Hillsboro for multi-use trails; \$161,584 for the County Clerk's Security and ADA upgrades; \$193,693 for Crossover Ministries for their Haven Home, salaries for part-time employees and programs; and the remaining \$149,602 for Broadband. Donaldson reported a representative from Nextlink reached out to him about broadband in rural areas, and there is supposedly \$7 million in other funding available to the county for this. He also stated he received questions from a concerned citizen about the county giving money to Crossover Ministries if they were a religious organization. Jodi Perkins, who is a Crossover representative, stated they are a non-profit organization. Erica Petcher, who works for Crossover, said their goal is to reach people where they are and they don't push religion. She said they only talk about it if they are asked. Affrunti said he would have to take a look at the 501(c)3 documents for the organization, but based on what he has heard from the organization, they are not a church and it would be similar to giving a tourism grant to a similar organization. Whitworth stated another concern they had was the sustainability of the Haven Home. She said if the county purchased the home and Crossover was not able to stay in it, they could turn around and sell it for whatever reason. Perkins said

they would not be purchasing a home, but rather renting it. She stated she spoke with Wedekind and they could revise their request to include only the cost of the programs and the salaries. That would bring their total request to \$60,360. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Murzynski to recommend the full board approve allocating the energy grant funds as presented, with the Crossover Ministries request changing to \$60,360 and the remaining balance of the county's share being used for economic development grants. All in favor, motion carried.** Donaldson said grant writer Dan Rogers reached out to Assistant County Board Administrator David Jenkins and said the county must be specific in what they would use the distributed economic development grant funds for, such as defining the type of business, requiring a business plan, considering growth margins and number of employees. Donaldson stated the committee needs to amend the motion and could use the remaining money for economic development grants for broadband instead. He said he and Mark Hughes will have a conversation with the Nextlink representative. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend the Full Board approve the amended allocation of energy grant funds with the remaining balance of the county's share being used for broadband as proffered by the County Board Chairman. All in favor, motion carried.**

**12. Recommend Approving Contracts and Intergovernmental Agreements for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:**

**A. Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Nokomis for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:** Jenkins reported there is a problem with the Nokomis Siren request, as he stated they did not send a signed agreement but sent a check to Treasurer Lohman instead. Affrunti said the Treasurer should return the check to the City of Nokomis with a note requesting the signed agreement be sent back first.

**B. Intergovernmental Agreement with Fillmore Police Department for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:** Jenkins reported the committee could act on the IGA and ARPA Ordinance for the Village of Fillmore as they have returned their signed agreement. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend the Full Board approve signing the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Fillmore for ARPA Distribution. All in favor, motion carried.**

**13. Recommend Approving Ordinances Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds for Non-County Distributions Update/Approval:**

**A. Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase a Warning Siren for the City of Nokomis Update/Approval:** Nothing additional to report.

**B. Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase a Police Squad Car for the Fillmore Police Department Update/Approval:** **Motion by Folkerts and second by Whitworth to recommend the Full Board approve adopting the Ordinance authorizing the use of ARPA funds to purchase a police squad car for the Village of Fillmore in the amount not to exceed \$27,600. All in favor, motion carried.**

**14. Other Business:** Ryan Owens with Enterprise Holdings reported he attended the meeting at the request of Treasurer Lohman to discuss leasing county vehicles. He stated government space is their fastest growing area, and if the county would choose to partner with them, they would be able to provide the county with a newer fleet of vehicles. He said vehicle cycles are anywhere between one and five years. Donaldson asked what the resale value would be for a vehicle with holes drilled in the dash from police equipment. Owens said a lot of those vehicles would be taken to auction and one of their reps would be in charge of pushing the sale. He said the life cycle for police vehicles is between five and six years. Lohman said she requested he attend the meeting and find out if the board would like any more information on the process. Committee members agreed they would like to know more information.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, 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, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 8:30 AM – Conference Room, County Highway Dept.

**Members Present:** Evan Young, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, David Loucks and Doug Donaldson

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Ethan Murzynski, Cody Greenwood, Kenny Mondhink, David Stieren, Phil Bailey, Gary Yeske, Dennis Pease, Darrel Keiser, Jay DeWerff, Laura Johnson and James Goudreau

The committee met today to discuss the following:

### Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Sale of used Etnyre Chipspreader Update/Approval:** County Highway Engineer Greenwood reported he put the highway department's used chipper on the website govdeals.com. He said it is going off sale Monday, and the item should be ready for board action by Tuesday's meeting. He said the current bid is \$2,725.
2. **Illinois House Bill 2781 Increase of TBP Funds Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the County Engineer's Association is currently supporting House Bill 2781, which would increase the amount of township bridge funds the County would receive. He said some counties have filed letters of support for this bill, and Montgomery County could do the same. **Motion by Young and second by Bergen to draft a Letter of Endorsement for House Bill 2781.** Greenwood said he could use Calhoun County's Resolution as an example. Young said if the other counties are using a resolution, we should too. **Young amends his motion, with Bergen's approval, to state "draft a Resolution of Endorsement for House Bill 2781. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Illinois House Bill 2505 and Senate Bill 2278 Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the County Engineer's Association is currently watching Senate Bill 2278 and House Bill 2505. He said the senate bill basically says the county would not have to build a new road to accommodate overweight vehicles. He said the house bill is similar, but goes into more detail with regards to weight, height and length of roads.
4. **Permits issued to Navigator Heartland Greenway Update/Approval:** Laura Johnson and James Goudreau from Navigator were present during the meeting to answer questions about permits from townships and the County to use roadways for the CO2 Carbon Sequestration project. Greenwood stated he believes the County needs to contact an outside attorney to put together some kind of Road Use Agreements. He said he didn't believe State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti would want to add that to his plate. Johnson stated Navigator is in the beginning phase of acquiring information. Greenwood said he doesn't want to answer any questions and be held to those answers before the road use agreements are in place. He also stated the County will not permit open cut trenches, and will only issue permits for boring. He asked if Navigator has spoken to other counties the pipeline is supposed to run through. Johnson said they have. Greenwood stated they had a Road Use Agreement for the Dakota Access Pipeline that was all-in-one; however, he said he doesn't necessarily want to use that agreement as a starting point because of the negative experience the County went through. Johnson said they have heard from other counties who also had negative experiences with the Dakota Access Pipeline. Young asked how many miles of pipe will run through Montgomery County. Goudreau said 34.7 miles. Johnson stated they have begun negotiating with landowners for the pipeline. She said Navigator had to file their permit with the Illinois Commerce Commission first and send out a letter of notification. She stated the ICC accepted the permit on April 4, which means they deemed the application complete. She said the timeline to hear back from the ICC stretches into February 2024. Young asked what size pipe would be used in the County. Goudreau stated it would be up to 22 inches. He said right now the proposal says between 16 and 22 inches. The Navigator representatives and township road

commissioners left the meeting at this point. Greenwood informed the committee Navigator has been installing an observation well and he has issued road access permits to the company. He said he spoke with other county engineers, and the consensus was as long as the developers are following the guidelines, they shouldn't be denying road access permits. Greenwood stated the observation well is located on property purchased by Navigator.

5. **Upcoming Road Use Agreements Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported this item ties into what was already discussed with Navigator. He said he believes the developer should cover the cost of the Road Use Agreements. He said he has requested a copy of an agreement from LaSalle County.
6. **Old Highway Department Building Update/Approval:** Young said the white truck shed at the old highway department property is gone and this item can be taken off the agenda. Donaldson stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee is addressing it now.
7. **Section 15-00138-00-BR – Whitetown Bridge Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported there is a 95-working day contract and they are waiting for that executed contract to come back from IDOT. He stated almost all the trees have been cleared out from the Right of Way that was purchased. He said the project will require a complete road closure, which will likely go into the school season. He said there are 70 working days from June 1<sup>st</sup> until the start of school.
8. **Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd/7 Sisters Ave Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported they are waiting on project compliance. He said IDOT takes a look at the Right of Way acquisitions and is makes sure everything is good. He said there was a hang-up with the Stroup property, but it is fixed now. Greenwood stated he does not want to close the road during the fall harvest, so this project could be shelved until summer 2024. He said he should have an update by the next committee meeting.
9. **Other Items:** None.
10. **Public Comments:** None.

Motion to pay the bills by Loucks and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

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

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