

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

Date: Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Bob Sneed, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Phil Ernst, Daniel Robbins, Nikki Lohman and Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Buildings & Grounds Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Maintenance Superintendent Ernst came into work this morning to two compressors being down on the chiller at the New Courthouse. Ernst stated he got it back up and running with three small compressors. He said someone from Johnson Controls is going to try to get here. Sneed also reported the sod around the Historic Courthouse was mowed for the first time. He also stated National Maintenance continues to do custodial work at the jail and Historic Courthouse while the custodian is out. Ernst reported the fridge in the break room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse went down and had to be replaced. He also stated C and C Heating and Cooling replaced the air conditioner that controlled the conference room and restroom on the second floor. Also, Ernst reported Wareham's Security must come for elevator inspections starting this year based on a new law that was passed.
3. **Tuck Pointing at VAC Building Update/Approval:** Sneed reported this will be put off for a month because the bids that were submitted were not for identical work. He said he wants tuck pointing the north steps of the Historic Courthouse included in the bids.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported we are waiting for the State's Energy Grant for this project.
5. **Old Highway Department Property Update/Approval:**
 - **Approve Purchase Agreement, Advertise for Bids for Seymour Avenue Surplus Property (Old Highway Department) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported we are waiting to hear back from the State's Attorney before moving forward with this. He said abatement of the building is scheduled for this fall, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti has the details they want included in a purchase agreement.
6. **Elevator Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Sneed reported we initially planned on putting this agreement out for bid this November/December; however, it was recently revealed our current contract does not expire until February of 2025. Therefore, bids cannot be requested until November or December of 2024. Ernst stated one of the Schindler representatives said they may be able to work with us on price, which may be an effect of considering putting the agreement out for bids.
7. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (not needed)**
8. **Other Business:** None.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 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: Thursday, August 31, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Daniel Robbins, Cody Greenwood, Dan Hough, Tyson Holshouser and Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: None.

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman -

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Information Services manager Curt Watkins submitted his monthly report to the board. County Clerk Leitheiser asked if there was a timeline for when the new website would go live.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval:** EMA Assistant Coordinator Hough reported additions to the Hazard Mitigation Grant must be submitted by October 31. He also stated the final hearing will be held January 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported the CEO Board meetings will now be held at 5 p.m., and they are currently being held at the job center in Carlinville; though they are actively looking for space in Montgomery County. Hillsboro Economic Development and Community Planner McConnell stated she is meeting with their representatives this morning to look at a few potential office spaces in Hillsboro.
4. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported they had a good meeting August 22. He stated they sent representatives from the Heartland-Greenway project a list of questions prior to the meeting as well as additional questions that were posed during and after the meeting. Donaldson said he believes the committee will next be ready to sit down and develop a list of items they would like included in a potential Project Development Agreement, similar to what the Christian County Board did with their ordinance. He also reported Jim Prescott is no longer affiliated with the project, but he doesn't know what happened there. He also stated Sangamon County bought Montgomery County some time with the resolutions that were passed during their last meeting. Highway Engineer Greenwood asked the committee to keep infrastructure in mind when putting together a list of items for the PDA.
5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
6. **Other Business:** None.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the sod work is finished around the Historic Courthouse, and they will hopefully not have to water it again. He also stated National Maintenance and Cleaning is still doing custodial work at the Historic Courthouse, Jail and VAC and is being paid out of the maintenance budget. Sneed also reported they will be getting bids for tuck pointing at the ROE building, and he hopes the bids are identical in scope. He said the north stairway of the Historic Courthouse will also need to be tuck pointed.

2. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Leitheiser reported the grant has been awarded to the County, and we are waiting to hear back from the Grant Manager at the State before proceeding any further. She said she spoke with Ameresco about possibly doing the work at the same time they are working at the new courthouse. Sneed stated he would like to be included in meeting with Ameresco before any work has begun.
3. **Old Highway Department Property Update/Approval:**
 - **Approve Purchase Agreement, Advertise for Bids for Seymour Avenue Surplus Property (Old Highway Department) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported we are still waiting on a purchase agreement from the State's Attorney. Donaldson reached out to State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, who requested details they would like to be included in the purchase agreement. Sneed said he sent Affrunti the details before but he will send them again. Greenwood said the company performing the asbestos abatement has us on their schedule, and it will likely be completed this fall.
4. **Elevator Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the County was going to advertise for bids for a new elevator service agreement, but we found out the current agreement does not end until February of 2025, and we must notify Schindler of the intent to pursue other bids between 90 and 120 days prior to the expiration of the contract.
5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (not needed)**
6. **Other Business:** None.

Development & Personnel Committee: Mark Hughes, Chairman -

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported Assured Partners representative Amanda Mast will attend the full board meeting in person, and plans on attending the committee meeting remotely.
2. **Animal Control Facility and Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Hughes stated he does not have anything new to report on the facility or the contracts.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the committee will have a lot to discuss in the way of policy at their meeting.
4. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Bill Montgomery accepted the position of MCEDC executive director. McConnell stated she informed him he needs to start attending the board and committee meetings. She also said she has an email from MCEDC Treasurer Cassie Rovey with the last two years of financials, which the committee will have for their meeting.
5. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported Leitheiser and County Coordinator Chris Daniels attended a rural broadband meeting in Greenville earlier this week. Leitheiser said each vendor had to be physically present and were each allotted 15 minutes for presentations. Donaldson said he reached out to Nextlink representative Mike Johnson about what the County needs to do to move forward with this, and he is awaiting a response.
6. **Vistra Energy – Coffeen Solar Project Permit Application Update/Approval:** Hughes reported they will wait to hear from Jeremy Conner from Hurst-Rosche engineers before making a recommendation on the permit application.
7. **Vistra Energy – Coffeen Solar Project Enterprise Zone Request Update/Approval:** Hughes stated he is against approving an enterprise zone request for Vistra. Enterprise Zone Administrator Daniels stated Vistra would receive property and sales tax exemptions for a period of time if their request was approved. Donaldson stated he will schedule a Mayor's Meeting so this request can be addressed. Daniels said her recommendation would be to just include the footprint for the solar project.
8. **Ordinance Adopting Personnel Manual Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Affrunti said the County has to adopt the Personnel Manual as an ordinance in order to be compliant with the new law regarding the 40-hour paid leave for employees. Lohman said Affrunti believes the county is exempt

because we are a local government, but she was invited to attend a webinar from Assured Partners with more information on the issue.

9. **Illinois DCEO Community Development Block Grant Update/Approval:** Assistant Coordinator Jenkins said the board will have to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Litchfield since they are the lead agency on this grant.
10. **Scheduling of Union Negotiation Meetings with Local 773 (Correctional Officers and Telecommunicators) Update/Approval:** Undersheriff Holshouser reported the union reps met and they will be switching from Local 773 to Local 1084. Hughes said Sheriff Robbins was spearheading scheduling the negotiations with this union for these contracts, which expire November 30.
11. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** *(not needed)*
12. **Other Business:** None.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman -

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** This report will be discussed at the committee meeting.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** This report will be discussed at the committee meeting.
3. **Allocation of Remaining ARPA Funds for FY 2024 Budget Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported all the non-county entities responded to the certified letters, and the list will be discussed further at the committee meeting.
4. **Highway Department \$30,000 Payment Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported this item will be discussed further at the committee meeting. Greenwood stated he believes there should be some separation between the highway department and the County since the highway department has their own taxing funds; however, Affrunti has said previously they cannot own their own property and it has to be under the County's name.
5. **County Policy for Special Fund Use Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported they will be discussing this item at the committee meeting in an effort to make all departments equal.
6. **FY 2024 Budget Update/Approval:** Lohman said she will speak with Bellwether, who will have someone attend the committee meeting in some fashion. She also said she will speak with them about the Truth in Taxation Hearing.
7. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 08-23-160-029 in Nokomis Township to Jason and Sarah Miller Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
8. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 13-06-333-002 in Witt Township to Tucker Teubel Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
9. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-205-004 in Hillsboro Township to Scott Anderson Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
10. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-111-006 in Hillsboro Township to Brittny Harris Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
11. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 17-35-406-002 in East Fork Township to Snowwhite and Jonathan Nixon Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
12. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 21-23-226-008 in East Fork Township to Travis and Amanda Hemken Update/Approval:** This item will be discussed at the committee meeting.
13. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** *(not needed)*
14. **Other Business:** None.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **Section 15-00138-00-BR Red Ball Trail Bridge Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported they are on working day 43 out of 95, and he believes they are ahead of schedule.
2. **H.R. 3372 proposal in Congress to raise the federal weight limit of heavy trucks Update/Approval:** Greenwood stated he thinks they could probably take this item off the agenda for now. Murzynski said they could draft some kind of letter of opposition.

3. **Upcoming Road Use Agreements Update/Approval:** Greenwood stated we are waiting to hear back from Anacott Solar representatives on one of the agreements.
4. **Other Items:** None.

Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting:

- Alex Jordan, Donald Murphy and Todd Megginson to the Bois D'Arc #4 Drainage District Board
- Daniel Tester and John Speiser to the Irving-Witt-Nokomis-Rountree #1 Drainage District Board
- Robert Wagahoff, Leonard Rovey and John Welsh to the Farmersville-Waggoner Fire Protection District Board
- Paul Pershing to the Three County Public Water District Board

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 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
CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm - County Board Room

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Chad Ruppert and John Wright

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Cody Greenwood, Kevin Schott, Sandy Leitheiser, Andrew Affrunti, Joe Gasparich (via Google Meet), Don Leach, Chris Brown, Danielle Anderson, Ryan Choquette, Andrew Duguid, Greg Archibald, Barb Paine and Sabrina Jones

The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Chairman Donaldson stated questions from the public for representatives from Navigator/Heartland-Greenway would go through him. He said he gathered other questions from committee members and constituents for the representatives, and those questions were sent to Navigator/Heartland-Greenway prior to the meeting. Audubon Township resident Greg Archibald said the pipeline is slated to run a mile and a half away from schools in Nokomis and Raymond. He also stated the county would be one earthquake away from a disaster, and the CO2 pipeline is different than water and gas pipelines.

Barb Paine presented five questions for members of the project: 1) If approved, will the main pipeline and sequestration pipelines be bored under all rural country roads regardless of blacktop, oiled road, rock road or dirt road; and what is the plan for road maintenance/reconstruction during and after the pipeline and well construction? 2) What is the process at the junction where 16 inch and 20 inch pipe ends and the pipe for sequestration begins, and how many pounds of pressure would the CO2 travel thru the junction? 3) If the pipeline is approved, what path will the sequestration pipes take through Audubon Township? 4) How would Navigator ensure roads are passable at all times by semi-trucks or large farm machinery so that local citizens can access and maintain their business interests since some of the township roads only allow for semi-truck access in one direction? 5) If the proposed CO2 pipeline was coming through Navigator members neighborhoods, would they willingly and confidently locate their family home near, adjacent to or on top of a sequestration site without any doubt, worry or concern for their health and safety, both now and in the future?

Sabrina Jones stated it was said during a previous ad hoc committee meeting that the CO2 in the pipeline isn't toxic, and she said that claim is false. She also said a previous statement about first responders not dying needs context. Jones also stated it is interesting when Navigator has met with the Emergency Management Agency, it was only with Montgomery County and not with other counties at the same time. She asked why Navigator is not working with all counties in one meeting so everyone is on the same page.

2. **Ordinance on Carbon Capture and Sequestration in Montgomery County Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
3. **Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project Development Agreement Update/Approval:** Donaldson opened up the meeting for representatives from Navigator-Heartland Greenway to work their way down the list of questions that were submitted prior to the meeting. Don Leach, Vice President of Carbon Storage with Navigator CO2 Ventures, introduced the rest of the Heartland-Greenway representatives. Others in attendance from the project included Tenaska Senior Project Manager Ryan Choquette, Advanced Resources International Vice President Andrew Duguid,

Navigator CO2 Public Affairs Manager Danielle Anderson, and Navigator CO2 Vice President of Capital Projects Chris Brown.

Duguid addressed the first question, which was what model developed the sequestration field. Duguid stated they used a geologic model created by their software Petrel, adding it takes all subsurface data available and puts it into whatever wells are available. Ruppert asked who created the data from the models. Duguid said a few wells that have been drilled in Illinois are where they got their data, as well as the Illinois State Geologic Survey and data retrieved from the Nokomis observation well. He said seven or eight wells have gone into the Eau Claire Shale formation.

Donaldson asked if the public has access to the data, and would they even know what they're looking at if they did. Leach said they do have access to it but making heads or tails of it is a different topic. He said their Petrel software helps them interpret a technically complex issue to determine whether drilling can be possible. Regarding seismic testing, Duguid stated the term "seismic" can be confusing. He said the term can be used when referring to earthquakes, but the seismic testing they were performing was the process of sending soundwaves to look underground. He said an earthquake would not make a new fault here, and it would not affect the wells. Brown stated from a pipeline perspective, they were designed with the ability to move, and the route of the pipeline was designed to not be located in any known earthquake area. He said the main thing they looked for when designing the route in the County was avoiding the mines. Choquette said they are not building pipelines through faults. Folkerts asked what the boundaries of the Mount Simon sandstone were. Duguid stated it goes from central Ohio to western Iowa, almost to Nebraska.

Regarding the topic of injecting CO2 into the ground, Leach stated once they stop pushing it, it'll stop moving. He said they are working on agreements with dozens of land owners, with those totaling approximately \$50 million in economic benefit. Ruppert asked if it was possible to monitor where the CO2 was going after it is injected into the ground. Leach replied that they take pictures to see what it looks like underground and get all the different layers. He said they then take another picture a year or so down the line and see what the plume has done.

On the issue of water requirements, Leach stated there are two phases to the project: drilling and operating. He said there are no water requirements during the operating phase, but they will be using approximately seven households of water per well during the drilling phase. Leach also stated the water issue that occurred during the drilling of the observation well was an issue with E.J. Water's take-off point. When asked how many wells they plan to have, Leach said their goal is six injection wells, but they will also have to have observation and monitoring wells. He stated the reason they installed the sound wall where they did at the observation well site was to try to mitigate the sound as much as possible.

When asked how they can be sure the wells will not go through the aquifer, Leach said every permit they apply for has a set of goals behind it. He said the Environmental Protection Agency wants to protect the aquifer, and will have to issue permits for the project. He said all of the ways to best not affect the aquifer come from the oil and gas industries. Leach stated the entire point of surface casing is to drill through the aquifer and pump cement casings down in order to seal the aquifer off. He said all pipelines do this practice as it is a requirement. Duguid stated the aquifer drinking water comes from the first couple hundred feet, and every piece of the well is cemented.

Folkerts asked what makes Illinois the ideal spot for this. Duguid stated the Illinois basins are deep, and the freshwater is a factor as well. When asked what pressure the CO2 is stored at, Duguid said it is between 2850 and 3300 psi. Leach said the pressure at the bottom of the pipe is just above the pressure of the layer above it. Regarding the differences between this process and fracking, Duguid stated pour pressure for fracking is 3000 psi, and fracking is the pressure at which rock breaks, causing water and sand to get into the cracks created. He said they are required

by the EPA to make sure they never frack. Leach stated they will push just enough pressure to inject the CO2 into the formation.

As to how long it will take for the CO2 to form into rock, Duguid said it will start immediately, but it will be turning into rock over a period of thousands of years. He also said once they stop injecting, any potential for leakage decreases.

Donaldson asked about the spacing between shutoff valves. Brown stated they are required to put valves no more than seven miles apart in high consequence areas, such as areas of high population, and are required to place them no more than 20 miles apart in non-high consequence areas. Brown reported mile point 0.0 is in Sangamon County, and thru Montgomery County they will be placed at 4.4, 18.7, 29.3 and 41.96 miles making the space between 4.4, 14.3, 10.6 and 12.6 respectively. He said the average distance in the non-high consequence areas is about 15 miles. Regarding the Sitartia, Mississippi pipeline rupture, Brown stated that company was able to get a reading within nine minutes. He said their goal if there is ever a total severance of a pipeline is to get the situation under control in less than five minutes. When asked where the monitoring station will be located, Brown said they have narrowed it down to either Des Moines, Iowa or Omaha, Nebraska. He stated the American Petroleum Institute is responsible for inspecting the manufacturing of the pipe. He said it is inspected the entire time until it gets into the ditch, which includes loadout, unloading and right of ways.

Ruppert asked what pressure will be used to inject the CO2. Duguid stated they have the pressure in hydraulics currently set at 1300 psi, and will be discharging at 1700 at the trunk line; but it could still be increased as their maximum operating pressure is for up to 2200 psi. When asked how the psi gets to 3300 if they are only injecting at 1700, Duguid stated when CO2 enters a supercritical phase, it creates its own hydrostatic pressure that works with the injection pressure. He said this is similar to a water tower whereas the pressure at the top is atmospheric and at the bottom it is caused by the pressure of the water above it.

Ruppert asked who the investors of the project are. Leach said they have a management team, and Blackrock is also an investor. Anderson stated it is about a \$3.2 billion project. Ruppert said it is a government funded project. Anderson stated that is incorrect, adding that the ethanol plants take the tax incentives to offset the cost of the carbon capture equipment. Asked if they will utilize local labor, Leach responded they are committed to 100 percent union labor and they will try to stay as local as possible.

Ruppert again asked why Montgomery County, because he said it seems like we are an easy target with a low population and no zoning. Wright asked why they chose to build more of the pipeline to travel to Montgomery County as opposed to building more wells in Sangamon and Christian Counties. Duguid responded going to Montgomery County will allow them to have more spacing on the pipeline.

When asked what other products will be injected with the CO2, Anderson said they are not permitted to inject anything else. Leach said the Sitartia project included H2S in the pipeline.

Closing out the question and answer portion, Leach stated CO2 pipelines have been around since 1972, and the only issue that has occurred in the industry was the Sitartia rupture. He said they are less likely to encounter an issue with this project than a person would have when traveling on an airplane. He said the Sitartia issue was also related to where the project was located. Leach stated they have to judge risk by severity and likelihood. Ruppert said they also have to judge reward.

4. Other Business: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 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

Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, September 7th, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

Members Present: Mark Hughes, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Jeremy Jones, Chad Ruppert and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Andrew Affrunti, Rick Robbins, Emily Gerl, Jeff Roach, Tyson Holshouser, Sandy Leitheiser, Ethan Murzynski, Patty Whitworth, Shannon Brauer, Jessica Durbin, Larry Miller, Cheryl Miller, Tamara Thompson, Crystal Carpani and Randy Reynolds

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Development & Personnel Committee: Mark Hughes, chairman -

1. **Public Comment:** Prior to opening up public comments, Donaldson expressed a desire to clarify a few items regarding animal control. He stated the committee previously discussed the need for a policy on animal control, and the topic of euthanasia was presented. The idea of a 30, 60 or 90-day, or six month, one year or longer limit was mentioned, but the 30-day idea was taken and run with on social media. He stated the board is not considering and will not implement a 30-day euthanasia policy.

Tamara Thompson was the first member of the public to speak. She stated she worked for the County for many years, and she heard many times that the facility was not run correctly. She said, over the years, she has only seen three board members at the facility.

Cheryl Miller stated she would like to know where all the money from the Vanek Estate went. She also said Montgomery County has the worst population for neglected and abused animals.

Larry Miller also stated he wants to know where the Vanek Estate money went.

Jessica Durbin stated she has assisted in the adoption of rescue of 37 dogs at animal control, and funding seems to be a major issue. She also said the board needs to start where the problem originates, which is owner-surrendering of animals and breeding issues. She stated she would also like to see any and all donations listed as separate line items in the budget.

Shannon Brauer stated she would like the board to reach out to other facilities instead of considering euthanizing animals.

Crystal Carpani asked if there was a way to regulate breeding.

Randy Reynolds stated she would like to see a viable solution for the County to fund and house animals, even if it means a separate tax.

2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Assured Partners representative Amanda Mast informed him next year's premiums are increasing by 29 percent as of right now, and she will try to negotiate and get those numbers down by the next meeting.
3. **Animal Control Facility and Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Animal Control Warden Gerl reported she has gotten a lot of dogs adopted out recently, and the facility is currently down to 10. She stated they also currently have 15 kittens and two elderly cats.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Hughes asked the committee members if they would like to work on an animal control policy during the meeting. Bergen and Ruppert both said they would like to do more research on the topic. Beason stated he would like to know the cost of keeping animals for certain periods of time. Jones asked Gerl to make a list of reasons for euthanasia, supply a list of partners she collaborates with and list breeder issues. Regarding a separate tax to fund animal control, State's Attorney Affrunti stated the board cannot pass a separate levy and the only way to do something like that would be to increase the general county levy and divvy up the excess money thru the budget process.

5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** Motion by Beason and second by Ruppert to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and union negotiations. All in favor, motion carried. Committee entered into executive session at 5:58 p.m. Motion by Jones and second by Beason to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Committee returned to open session at 6:44 p.m. No action was taken following executive session.
6. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Hughes reported Bill Montgomery was hired as the new executive director of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). He said Montgomery was present during the meeting prior to executive session, but had to leave. He said he will most likely come back to a future meeting.
7. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported she and County Coordinator Chris Daniels attended a meeting in Greenville involving a number of representatives from broadband companies and other counties. She stated the need for broadband is huge and she has encouraged Nextlink representative Mike Johnson to attend a committee and board meeting in the near future.
8. **Vistra Energy – Coffeen Solar Project Permit Application Update/Approval:** Hughes reported the committee will table this matter until the next meeting as Jeremy Conner with Hurst-Rosche Engineers has not completed his report yet. He said Conner should have the report finished by tomorrow.
9. **Vistra Energy – Coffeen Solar Project Enterprise Zone Request Update/Approval:** Hughes reported this item will have to wait until after the county mayors meet, which is tentatively scheduled for the end of this month.
10. **Ordinance Adopting Personnel Manual Update/Approval:** Hughes reported County Treasurer Nikki Lohman was invited to attend a webinar on September 12th related to this item. The webinar is hosted by Assured Partners.
11. **Illinois DCEO Community Development Block Grant Update/Approval:**
 - **Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Litchfield for the DCEO Community Development Block Grant Update/Approval:** Hughes reported he spoke with Litchfield Economic Development Coordinator Tonya Flannery and Hillsboro Economic Development and Community Planner Sarah McConnell, and no interest has been received by either individual regarding projects related to the CDBG. Hughes said they still have some time, but they will not pass an Intergovernmental Agreement if there is no interest.
12. **Scheduling of Union Negotiation Meetings with Local 773 (Correctional Officers and Telecommunicators) Update/Approval:** Nothing additional was reported.
13. **Other Business:** Hughes reported Leitheiser spoke with him about Cole McDaniel from the Spoon River Economic Development Corporation. Hughes stated McDaniel is branching out to different counties about doing economic development, and gave a price tag of around \$40,000 to \$50,000. When asked what the benefit of hiring him would be, Leitheiser said he writes grants.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 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
Special Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Thursday, August 17th, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth (arrived at 8:48 a.m.), Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Nikki Lohman, Dave Schweizer, Cody Greenwood, Andrew Affrunti, Rick Robbins, Tyson Holshouser, Curt Watkins, Phil Ernst, Bob Sneed, Kevin Schott, Emily Gerl, Sandy Leitheiser, Daniel Robbins and Erin Matteson

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Dave Schweizer from the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Board addressed the committee regarding ARPA funds. He requested the county board to keep the ambulance service in mind with regards to ARPA funds for a new or used ambulance. He stated they could use all the help they can get after covid. When asked if they could provide the 40 percent match requested of other non-county agencies, Schweizer responded it would depend on the price of the used ambulance.

2. **FY 2024 Budget Update/Approval:**

State's Attorney: Andrew Affrunti was present for questions regarding the State's Attorney's office budget. He stated he believes the investigator he requested be put into the budget would be a great asset to the County, but he understands the financial situation we are in. He said his biggest issue with the adjustments made by Bellwether is cutting the Assistant State's Attorney salary line item to \$143,000, adding that he hired another assistant based on the belief that the board was ok with him offering salaries of \$100,000 per year for each assistant. He said one way to make up for the difference in the budget would be to eliminate the victim advocate salary line item because he will not be able to hire someone at the \$17,993 that is listed. He also asked what the TORT Transfer was that was listed. Treasurer Lohman responded it is a transfer from the insurance fund that can be used to offset the State's Attorney as legal counsel for the county. She said the transfer is done as one-third of the State's Attorney's expenses. Affrunti responded the County has never done that before and he believes that justifies the need to increase the assistant state's attorney salary line. He stated without the second assistant, he will be working on criminal cases and will be unable to focus on board-related matters, much like what has taken place the past couple of months. Lohman asked what happened with the victim advocate they had. Affrunti said that person resigned in August or September of 2022 and was not replaced. He said it used to be funded by a state grant but they did not receive the grant this year because the position was not filled. Regarding the topic of the County holding a Truth in Taxation hearing, Ritchie stated it is his opinion the board should not look at the idea of holding such a hearing as a bad thing. Donaldson stated eliminating the victim advocate line item would mean the board would need to come up with an additional \$38,000 in order to increase the assistant state's attorney salary line to \$200,000.

Sheriff: Rick Robbins and Tyson Holshouser were present to answer any questions related to the Sheriff's office budget. Robbins reported the salary increases were based on Cost of Living Arrangement (COLA) raises, longevity raises, and contractual raises agreed upon in the collective bargaining agreement. He stated he also requested 16 weeks of sending deputies to the academy because they seem to have issues with hiring mid-year every year. He stated he added to the actual training line also, but increased the salary line for training because deputies sent to the academy are still county employees and have to be paid while there. From coal, Robbins stated he is requesting enough funding for one vehicle, and he has budgeted for \$63,000. He said they have also budgeted

\$27,600 for body camera storage and body armor. Lohman reported Bellwether also brought up the possibility of the board considering a public safety sales tax in order to help offset some of the costs to run the department. Sheriff Robbins stated it was proposed twice before and failed, but he believes it could be passed if it is done right.

Buildings and Grounds: Phil Ernst and Bob Sneed were present to answer questions regarding the buildings and grounds budget. Ernst reported he proposed increases in salaries beyond the six percent board-approved raises for both he and maintenance tech Roger Cassidy. He said the additional increases will not cost the county anything because he is offsetting them by cutting the overtime, maintenance service contracts and publishing/printing line items. He said if Cassidy gets the proposed increased hourly rate, Ernst will make Cassidy take off and will not allow him to use overtime. Sneed said there will be days where emergencies happen and Cassidy will have to work longer, but Ernst will have Cassidy take off earlier on other days in order to compensate. Lohman said Bellwether proposed having \$500 in the overtime line. Ernst said he wants that cut to \$0. He said he would also like the maintenance service contracts line cut to \$54,000 because they don't have the Johnson Controls contract anymore and he is doing much of the work they were doing. Ernst's proposed salaries were \$65,748 for the maintenance superintendent position and \$43,680 for the full-time maintenance employee position. He stated he would also like to see the cell phone line item taken out of his budget because he doesn't even use a county cell phone. He also reported he has asked for \$300,000 of coal money again for the next fiscal year in order to address the roof of the new courthouse.

Information Services: Curt Watkins was present to answer questions related to the Information Services office budget. Lohman stated he was mainly there to talk about ARPA and coal requests. Watkins said he is requesting \$100,000 in coal money in case of an emergency for a cybersecurity event. He said he is hopeful he would not need to use it, but he feels it needs to be there just in case. Lohman noted the board has to approve the use of coal money anyway.

Highway Department: Cody Greenwood was present to answer questions about the highway department budget. Greenwood reported he is requesting \$500,000 in coal money. He said he would like to purchase three pieces of equipment, which would include an excavator and a trailer, and the total cost for all three would come in at approximately \$432,000.

Emergency Management Agency: Kevin Schott was present to answer questions about the emergency management agency budget. He stated his concern for the ARPA request he was approved for is he is not sure what it is going to cost to renovate the building they will be moving into at the highway department. Greenwood stated the building needs an entire roof replacement. He said they received approximately \$54,000 in an insurance claim and an estimate from Young's Roofing came back at around \$69,000. He said he is still waiting to hear back about an estimate for a metal roof, but additional money is likely going to be needed to fund the rest of the project regardless. Schott proposed a budget which included an increase in hours for him and the part-time staff. He said he would like to increase his hours to 32 per week with 15 hours for each assistant. Ritchie said Bellwether had a question about Schott's duties, which is why they proposed a lower salary. Schott said he guarantees he is putting in more than 20 hours a week today. Donaldson stated he has asked the EMA staff to do a lot more than what they've done in the past, primarily dealing with the CO2 sequestration. Schott said this job means a lot to him and doing the job correctly means a lot. Donaldson said he will get with Schott and go over a job description to submit to Bellwether. Ritchie stated the difference in total salaries between Schott's proposal and Bellwether is approximately \$34,000.

Animal Control: Emily Gerl was present for questions regarding the animal control budget. Ritchie reported Bellwether cautioned the county against running animal control as a shelter because the facility is not up to code for a shelter. Gerl said they are registered as a shelter with the Department of Agriculture. Lohman said an issue with them being a shelter is they get revenue for being one that they otherwise wouldn't receive as a facility. She also reported Bellwether questioned the way the municipal contracts are written and suggested not doing them per call. Gerl also stated she would like

to increase her department's incinerator fees. Her proposed budget included the cost of a new incinerator, but Bellwether proposed taking that out. Gerl said the incinerator generates enough revenue to make up for the cost of a new one. Lohman suggested waiting a year and asking for it again next year after gathering data to prove the revenue it generates. The salary line items in Bellwether's proposed budget were \$41,820.06 for the animal control officer, \$20,733.02 for full-time salary, and \$52,211 for part-time salaries. Lohman stated Bellwether also said animal control does not have to respond to calls in municipalities if they do not have a contract, no matter what the case is. Donaldson said he asked State's Attorney Affrunti who said the county only has to respond in municipalities for the criteria listed in the state statute.

Circuit Clerk: Daniel Robbins was present to answer questions about the Circuit Clerk's office budget. He proposed a salary increase for his employees of six percent in addition raises agreed to in the union contracts. The line would also see an additional \$37,000 increase that would come from his special fund. Lohman said the board needs to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the union in order to approve these increases. Robbins said the Association of Illinois Courts labor attorney and the State's Attorney both said the board does not have to approve the MOU. Lohman said the benefits from the excess salaries will be reflected in the special funds as well. County Clerk Leitheiser asked what the lowest paid employee in his office would be making if this budget is approved. Robbins said the lowest would be \$18.75 after December 1. Leitheiser said that is \$2 more than her lowest paid employee.

Public Defender: Erin Matteson was present for questions about the Public Defender's office budget. She reported Montgomery County should be receiving public defender funds in the amount of \$104,000 from the State that can be used for P.D. services, which include salaries. She stated she is requesting to add a paralegal for \$25 an hour and an administrative assistant for \$15 an hour. Lohman stated Bellwether cut the assistant out of the budget. She said they also cut training down to \$1000 because their FY 2023 projection was around \$884. Matteson stated they have training in October in Bloomington. She said she would like for \$3,000 to be put back in. Lohman also stated Bellwether cut the Assistant Public Defender salary to around \$74,000 because they were unaware that part of Assistant P.D. Wes Poggenpohl's salary was paid from one of the judge's lines. Matteson said she would like, at the very least, for Poggenpohl's salary to be no less than \$85,000 plus the six percent board-approved increase; though she would prefer he be increased to match the Assistant State's Attorney's \$100,000 salary.

Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recess for lunch. All in favor, motion carried. Committee recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m.

Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to reconvene the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Committee reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Senior Citizens: Ken Folkerts was present for questions regarding the senior citizens budget. He reported Lyn Fugate is requesting a salary of \$26,000. Donaldson stated the six percent increase would bring her salary to \$26,530. Lohman asked if the CEFS Public transit amount was a flat fee. Coordinator Christine Daniels stated it was and it has already been paid for this fiscal year. Lohman said this falls in line with what Bellwether did in a lot of projections by doubling their six-month totals even though some totals were one-time payments.

MCEDC: Ritchie reported MCEDC Liaison and Development and Personnel Committee Mark Hughes said the board needs to discuss whether or not to pay the \$15,000 annual fee to the corporation. Beck said they don't currently have an executive director. Donaldson said Hughes is attempting to get financial information to see what the County is getting for their money. Young said they have been responsible for a lot of behind the scenes things in the county, such as bringing CTI here as well as the South Central Innovation Center in Litchfield. Lohman said the county's

contribution this year could be the work that was done on the DCEO Energy Grant. Donaldson said the Development and Personnel Committee needs to come up with a recommendation on this.

At this point in the meeting, Andy Ritchie left and Vice Chair Connie Beck took over as acting Chair. The committee began discussing ways to balance the budget based on the proposed changes made earlier in the day. Donaldson stated in order to increase the Assistant State's Attorney salary line to \$200,000, the county would need to use an additional \$38,906.50 of coal money or cut from elsewhere in the budget. Lohman said that before today's hearing, Bellwether had the budget balanced with a coal transfer of approximately \$200,000. Regarding Buildings and Grounds, Lohman noted the salary increases for both Ernst and Cassidy would be significant. Beck said she believes they deserve something for saving the county money on the service contracts, but not the significant increase they were proposing. Folkerts suggested giving them \$4,000 on top of the six percent board-approved increase. Loucks asked about the overtime. During the hearing, Ernst had proposed cutting the overtime to \$0. Donaldson said they're going to have some kind of overtime. Young suggested \$2500 of overtime and decreasing the extra salary amount to \$3,000 instead of \$4,000. The committee reviewed the other discussion items from the hearings. After those discussions, the committee proposed the following budget adjustments: increasing the Assistant State's Attorney salary line to \$200,000; removing the victim advocate line item from the State's Attorney budget; giving the maintenance superintendent and maintenance full-time employee the board-approved six percent increase, as well as \$3,000 to divide how Ernst best sees fit; increasing the buildings and grounds overtime line to \$2,500; going with the EMA budget proposal from Bellwether; and decreasing the general fund's portion of the Circuit Clerk's full-time salaries line item to \$8,918, which would reflect the \$0.70 per hour approved in the collective bargaining agreement, with the additional salary coming from the Circuit Clerk's special fund. The total amount for Circuit Clerk's employee salaries would be \$277,071.20, with \$235,381 coming from the general fund and \$41,690.20 coming from the special fund. The committee also agreed to cut the animal control part-time salary line item from \$52,211 to \$30,000.

3. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
4. **Other Business:** None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 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, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Friday, September 8th, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth (arrived at 10:34 a.m.), Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Daniel Robbins, Cody Greenwood, Kendra Niehaus, Phil Ernst, Bane Ulrici, Tyson Holshouser, Nikki Lohman, Hugh Satterlee, Eric Braasch, Rick Robbins, Sandy Leitheiser, Curt Watkins, Andrew Affrunti, Claire Eskew and Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Public Comment:** Citizen Claire Eskew stated she attended the meeting on a fact-finding mission as a result of last night's Development and Personnel Committee discussion on animal control. She said she knows the budgetary issue is not new, but she believes the County Board needs to reconsider a policy regarding putting dogs down after a certain amount of days. She said volunteers and community members are concerned and they are hopeful the board can come to a resolution for animal control that is financially viable. Sheriff Robbins stated there has been a complete failure of communication between the board and members of the public regarding the budget process and animal control. County Clerk Leitheiser stated she believes the board should provide a written document explaining the animal control budget and the Vanek Estate since that was a topic of concern during the Development and Personnel Committee meeting. Donaldson stated he has a simplified Vanek Estate summary they can work on publishing so members of the public can hopefully receive answers.
- 2. FY 2024 Budget Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the county was looking at a deficit of \$1.4 million after receiving requests from department heads. After Bellwether worked on the budget, they got the deficit down to around \$200,000. Lohman said the deficit then increased after budget hearings to \$436,455. She stated the coal money will not be around forever and Bellwether has asked the committee to take some hard looks at the budget and find where cuts can be made. She also reported this \$400,000 figure includes a 15 percent increase in health insurance premiums; however, Assured Partners representative Amanda Mast has received the projected numbers for next year, and the increase is 29 percent. Ritchie stated the board is probably looking at a deficit closer to \$600,000 then. Sheriff Robbins stated it would be horrible to cut services in his office, but if that's what he has to do he is willing to have that discussion. He also reported he received the annual jail inspection report, and they got hammered for lack of staff. He said they are currently housing 57 felons, and they may have double the number of inmates in their facility after the Safe-T Act takes affect based on the way it is written. Folkerts asked what the consequences of being noncompliant would be. Robbins said it would be liability. State's Attorney Affrunti said if an inmate gets hurt, they could sue and the inspection report would be the first thing that is filed. When asked how much each department would need to cut in order to get the deficit back to where Bellwether had it, Lohman said it would be between 20 and 25 percent; although she said Bellwether recommended not looking at a flat percentage cut for each department as not all departments are equal. Ritchie stated one doable option is to go back to Bellwether's recommendation. Loucks asked if the six percent salary increases are set in stone or if they can be modified. Affrunti said they can be modified. Leitheiser stated there is waste at the county level that needs to be examined before cutting salaries. She asked the board to make a good-faith effort to keep the agreed-upon six percent salary increases. Health Department Director Satterlee stated the big problem comes down to what services the County wants and feels they can eliminate. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus asked if her office can charge for building permits in order to bring in some revenue, adding that they charge nothing right now. Lohman said that would be a question for

the State's Attorney. Affrunti said he does not know the answer to that question at this time. Loucks stated Affrunti said at budget hearings the board guaranteed they would pay the \$200,000 Assistant State's Attorney salaries for FY 2024, but he does not believe the board ever agreed to that. Whitworth said Affrunti advertised at the lower amount, but was not able to find anyone. Lohman stated a bill was passed giving the public defender's office funds to supplement the County for their office. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins stated they are guaranteed \$50,000, and possibly more that will be based on the case load. Lohman said this would help with the assistant public defender salary increase. Maintenance Superintendent Ernst stated he has been in the hole \$12,000 the last two years and he cannot continue working nine and 10 hour days, adding that maintenance tech Roger Cassidy cannot keep doing so either. He stated they are also doing union work because of the absence of the custodian. Ritchie stated the board needs to pursue putting union work back on the unions. Lohman asked if the committee could set another meeting to discuss the budget by itself to replace the second budget hearing date they did not use. Ritchie said Lohman will send out notes to department heads to see what else can be cut. The committee agreed to schedule a special meeting on September 28 at 5:30 p.m.

3. **County Policy for Special Fund Use Update/Approval:** Affrunti stated the County Board does not have a say in how departments utilize their special funds. He said regarding the Circuit Clerk's special funds, state statute reads the County Board "shall" expend funds at the request of the clerk of the courts. Lohman said she spoke with other county treasurers who are not doing it this way. Affrunti said the Association of Illinois Courts (AOIC) and an opinion from the Attorney General's office says the county is doing it right by doing it this way. Lohman asked if she could request a UCCI opinion. Affrunti said she could, but he doesn't think it will change. Lohman asked if the State's Attorney's office requests UCCI opinions. County Coordinator Daniels said those come from the County Board Chairman.
4. **Resolution Increasing Election Judge Salary Update/Approval:** Affrunti stated this item will have to wait until next month as he has not had a chance to review the proposed Resolution. Leitheiser stated the board needs to pass it by the end of the fiscal year in order for her to be able to request for the reimbursement of funds.
5. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 08-23-160-029 in Nokomis Township to Jason and Sarah Miller Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to recommend the Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 08-23-160-029 in Nokomis Township to Jason and Sarah Miller. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 13-06-333-002 in Witt Township to Tucker Teubel Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend the Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 13-06-333-002 in Witt Township to Tucker Teubel. All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-205-004 in Hillsboro Township to Scott Anderson Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend the Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-205-004 in Hillsboro Township to Scott Anderson. All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-111-006 in Hillsboro Township to Brittny Harris Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Folkerts to recommend the Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 16-12-111-006 in Hillsboro Township to Brittny Harris. All in favor, motion carried.
9. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 17-35-406-002 in East Fork Township to Snowwhite and Jonathan Nixon Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend the Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 17-35-406-002 in East Fork Township to Snowwhite and Jonathan Nixon. All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 21-23-226-008 in East Fork Township to Travis and Amanda Hemken Update/Approval:** Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend the

Full Board approve the Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID # 21-23-226-008 in East Fork Township to Travis and Amanda Hemken. All in favor, motion carried.

11. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Niehaus reported her office has been putting in all the work from the assessors, and then they will roll. She also reported former SOA Ray Durston is going to be helping with the township factors. When asked how many townships the County has assessing agreements with, Niehaus said 14.
12. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated there will be a report available at the full board meeting. Lohman said the county did receive a coal royalty payment for August.
13. **Highway Department \$30,000 Payment Update/Approval:** Highway Engineer Greenwood stated the board is approaching a point where EMA and the Health Department both need space, and he will have an area of his property that will be considered mixed-use once they take over the building. He said the State's Attorney has said the Highway Department cannot own property, but he would like some kind of protection over the property that it must be for highway department use if he is going to continue paying the \$30,000 annually. Young said he believes the remaining balance on the loan should be forgiven because that money could be put back into use for the roads. **Motion by Young and second by Loucks to recommend to Full Board to forgive the remaining balance on the loan for the new highway department starting in Fiscal Year 2023. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. **Allocation of Remaining ARPA Funds for FY 2024 Budget Update/Approval:** Assistant County Coordinator David Jenkins presented the updated ARPA funding list to the committee. He said he received notification from each of the non-county agencies and updated the list to reflect the amended requests. No request was increased and new requests were not considered per the board's previous decision. Jenkins said three requests were to pay off loans. They include the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service, Crossover Ministries and the Schram City Water projects. He said the latter two were not really affected because, as of this update, there is not enough ARPA money to make it down to their requests on the list. Lohman said one of the federal rules for the ARPA money was that it could not be used to pay off debt. Young and Folkerts briefly left the meeting at Ritchie's request to contact the NWAAS to see if they could purchase a new or used ambulance and match the funds. Upon returning to the meeting, Young informed the committee that they could not. Jenkins said this did not move the cutoff down the list any further. He said the last project on the list to get funded would be the ETSB Data Room UPS, and the remaining balance of ARPA money after that project would be \$45,880.80. Young said that balance could be used towards balancing the budget again, similar to what the board voted to do last year. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend the Full Board approve funding ARPA projects on the updated list down to number 29. All in favor, motion carried.** Jenkins stated he could notify the entities affected so they can start making their purchases.
15. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
16. **Other Business:**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 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, September 6th, 2023 **Time:** 8:30 AM – Conference Room, County Highway Dept.

Members Present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Chad Ruppert and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth

Others Present: Cody Greenwood

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Section 15-00138-00-BR Red Ball Trail Bridge Update/Approval:** Highway Engineer Greenwood reported they are flooring concrete on the deck of the bridge, as well as doing dirt work at the 3rd Avenue intersection and installing pipe culverts. He said he believes it will be next week before the deck gets poured. Greenwood stated they are 46 to 47 working days into the project as of September 5th, and he believes they are ahead of schedule and may not need all 95 working days.
3. **H.R. 3372 proposal in Congress to raise the federal weight limit of heavy trucks Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the board could discuss a resolution in opposition to this legislation; however, the item will be taken off the agenda for now because it is too early.
4. **Upcoming Road Use Agreements Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported we are waiting on a response from Anacott Solar, as he had them prepare a draft of a Road Use Agreement. He stated he also contacted Russell Whitaker from the Vistra Solar project about drafting a road use agreement as well.
5. **Resolution 2023-09 Appropriating Funds for 100% County Culvert Replacement on E. 20th Road Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported this will be a 36-inch, 45-foot culvert and will be paid for using County Aid to Bridge Funds. He stated the amount is \$9,000. **Motion by Loucks and second by Murzynski to recommend the Full Board approve Resolution 2023-09 appropriating funds for 100 percent county culvert replacement on East 20th Road for an amount not to exceed \$9,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Township Bridge Program (TBP) Funding Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the TBP funds came through in the amount of \$816,473. He said the average in years past was around \$204,000. He stated he has a long list of Township Bridges that need replaced.
7. **Seasonal Renting/Leasing of Roadside Mowing Equipment Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported he is looking into seasonal renting or leasing of mowing equipment. He said he had an issue with their bush hog and it was down for about a month. He stated Cross Implement is offering leases on mowers of around \$3,500 per year. Greenwood said he usually goes through mowers every six to seven years, and they are about \$25,000. He stated he would have to make sure he has enough in his budget in order to rent or lease mowing equipment next year.
8. **Other Items:** Bergen asked about the status of the Walshville Bypass Road. Greenwood said it is in the consultant's hands and he will try to get an update for the next meeting. Loucks asked about the highway department paying \$30,000 to the county every year for their current property. Greenwood said it is going to be discussed at the Finance and Budget Committee meeting. He said he would like to future-proof the property so when a new board comes in, they can't come in and repurpose that property for non-highway department use.

Motion to pay the bills by Bergen and second by Ruppert. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.