

Montgomery County Board

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024

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: Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Maintenance Supervisor Phil Ernst, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell, Illinois State Historical Society board member Jeff Dunn

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Buildings & Grounds Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs asked the committee to make sure the sod that was placed last summer on the east side of the Historic Courthouse lawn is repaired after work there is complete.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Sneed reported that the new custodian, working for National Maintenance at the Montgomery County Courthouse, would be on-site for a walk-through. Ernst presented his report highlighting that the new generator at the Montgomery County Jail is installed, the back stairs of the Historic Courthouse had been tuck-pointed, and mowers had been serviced and are ready for next spring.
3. **Elevator at the Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Ernst reported that as of 12 noon on Thursday, Dec. 28, the elevator in the Historic Courthouse was back in service. Chairman Donaldson noted that the elevator had been out of service for nearly three months since Oct. 3.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported that the project is awaiting the arrival of grant funds. Chairman Donaldson anticipates that to happen soon.
5. **Repair/Replace Roof of Block Building at Highway Department Update/Approval:** Sneed reported that he would be meeting with County Engineer Cody Greenwood and the Roads & Bridges Committee, along with EMA and the Montgomery County Health Department, Wednesday morning, Jan. 3, to walk through the block building and brown metal buildings at the Highway Department to for their possible use by EMA and MCHD. Funding would be applied for through the second phase of the DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Program.
6. **Grant for County Board Room Audiovisual Upgrades Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported that he intends to submit the grant to the Chief Judge's office by Friday, Jan. 5, for audio/visual updates to the County Board Room so it can be used as an emergency back-up court room. The updates can also be used by the county board.
7. **Ameresco - New Courthouse Renovation Project Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported that renovations are progressing and should be completed by Friday, Jan. 19.
8. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (if needed):** None needed.

9. **Other Business:** Dunn updated the board on plans to place a mural on the north wall of the Courthouse Annex building, and showed a historic postcard featuring a trolley car as a potential model for the artwork. He said the wall would need prepared first, and Sneed said a contract for tuck-pointing repair work had been awarded. Dunn asked if the wall would be painted first, and Sneed said it was not in the budget for FY2024. Dunn said the mural could be painted on metal panels that would not require the wall to be repainted first; he estimated the panels would increase the cost by \$2600 for Imagine Hillsboro. Committee members thought the mural may have a longer life if on metal panels instead of painted brick. Dunn also asked to work with the county on a historical marker about the industry and coal history to be placed on the Historic Courthouse grounds.

Hughes asked about the progress in selling the former Highway Department property on Seymour Avenue in Hillsboro. Sneed said that EMA will need to move out of the building on the property before it can be torn down and the property sold. Committee members then discussed whether basing the value of the vacant property on the EAV of comparable vacant lots would result in a reasonable market value.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am. 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, January 4th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman -

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Committee reviewed report and anticipates the 2023 end-of-year report from Assured Partners in February. Circuit Clerk Robbins advised that HSHS is currently in negotiations with United Health Care.
3. **Personnel Manual Amendments Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported that any amendments are pending a discussion with the State’s Attorney’s office.
4. **Paid Leave for all Workers Policy Options Update/Approval:** Sheriff Robbins reported that he had researched with the ICRMT legal team, and provided an email with suggested policy and language that meets FMLA requirements. Ruppert added that paid leave language needs updated; that will be addressed next month. Sheriff Robbins also asked the committee to consider changing county policy from requiring employees to exhaust all paid leave time during an extended leave to allowing them to keep a maximum of 5 sick days in reserve. Both Circuit Clerk Robbins and County Clerk Leitheiser agreed with the potential policy change; Leitheiser suggested seeking a legal opinion first.
5. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** From report submitted to him, Ruppert noted 8 dogs and 9 cats at Animal Control.
6. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported he has been reviewing the draft that board member Jones gave him last month and will meet with the Animal Control warden.
7. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Nothing to report.
8. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Montgomery reported attending webinars and the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program grant funds. A map of underserved areas is under development with a process to challenge map findings. County Clerk Leitheiser reported that there is a device that can be placed in underserved areas to verify inadequate broadband access. Montgomery also reported that MCEDC is working on a new website which should be up in March.
9. **DCEO Energy Grant Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Chris Daniels reported that her office has been answering questions as part of the DCEO grant review process, and is anticipating final grant agreement. Ruppert reported that Chairman Donaldson will appoint a committee to begin

discussion on the 2024 Award phase of the DCEO Energy Grant, which will focus on county infrastructure. Sheriff Robbins asked if funds to develop a law enforcement and first responder training facility could be included in the 2024 Award phase. Chairman Donaldson stated there will be a meeting with department heads when the Notice of Funding Opportunity comes from DCEO sometime this month to go over “wish” lists for County Infrastructure needs.

10. **Wind and Solar Legislation SB 1699 Update/Approval:** The State’s Attorney’s Office needs more time to compare state legislation with the county ordinance. The committee discussed the potential for UKA to submit a wind farm application this month, and the potential for other wind and solar projects in the county. County Clerk Leitheiser reported that leases are being recorded in her office.
11. **Personnel Committee Member Handbook Update/Approval:** Coordinator Daniels described updates to the Personnel Committee handbook and once the two union contracts that were approved at the last board meeting are signed by the union, the revised handbooks will be distributed.
12. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None.
13. **Other Business:** Ruppert request Probation office staff to be on the February committee agenda.

Motion to pay the bills by Beason and second by Bergen. Role Call: YES: Bergen, Beason, Jones, Ruppert. NO: none. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm. 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: Thursday, January 4th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Niehaus reported she is awaiting township and MTA contracts from South Litchfield Township and Grisham-Walshville-East Fork MTA. Chairman Donaldson will make contact. As of the Jan. 1 deadline for recording leases, 145 were recorded out of 206, totaling \$12,760 in recording fee revenue. The remaining 61 will not receive exemptions totaling an additional \$366,000 in EAV on the tax rolls. In response to a question from Loucks, Niehaus said because there is no zoning ordinance, the county does not require a permit before residential solar panel installation.
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Ritchie reported \$1,333,996.84 in the Capital Improvement Fund as of the end of the past fiscal year, including \$159,068.68 in interest earned. Treasurer Lohman reported new interest rates ranging from 5.2% to 5.5%. In response to a question from Sheriff Robbins, Lohman reported a December 2023 coal royalty payment of over \$327,000. She also advised the committee that auditors will be on site to begin work the week beginning Jan. 8.
4. **IRS Mileage Reimbursement 2024 Increase from \$.655 to \$.67 per mile Update/Approval:** Motion by Whitworth, second by Beck, to recommend increasing mileage reimbursement for 2024 from \$.655 to \$.67 per mile per IRS guidelines beginning Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, after County Board approval. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **Spy Glass Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported she had been contacted by Spy Glass to audit county telephone, cell phone, and internet bills to look for unneeded surcharges and phones. The cost for Spy Glass would be half of any discovered savings. Chairman Donaldson said Montgomery County IT department expressed reservations about undertaking the project at this time. Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to consider a presentation from Spy Glass in six months. All in favor, motion carried. County Board Administrator Chris Daniels reported that her office had discovered and eliminated 7 cell phones that were required by those working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
7. **Other Business:** Undersheriff Holshouser presented dispatch contracts between Montgomery County and the cities of Litchfield and Nokomis for Dec. 1, 2023, through Nov. 30, 2026. Sheriff Robbins noted that increases in the contracts are from costs related to increases in employee salaries. Ritchie will present the contracts to the full board on Jan. 9 for approval.

Ritchie reported that if a contract is received from Bellwether for the FY2025 budget before the Jan. 9 full board meeting, he will present it for approval. He anticipates no increase in the \$12,000 contract; \$6,000 would be due upon execution and the remaining \$6,000 upon budget completion.

Niehaus reported that the agreement with Fillmore Consolidated-Witt MTA had just been received. Ritchie will present it to the full board on Jan. 9 for approval.

The Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service requested \$10,000 in ARPA funds for pagers required for their transition to a volunteer BLS transport service. Ritchie will present the request to the full board on Jan. 9 for approval.

Sheriff Robbins reported to the committee that his office had budgeted for one new Chevy Tahoe in Office 375 for FY2024. Because that vehicle is not available, the MCSO has instead ordered a Dodge Durango at a cost of nearly \$10,000 under budget.

Circuit Clerk Robbins reported that he will submit the tech grant on Friday, Jan. 5, but may ask to use coal funds to complete the project before grant reimbursement.

Treasurer Lohman said she is considering bringing a proposal that would allow the county trustee to handle delinquent Mobile Home Privilege Tax properties.

County Clerk Leitheiser informed the committee that since the closure of the county ambulance billing office, mail is still arriving there and being distributed by the county board administrative office, and that an ambulance account remains open. Treasurer Lohman said she will close the account after the audit is complete, and Daniels said her office will look into solving the mail issue.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am. 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 Route 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott, Assistant EMA Coordinator Dan Hough, MCHD Administrator Hugh Satterlee, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair Bob Sneed

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Resolution 2024-03 appropriating funds for 100% county culvert replacement on Elevator Rd. Update/Approval:** Greenwood presented Resolution 2024-03 appropriating an estimated \$30,000 from County Aid to Bridge Fund 235 for a culvert replacement on Elevator Road. **Motion by Loucks, second by Ruppert, to recommend Resolution 2024-03 appropriating funds in the amount of \$30,000 for 100% county culvert replacement on Elevator Road. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Irving Twp N. 17th Ave. Bridge replacement supplemental Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the Supplemental Engineering Agreement has not been completed and will be on next month's agenda.
4. **City of Litchfield request to install 3" force main sewer line on PIN 10-28-100-006 in North Litchfield Twp Update/Approval:** Greenwood presented a map and reported the City of Litchfield had requested permission to install a 3-inch force main sewer line on county property. The 8-acre parcel is abandoned railroad right-of-way on the east side of the road that Litchfield would like to access to serve the Illinois Department of Transportation maintenance yard. **Motion by Murzynski, second by Whitworth, to recommend giving permission to run the line, and referring matter to Buildings & Grounds Committee to pursue possibly transferring property to City of Litchfield. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Village of Farmersville letter of support request for railroad crossing Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported that the Village of Farmersville had requested a letter of support to request the railroad update the crossing on Mine Avenue in Farmersville to "Out of Service" status. Greenwood has no issue with doing so, and he reported that the Panhandle School District is also in support. **Motion by Whitworth, second by Bergen to recommend a letter of support from the Montgomery County Board to update the Mine Avenue railroad crossing to "Out of Service." All in favor, motion carried.**

6. **Other Items:** The committee discussed the size of proposed new equipment storage building, whether it would need sprinklers, and the construction schedule. Greenwood reported he intends to bid the project in packages.

Motion by Whitworth, second by Bergen to recess the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Motion by Whitworth, second by Ruppert, to reconvene at 9:17 a.m.

7. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Committee toured the white block building and brown metal buildings on highway department site. Schott and Hough presented rough schematic of block building that would add offices, a restroom and decontamination shower, and a 40x36 training room that could also be used by other offices. The rest of the building would be used to store up to 7 EMA trailers and would require minimal radiant heat to keep the space above freezing. The space could also be used for bulk storage for emergency supplies and could be equipped with a strong room for multiple agencies.

Motion by Whitworth, second by Bergen to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, February 6th, 2024

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: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser, Maintenance Superintendent Phil Ernst, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Superintendent Ernst highlighted many of the 80 items on his monthly report. The committee reviewed and discussed the report.
3. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Plunkett updated the committee on the status of the 2023 DCEO grant. County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser asked if the work in her office could be performed in a way that would not interrupt her office's election schedule. Chairman Donaldson noted that the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the 2024 DCEO grant was announced on Thursday, February 1st, and the deadline for the first phase of the application is March 15th. Donaldson reported that application forms will be sent by the County Board Admin office later that day and are due by Friday, February 16th. A meeting of the ad hoc DCEO Committee has been scheduled for 4 pm Wednesday, February 21st.
4. **Tom Day copier contract for COS/Animal Control Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported that he had renegotiated the contract for COS/Animal Control copiers/printers for more annual copies to reflect actual usage and a lower click charge for overage.
5. **Transfer parcel 10-28-100-006 to City of Litchfield for 3-inch force main sewer line Update/Approval:** The committee discussed a request by the City of Litchfield for permission to run a 3-inch force main sewer line on county parcel 10-28-100-006 (abandoned railroad right-of-way) north from Litchfield to the Illinois Department of Transportation facility. Permission has been given, and both Montgomery County and the City of Litchfield are interested in transferring ownership of the parcel. State's Attorney Affrunti has been asked to draw up a Quit Claim Deed. **Motion by Beason, second by Hughes, to recommend transferring ownership of parcel 10-28-100-006 to the City of Litchfield. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval:** None needed
7. **Other Business:** The committee reviewed photos of a damaged wall inside the VAC office. Tuck-pointing work is currently being performed on the outside of the wall, and the inside will be addressed when that work is completed. Sneed asked about the possibility of applying for DCEO grant funds for a roof on the new courthouse. The grant can be used to reimburse approved expenses. The committee discussed the need for new trash cans with ash trays outside the new courthouse. Folkerts asked when benches would be replaced in front of the Historic Courthouse. Sneed reported that the City of Hillsboro had agreed to replace them, and McConnell volunteered to check on the status.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, January 25th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, EMA Director Kevin Schott, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, Information Services Director Curt Watkins, Hillsboro Community Planner 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:** Watkins reported that the redundant fiber is in the ground and work on that project continues. He is working on switch upgrades MCSO body cam deployment, Cress Hill tower fiber, and is working on a court grant. In response to a question from County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser, he recommended restarting computers weekly at least.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval: Hazard Mitigation Final Public Meeting Update/Approval:** EMA Director Schott reported that a public hearing on the Hazard Mitigation Plan five-year update was Wednesday, January 24, from 5-7 pm. The hearing begins a two-week review and public comment period, after which the plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval. It is available to view on the county website.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported at a meeting on January 18 a new vice chairman was elected from Macoupin County. He also said the group is working with Ronk Electric in Nokomis.
4. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the next meeting is scheduled for 5 pm Tuesday, February 27, in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. Young said the Farm Bureau is working on formal opposition to using eminent domain to locate pipelines, wind or solar projects.
5. **Schedule an EZ Mayor's Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for 5 pm Wednesday, February 28, in the Courthouse Annex.
6. **Illinois Attorney General Requirement for a Certified Open Meetings Act Officer Update/Approval:** Section 1.05(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires that all public bodies designate employees, officers or members to receive training on compliance with that law. Each public body must submit the list of designated persons to the Public Access Counselor. Mike Plunkett and Ed Boyd have completed the training; Chris Daniels is in the process.
7. **CEFS Central Illinois Public Transportation Ordinance and Intergovernmental Agreement Update/Approval:** Nathan Nichols, Transportation Director, will present ordinance and IGA for approval at February board meeting.
8. **Montgomery County Housing Authority Annual Presentation of Services Update/Approval:** CEO Amanda Bone has been invited to give annual update at February board meeting.

9. **Recycling Baler lease with DC Waste Update/Approval:** Current lease expires on March 31, 2024. Plunkett contacted Bryan Deming of DC Waste who expressed a desire to renew the lease under the same terms. New lease will be on Finance Committee budget to review.
10. **County Inclement Weather Policy Update/Approval:** After icy inclement weather on Monday, January 22, discussion began on policy for closing county buildings and services. Young said that in the past it was determined that county buildings should never shut down due to weather because that action triggers higher pay in some union contracts, and elected officials are free to close their offices. Niehaus asked if that also applies to appointed officials. Leitheiser said that if the Historic Courthouse is open to the public, then certain public record vaults also need to be open and observed.
11. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
12. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson asked if there is support for a resolution or ordinance in opposition to busses dropping off homeless migrants in the county. Support was expressed. Robbins said he supports the idea, but that action is unlikely to occur here due to the lack of support services.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
2. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Leitheiser and Plunkett reported we appear to be closer to grant award. Committee will review and discuss any updates.
3. **Tom Day copier contract for COS/Animal Control Update/Approval:** Plunkett renegotiated contract, requesting retroactive invoice for last year that will save over \$1,200.
4. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval:** None needed.
5. **Other Business: Transfer parcel 10-28-100-006 to City of Litchfield for 3-inch force main sewer line:** Committee will discuss and recommend action.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
 - **Member Advocacy Program Update:** Committee will review and discuss update from Treasurer Lohman.
2. **MCEDC and Annual Dues Update/Approval:** County was invoiced \$15,000 for FY 2024 membership dues, but line item is zero in budget. MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery and/or Board Chair Katie Wilson will be invited to make presentation at committee meeting.
3. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Ruppert will meet with Warden Gerl.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
5. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Nothing to report. Young suggested applying for more grant funds to facilitate a faster build-out.
6. **FMLA Revisions to Personnel Manual Update/Approval:** Ruppert will meet with Treasurer Lohman, Sheriff Robbins, and State's Attorney Affrunti to discuss.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Grant award should be imminent, and newly appointed committee will begin work on next phase.
8. **Add Mike Plunkett to the Coordinated Services Imprest Fund Update/Approval:** Committee will discuss.
9. **Electronic Recycling Drives for 2024:** Daniels reported that drives are set for Saturday, April 27, in Litchfield, and Saturday, September 14, Hillsboro, both from 9 am until 12 noon.
10. **SB1699 and Montgomery County Solar Farm ordinance:** State's Attorney Affrunti responded by email with recommended county ordinance revisions to match state statute.
11. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
12. **Other Business:** Pattern Energy question and answer session at dinner on Tuesday, January 23, will be discussed by committee. Treasurer Lohman said there are still direct deposits coming into the Ambulance

Fund, and asked if two signatures are still needed on checks. State's Attorney Affrunti suggested closing the account in 90 days, by April 30.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus was congratulated on 1.0000 tentative multiplier.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
3. **Bellwether contract for FY 2025 budget Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss contract for FY 2025 budget.
4. **ARPA Ordinance for Funding SCBA Gear For Farmersville/Waggoner Fire District Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman said it had been approved and paid.
5. **Request for a Temporary Coal Royalty Reduction Update/Approval:** Committee will discuss after presentation by Chad Fuson. State's Attorney Affrunti will review the 2004 sale of coal rites contract.
6. **Ameresco Payment request \$434,526.27 Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
7. **Pictometry Flyover for 2025 Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported that according to a 2021 Eagle View contract, an initial fly-over was completed in 2022 and paid for using a 911 grant. A second fly-over needs to be scheduled for Spring 2025 for \$109,387 and the 911 grant is no longer available.
8. **Pending UKA Grand Prairie application Update/Approval:** UKA has tentatively requested a pre-application meeting for 10:30 am Thursday, February 8.
9. **Information on an HR consultant Discussion Update/Approval:** Plunkett will request info and proposals from Bellwether and Bushue.
10. **Revised State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor resolution Update/Approval:** New resolution needs to be approved due to an error in the cost.
11. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
12. **Other Business:** Undersheriff Holshouser reported that the department appears to be approved for a \$104,000 grant that had been applied for 12 years ago.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township No. 17th Bridge replacement Supplemental Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss.
2. **New state legislation regarding Bike Trail signage Update/Approval:** Committee will review and discuss. Green Diamond Trail crosses two roads.
3. **Repair/Replace Roof of Block Building at Highway Department Update/Approval:** County Engineer Greenwood continues to research.
4. **Other Items:** None needed.

Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting:

1. **Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service appointments Update/Approval:** State's Attorney Affrunti informed that the County Board should not be making these appointments, and has already discussed with Mayor of Nokomis.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 am.

The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Monday, February 5th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, Animal Control volunteer Jessica Durbin, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, MCEDC board member John Galer.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** UKA Head of Development Charles Wright told the committee by phone that his company is still working with Westwood on the decommissioning plan, shadow flicker, and noise study portions of the permit application, and plans to have the application package ready by February 23rd. In response to questions from the committee, Wright said that UKA has about 85% of its agreements in place for turbine location, and is approaching 50% for transmission line easements.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** None
3. **MCEDC presentation and Annual Dues Update/Approval:** Bill Montgomery informed committee members of the work of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation; his remarks are attached. He also introduced John Galer, who has served on the MCEDC board for 20 years, and called it a valuable component of county economic development. Galer recounted past success of the corporation, including bringing CTI to the county and the CEO program. Montgomery also introduced board Vice President McConnell, who distributed copies of the MCEDC budget. Jones asked if the corporation could undertake listing and marketing vacant buildings. Montgomery said that will be on the new corporation website. **Motion by Bergen, second by Beason, to recommend to the Finance Committee paying the 2024 dues invoice of \$15,000 for MCEDC membership. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Gerl presented her report and noted 18 dogs, 10 cats, and 2 mice at Animal Control, and said her staff has been battling a ringworm outbreak. She presented spay and neuter prices from Partners for Pets in St. Jacob and said the prices are greatly reduced due to grant funding there. Gerl said she gathered other pricing from area Veterinarians but only shared Dr. Probst and Animal Medical Doctor in Staunton for comparisons to Partners for Pets. Gerl will transport animals that need services there on Fridays, and Ruppert said the committee will approve vouchered bills as presented. Gerl asked the committee to consider enclosing the front overhang at Animal Control and adding more fencing. Coordinator Daniels stated an idea to enclose the front porch to include an insulation room and adoption meeting room was brought before the committee some years ago when Connie Beck was Committee Chairman and never moved forward. Chairman Donaldson gave Gerl a list of grant opportunities. Volunteer Jessica Durbin said she is working on a new 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation called RUFF (Rescuing Underdog and Feline Friends).
5. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported that he and Jones have been working on the Animal Control Policy that was drafted in 2021. He intends to have a final draft ready for review next month, and municipal contracts ready for the February 28th Enterprise Zone mayors' meeting. Gerl said she had two of her employees remove a dog in the City of Litchfield in response to a humane call. State's Attorney Affrunti said that checking on these types of complaints is required by law.

6. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report, but County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser reported on grant opportunities utilized in Bond County, and asked MCEDC to pursue. She also shared an initial BEAD map, and Ruppert said he would follow up with the Farm Bureau.
7. **FMLA Revisions to Personnel Manual Update/Approval:** Ruppert reviewed language changes he had discussed with State's Attorney Affrunti. Ruppert suggested allowing employees to "bank" up to 5 days of sick time instead of exhausting it all before FMLA. Affrunti suggested converting 5 days to 40 hours. The county vacation buy-back policy will also be revised to match state law. Affrunti will present the revisions in ordinance form. **Motion by Jones, second by Beason, to recommend the county board adopt personnel manual revisions ordinance as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported responding to Illinois State Historic Resources Preservation Act and Illinois Department of Natural Resources questions about the 2023 grant, and that the 2024 grant Notice of Funding Opportunity was announced on Thursday, February 1st. Chairman Donaldson asked the admin office to email grant request forms to county offices on Tuesday, February 6th, require them to be turned by Friday, February 16th, and set an ad hoc committee meeting for 4pm on Wednesday, February 21st.
9. **Add Mike Plunkett to the Coordinated Services Imprest Fund Update/Approval:** **Motion by Beason, second by Jones, to recommend removing David Jenkins from Coordinated Services Imprest Fund and adding Mike Plunkett. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Electronic Recycling Drives for 2024 Update/Approval:** Daniels reported electronic recycling drives scheduled for Saturday, April 27th, from 9am until 12 noon in Litchfield, and on Saturday, September 14th, from 9am until 12 noon in Hillsboro.
11. **SB1699 and Montgomery County Solar Farm ordinance Update/Approval:** The committee discussed changes suggested by State's Attorney Affrunti as required by state statute. The county ordinances do not apply to residential projects. **Motion by Bergen, second by Beason to recommend changes to the Montgomery County Solar Farm Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Jones, second by Bergen to recommend changes to the Montgomery County Wind Farm Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.**
12. **Pattern Energy Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported that he, Ruppert, Folkerts and Daniels had met with Pattern Energy representatives at The Canton Inn, along with several other local government officials, about potential wind projects in Montgomery County. County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser noted seven recorded leases with Pattern.
13. **Resolution of Support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau Update/Approval:** **Motion by Jones, second by Beason, to recommend resolution of support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Daniels reviewed information in Committee Handbook, but will wait to distribute until Personnel Manual revisions are approved.
15. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None
16. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson said he has been researching the test well sunk for potential CO2 sequestration, but was informed that most of the company's employees had been laid off since the project terminated. He will continue to research.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

MCEDC Presentation to the Development and Personnel Committee 2-5-24

Good evening, Board Chair, Donaldson, Development and Personnel Committee Chair, Ruppert, and Committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to represent the non-profit Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC).

My name is Bill Montgomery. I come from a successful professional career in corporate business marketing and communications.

About 6 months ago, The MCEDC Board of Directors hired me, part-time, as their Executive Director to revitalize and add value to the mission of the organization. I am interested in developing the power of a more regional approach to our economic growth.

During this time, and having attended, a half-dozen of both Development and Personnel Committee and Full-County Board meetings, I have quickly learned that budgets are tight – So I understand your need to call for this update on the value of the MCEDC to the citizens of Montgomery County.

In my short tenure, my focus has primarily been on two critical tasks:

#1 Our county is on the cusp of gaining fast and dependable digital access for all our citizens – Whether living in municipalities or the areas in between. Montgomery County is competing in the 4.2 billion federally funded dollars that have been designated for the Illinois BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) Challenge to prove digital access for county residents who are unserved and underserved. In today's world, digital access, the internet, for better or worse, has become our key source for information, business interaction, education, and much more. It is time for Montgomery County to have full digital access.

#2 A new MCEDC website. An attractive and well-maintained website is the essential communications hub for the MCEDC to effectively reach both the public and businesses with vital information. The MCEDC website has gone without proper care and feeding for too many years. The MCEDC intends to offer a fresh new website with strong visual support and copy. We intend to present website content that accurately presents Montgomery County as a sound location choice for businesses and families.

My last name is only coincidental. But I will tell you that my wife, Lisa, and I, are direct descendants of many generations of Montgomery County residents – on both sides of our family.

I am proud to be a lifelong citizen of Montgomery County - We live in the heartland of America. Based on agriculture, Montgomery County has a wholesome and authentic history of great resiliency. Families appear to be opting for less population density and making more rural lifestyle choices. This trend will also encourage the likelihood of entrepreneurship on the local level.

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, traveled the roads of Montgomery County as he practiced law and represented many county residents. Mr. Lincoln made many friends here. He visited Hillsboro many times – In fact, Abraham Lincoln stood on this very courthouse square. Our Montgomery County history and our lifestyle are both practical – and proud.

I am comfortable with my accountability to the MCEDC Board of Directors. I organized my first Board meeting back in November. We met and toured the new SCI (South Central Illinois), Prairie Works facility in Litchfield – The SCI Center was launched to help high school juniors and seniors make solid choices in the trades work paths and training. The SCI Center serves nine regional school districts throughout Montgomery and Macoupin Counties.

In the past three years or so, I have helped Dr. David Lett write the SCI Prairie Works mission statement and ^{501c3} 503c non-profit corporate bylaws. I currently serve as the Vice president of the Board of Directors. This new SCI Center offers the trades work path training that will add value to job creation and help build strong regional economic growth well into the future.

Our next MCEDC Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, at the Kismet Coffee in Litchfield. (Kismet is co-owned by my son-in-law and MCEDC Board member, Brayden Helgen, along with our daughter, Ann). You are of course invited to attend. Our guest speaker will be Tom Emery, an Illinois and Lincoln historian who has recently published a book entitled, *Lincoln in Montgomery County*. Also on the agenda, we will discuss MCEDC slogan ideas, website tab identifiers, advertising, and promotion to build awareness and traffic to the new website, and ways to build membership.

We are a County of Communities. The membership of the Montgomery County Board is critical to the future of the MCEDC. I hope you will consider our continued partnership as a wise investment in the long-term prosperity of our county.

Thank you for your time.

For additional perspective on MCDEC, I would like to introduce John Galer, Owner of The Journal-News - One of the top-notch regional newspapers in Illinois.

And to follow John is, Sarah McConnell. Many of you already know Sarah as the Director of Planning for the City of Hillsboro. Sarah also serves as Vice president of the MCEDC Board of Directors. Sarah is available to respond to MCEDC financial questions you may have.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, February 8th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: David Loucks

Others Present: Coroner Randy Leetham, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser, Maintenance Superintendent Phil Ernst, Chad Fuson of Coalfield Construction LLC.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the report. Niehaus noted that the Board of Review is acting on 89 complaints, exemption renewals have been mailed, and the county has earned a 1.0000 tentative multiplier. She also pointed out that according to law and court decisions, portable buildings should be assessed. She recommends assessing portables over 200 square feet and has asked the State's Attorney to review. Niehaus also presented an assessment contract with South Litchfield Township for \$10,900 for board approval.
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The board reviewed and discussed the reports.
4. **Bellwether contract for FY 2025 budget Update/Approval:** The board reviewed the contract with Bellwether for FY 2025 budget work. Terms are the same as last year: \$6,000 in advance and another \$6,000 when the budget is approved. Ritchie will present the contract for board approval.
5. **Request for a Temporary Coal Royalty Reduction Update/Approval:** Chad Fuson of Coalfield Construction LLC requested the county board consider cutting coal royalty payments from 2% to 1% for the next two months. Fuson said the mine has been negotiating for the past 2 years with landowners who are "difficult to deal with" and are "asking for an unreasonable sum" for subsidence rights. He said the same request has been made to other investors. Fuson said within the next 3 weeks the mine will have to make a decision whether or not to shut down for 2 months to move the longwall around the landowners, which would cause an interruption in royalty payments and jobs. Chairman Donaldson said he has received 12 calls in recent weeks opposed to the mine's pending permit renewal application. **Motion by Young, second by Folkerts, to recommend denying the temporary coal royalty reduction request. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Ameresco Payment request \$434,526.27 Update/Approval:** The board discussed the Ameresco payment request of \$434,526.27 for work completed in the new courthouse. Ritchie requested Buildings & Grounds Chairman Bob Sneed review a punch list after final invoice is received and before final invoice payment is made. **Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to recommend approval of \$434,526.27 Ameresco payment request from budgeted ARPA funds. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Pictometry Flyover for 2025 Update/Approval:** Niehaus informed the committee according to a 2021 contract, a Pictometry flyover was completed in March 2022 and a second is required in March 2025. Niehaus said the board needs to schedule the flyover in March 2024 so it can be completed in March 2025. The contractual cost is \$109,387. Young asked if application can be made to use DCEO Energy grant

funds. County Clerk/Recorder Leitheiser pointed out that the flyover is a tool needed for assessments. Treasurer Lohman suggested adding the cost to township assessor contracts. **Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to recommend scheduling Pictometry flyover for March 2025 and budgeting \$109,387 in FY 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. **Pending UKA Grand Prairie application Update/Approval:** During a teleconference at the Monday, February 5th Development & Personnel Committee meeting, UKA Grand Prairie said they are working toward having permit application ready to submit by February 23rd.
9. **Information on an HR consultant Discussion Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed Human Resource services offered by Bushue and was favorable. Information will be forwarded to the Development & Personnel Committee and Ritchie requested the County Board Admin office to solicit other proposals. Discussion took place that this is a professional service and will not have to be put out for bid.
10. **Revised State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor resolution Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the resolution passed to participate in the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor program referenced an \$8,000 fee that should have been \$9,000. The county has made the required \$9,000 payment, but the state requested the county board to update the resolution to reflect the correct \$9,000 amount. **Motion by Ritchie, second by Beck, to recommend approval of State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Resolution with corrected \$9,000 fee. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Recycling Baler lease with DC Waste Update/Approval:** The 4-year lease to DC Waste for the recycling baler expires in March 2024, and DC Waste has indicated they are willing to renew the lease at the same \$700/month terms plus a recycling tote for another 4 years. Treasurer Lohman pointed out that the bill from DC Waste to the county increased \$113 this month due to a new dumpster at the jail. County Board Administrator Chris Daniels said her office will work with the Sheriff's Office and Maintenance Office to assess our recycling needs and talk with DC Waste to resolve the matter.
12. **Elected Official Salaries Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a spreadsheet of elected official's salaries before recommending salaries for the Coroner and Circuit Clerk, required to be set 180 days before election. Young noted that Coroner's salary on the spreadsheet did not include the \$2,080 stipend he was given 4 years ago due to missing the timeframe to approve his salary increase which is not a legal deal. Treasurer Lohman said the elected officials salaries need to be set by resolution. The committee requested the County Board Admin office to research the UCCI salary study and present to the next Coordinating Committee meeting.
13. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed
14. **Other Business:** The Development & Personnel Committee recommended the county continue participation in the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation and asked the Finance & Budget Committee to determine from which fund to pay the \$15,000 annual dues. Treasurer Lohman suggested Office 375 Reserve for Contingencies line item. Ritchie said he received an email regarding union pension payments for MCSO employees. Undersheriff Holshouser will research.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Larry Meisner and Dennis Held of Harvel #2 Drainage District, 2 sales reps from Springfield Plastic

Motion by Murzynski, second by Bergen, to appoint Doug Donaldson to the Roads & Bridges Committee for the meeting on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

- Public Comments:** Larry Meisner and Dennis Held of Harvel #2 Drainage District requested permission from the committee to cut a section of Black Diamond Trail, about 2 miles north of Raymond, to install 30-inch plastic pipe instead of boring under the road. Meisner said the cost to bore would be roughly \$40,000 compared to \$10,000 to cut the road and cover the pipe with flowable fill and hot mix. Meisner said the drainage district serves 26 land owners and covers 1,905 acres. Engineer Greenwood asked if the cut could cross the road at a 90 degree angle instead of 45 degrees. In response to a question from Donaldson, Meisner said the district hopes to complete the project this year or next year.
- Policy for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said the county policy has been to not allow individuals to cut county roadways, but taxing bodies such as drainage districts could be considered on a case-by-case basis. He will develop specs for the Harvel #2 Drainage District request for committee review next month.
- Declare excess dirt at Highway Department as surplus property Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said after consultation with State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, roughly 150,000 yards of excess dirt from the hillside at the highway department should be declared surplus property prior to disposal. **Motion by Murzynski, second by Donaldson, to recommend declaring an estimated 150,000 yards of excess dirt as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 2024 Township MFT Rock Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reviewed letting results and recommended accepting low bids. **Motion by Donaldson, second by Bergen, to recommend accepting low bids for 2024 Township MFT Rock Letting. All in favor, motion carried (Murzynski abstained).**
- 2024 County MFT Rock Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reviewed letting results and recommended accepting low bids. **Motion by Murzynski, second by Bergen, to recommend accepting low bids for 2024 County MFT Rock Letting. All in favor, motion carried.**
- Section No. 17-09117-00-BR Irving Twp N. 17th Ave. Bridge replacement supplemental Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the Engineering Services Agreement. **Motion by Donaldson, second by Bergen, to recommend approval of Section No. 17-091170-99-BR Supplemental Engineering Agreement with Chastain & Associates LLC for \$19,400 for Irving Twp. N. 17th Avenue bridge replacement. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. **Resolution 2024-04 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave., Irving Twp. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution. **Motion by Donaldson, second by Murzynski, to recommend Resolution 2024-04 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave. in Irving Township with county portion estimate of \$10,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Section No. 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Twp. Wonder Trail Land Acquisition Services Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the land acquisition service agreement. **Motion by Bergen, second by Donaldson, to recommend Section No. 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township Wonder Trail Land Acquisition Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services for \$13,550. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood informed the committee that Hurst-Rosche is working on a cost study to upgrade 12.5 miles of Nokomis Road, between Nokomis and Fillmore, to 80,000 pounds. Greenwood said the project could be completed in phases.
10. **New state legislation regarding Bike Trail Signage Update/Approval:** The committee discussed new state legislation that requires signs on recreation trails that cross roads. The county-owned Green Diamond Trail between Waggoner and Farmersville crosses two township roads. Engineer Greenwood said he will order the signs and estimated between \$500 and \$600 in material cost.
11. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said he is working on specs in cooperation with Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairman Bob Sneed. His goal is to advertise for bids and have the deadline in time for bid opening at next month's Roads & Bridges Committee meeting.
12. **Other Items:** None

Motion by Donaldson, second by Bergen, to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 am. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, February 21st, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - County Board Room

Members Present: Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson, Sandy Leitheiser

Members Absent: Mark Hughes, Dan Hough

Others Present: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Board Member Jeremy Jones

The committee met to discuss the following:

County Board Member Jeremy Jones was appointed a temporary committee member by Chair Whitworth.

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **2024 Phase of the Montgomery County Application for the DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of the County Board Admin Office presented a spreadsheet of 37 grant requests totaling \$3,315,458. The committee discussed items on the spreadsheet. Estimates for requests without one are due to the Admin Office by Friday, March 1st.
3. **Applications for Inclusion in 2024 Phase of the Energy Grant Application Update/Approval:** Donaldson recommended turning all requests over to Grant Writer Dan Rogers for inclusion in Phase I of the grant application process, which is due by Friday, March 15th.
4. **Recommend Projects to be Included in 2024 Phase of the Energy Grant Application Update/Approval:** This process will begin if results of Phase I submission determine that the grant award will be less than to total amount of projects submitted.
5. **Other Business:** None

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Tuesday, February 27th, 5:00 pm

Time: 5:00 pm – Conference Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: EMA Director Kevin Schott, Bill Schroeder, 3 other members of the public

The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Citizen Bill Schroeder reported he had heard back from US Sen. Tammy Duckworth's Springfield office about returning weather radio service to the area. Schroeder also suggested the CO2 Ad Hoc Committee could initiate a zoning initiative to plan for issues regarding wind and solar farms as well as CO2 sequestration.
2. **Carbon Capture and Sequestration Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said although he knows of no plans for any carbon capture and sequestration in Montgomery County now that Navigator has cancelled its plans, he would like to build a "wish list" of requirements needed by the county if there is ever another effort at carbon sequestration. EMA Director Schott said he had conferred with Joe Gasparich and developed an initial list of first responder needs (attached). Among those are a larger Hazmat trailer (\$75,000), a tow vehicle (\$80,000), an enhanced drone (\$30,000), the services of an EMA planner (\$85,000/year for 3 years, enhanced hazmat monitoring (\$20,000), and 2 years of additional training for local response agencies (\$150,000). The consensus of the committee was that the county should require a new equipped hazmat trailer (\$575,000) instead of just the trailer. The committee also discussed mass casualty and mass evacuation possibilities due to a pipeline breach. A resident asked if the county coordinates emergency services with Christian, Fayette and Shelby counties. The committee also discussed merits of an emergency notification system such as Code Red. Wright suggested a consultant to negotiate with any future sequestration developer. Donaldson asked Schott to further develop his list of needs, check on the costs and implementation requirements of Code Red, and work with the County Board Admin office on developing a pipeline GIS layer. The County Board Admin office will research funding for mass evacuations, and Ruppert will check with Hillsboro Health regarding mass casualty incidents.
3. **Test Well Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said he had talked to Danielle Anderson, formerly of Navigator, and voiced a concern over who was going to monitor the abandoned test well in Audubon Township. He was informed that everyone associated with the project, including her, had been laid off. She suggested he contact Don Leach, but Donaldson reported he has received no replies. Ruppert reported he had heard that Heartland had been unable to bore completely through. Donaldson asked Daniels and Plunkett of the County Board Admin office to contact IDNR Mines and Minerals to find out who is ultimately responsible for the well.
4. **Other Business:** The committee discussed pros and cons of a county zoning ordinance, and its relationship to wind, solar and CO2 projects.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

EMA Equipment Needs for CO2 Response

1) HazMat Trailer with Command Post included. Justification: Present HazMat Trailer is appx 20 years old with less than 8000lb capacity. With the need to deploy a trailer that can be utilized to bring equipment (PPE and monitors) and have capability to support monitoring and command and coordination capabilities as the event unfolds. **(appr cost \$75,000)**

2) Tow vehicle for trailer. Justification: The present EMA vehicle is over 20 years old and has limitations on towing capacity for larger trailers. The vehicle would be equipped to haul a larger trailer and have 4 wheel drive capabilities **(appr cost \$80,000)**

3) Enhanced Drone with aerial plume modeling capability. Justification: An aerial device that could determine real time plume dispersion and have additional capabilities to provide surveillance for damage assessment. **(appr cost \$30, 000)**

4) EMA Planner to work with local response agencies on CO2 planning, training and exercising. Justification: This planner would work directly with local response agencies (fire, EMS, law enforcement and ESDAs) to provide local area planning that would determine evacuation distances, evacuation plans, resource and equipment needs, etc for pipeline response in populated areas, around high vehicle traffic areas, near livestock locations, etc. **(appr cost \$85,000 salary and benefits with three year extended contract and option to renew annually)**

5) Enhanced HAZMAT monitoring capability. Area RAE or equivalent equipment for remote monitoring Justification: The capability to perform remote monitoring would be a great benefit to determine plume dispersion and movement without having to deploy personnel downrange toward the break once the monitors were in place. **(appr cost 20,000)**

6) Additional Training for local response agencies including plume dispersion modeling (Area Locations Of Hazardous Materials (ALOHA) and Mapping Application for Response Planning and Local Operational Tasks (MARPLOT) classes) and additional incident command training for agencies to support response and recovery operations. Justification: Enhance local responder capability to manage a CO2 release. **(Appr Cost \$150,000 for a two year training calendar including reimbursement to local departments to send members to training classes)**

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

Date: **Thursday, February 29th, 2024** **Time:** **8:30 AM – County Board Room**

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young,

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, IS Manager Curt Watkins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, EMA Director Kevin Schott, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Watkins reviewed his report highlighting 81 tickets in January. The Cress Hill fiber project is complete, the redundant fiber loop is almost complete, and the court grant was approved. He is updating switches, dealing with issues on the new website, and is close to being able to train offices on updating their portions of the website. Watkins noted an up-tick in phishing emails, and discussed with the committee security camera recording procedures and storage space.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval:** Schott reported the Hazard Mitigation plan is finished, and reviewed EMA activities over the past month.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the council met on January 18th, will next meet on April 18th, and is progressing toward its goals.
4. **Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution Update/Approval:** A resolution accepting the Hazard Mitigation is ready for county board approval.
5. **DCEO Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported that nearly \$3.5 million was requested by county departments, and at a meeting on February 21st the committee determined that all will be included with the preliminary application. During that process, DCEO will determine the funding eligibility amount. Daniels distributed a spreadsheet detailing department requests. Chairman Donaldson signed the 2023 grant agreement on Tuesday, February 27th
6. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported that EMA Director Schott presented a list of assets needed to respond to any potential future CO2 Sequestration projects at a meeting held on Tuesday, February 27th. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 22nd.
7. **Mayor's Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported mayors expressed concerns about derelict properties and out-of-state tax buyers during a meeting on Wednesday, February 28th. He also reported mayors were generally positive about the two animal control contract options, one based on a per capita cost and the other based on a per call cost. New state regulations expanded the county Enterprise Zone from 15 to 20 square miles, and the next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 29th.
8. **Immigrant Resolution Update/Approval:** A resolution prohibiting the county from spending money on transient migrants will be presented for county board approval.
9. **List of Annual and Multi Year County Board Action Items Update/Approval:** Daniels presented a spreadsheet of annual action and multi-year action items required by the board. The spreadsheet will be emailed to board members and office holders.

10. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None
11. **Other Business:** None

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Report will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
2. **Historic Courthouse East Wall Brick Discoloration Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Phil Ernst presented a bid to reline the chimney, which will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
3. **VAC Interior Wall Repair Update/Approval:** Issue will be examined with the committee is satisfied that the exterior wall repair work has eliminated moisture problem.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Work can proceed when 2023 DCEO grant is finalized.
5. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported the grant has been approved and a walk-through is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th.
6. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval:** None
7. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman enquired about daily radon testing readings. Sneed said as long as the readings are good, there should be no problem.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Report will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
2. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Report will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert will forward updates to County Board Admin
4. **HR Consultant Proposal Update/Approval:** County Board Admin has scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 4th, with current insurance provider to see what services they provide.
5. **Drainage District Concerns About Solar/Wind Update/Approval:** Ruppert said he has heard concerns from drainage district commissioners about solar and wind projects.
6. **UKA Grand Prairie Wind Project Update/Approval:** An application is anticipated when final questions are answered.
7. **Review Spreadsheet of Wind and Solar Projects Update/Approval:** Daniels presented spreadsheets and reported that GIS is working on a map.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** 2023 grant agreement has been signed.
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Plunkett began work on an application and procedure for committee review and discussion.
10. **Tourism Grant Application Update/Approval:** Daniels has completed grant application forms and set a March 29th deadline.
11. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Will be presented at committee meeting.
12. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None
13. **Other Business:** Ruppert would like his committee to consider a resolution that encourages wind and solar projects to not target absentee land owners, and one that addresses the carbon cost of projects.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Report will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Report will be reviewed and discussed by committee.
3. **Coroner and Circuit Clerk Elected Official Salary Update/Approval:** Plunkett will update spreadsheet to include coroner stipend for committee review and recommendation.
4. **DC Waste Recycling Baler Lease Update/Approval:** The current 4-year baler lease to DC Waste expires March 31, and DC Waste would like to renew at same terms. Vice Chairman Young expressed concern over the liability of the county continuing to own the baler. Plunkett said at a meeting on Tuesday,

February 27th, DC Waste indicated they are not interested in owning the baler. Ritchie said the liability issue could be addressed in the lease agreement.

5. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** All ambulance agreements have been sent out; Nokomis-Witt has signed and returned theirs for board approval.
6. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None
7. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman asked if a resolution to allow the sale of delinquent mobile homes could be added to the committee agenda, as well as a quarterly budget report from Bellwether.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman:

1. **Harvel #2 Drainage District Road Request Update/Approval:** Committee will consider request made last month.
2. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Road Reconstruction Update/Approval:** A cost study is under development
3. **Block Building Roof Replacement Bids Update/Approval:** Committee will review a draft of plans and specs
4. **Wind Farm Update/Approval:** UKA Virden Wind reps will be at committee meeting for a presentation.
5. **Former Highway Department lots Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported that the highway department has been working on the 3 lots on the east side of University Street. He said the Hillsboro School District may be interested in the lots for a Building Trades house project, and will check with the State's Attorney before transferring the item to the Buildings & Grounds Committee.
6. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood said he will email other agenda items to County Board Admin.

Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

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

Date: Monday, March 4th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones

Members Absent: Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Sheriff Rick Robbins, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, Maggie Poteau and Charles Wright of UKA, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell, and Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Admin

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** HRA Usage Per Fund report will be presented to full board.
3. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Gerl reported in the month of February, the facility had 94 intakes and 65 transfers out. Ruppert said the county had applied for DCEO Energy Transition Grant funding for 3 requested updates at the facility and will wait to see if they are approved before proceeding.
4. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Jones reported at the EZ mayors meeting on February 28th, mayors are interested in the county sharing animal control info with them regarding the time and place animals are picked up, a description of the animal, owner info and tag history so municipalities can help stem some repeat offenders. Daniels said mayors were presented with a choice of contract structures, one based on a per capita charge and the other based on a per call charge. Jones said mayor suggested they would be OK with a \$2 per capita charge. Ruppert said he would review data and come up with a recommendation.
5. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the policy remains under review. Jones said mayors at the EZ mayors meeting on February 28th, mayors had asked for a copy of the animal control policy.
6. **HR Consultant Proposal Update/Approval:** Daniels and Plunkett said they had met with Ben Harmening and Kevin Madeira of ICRMT earlier that day regarding HR services offered by ICRMT included in insurance premiums. County Treasurer Nikki Lohman and Trish Roemelin from her office were present for the meeting. ICRMT detailed their HR advisory services and extensive training catalog, and offered to meet with department heads to explain services included in county insurance premiums. Sheriff Robbins said he would like helping performing HR-required paperwork, and the committee asked County Board Admin to set up a department head meeting with ICRMT and invite Bushue to a committee meeting.
7. **Drainage District Concerns About Solar/Wind Update/Approval:** Committee heard from Poteau and Wright from UKA, as well as virtually from Ryan Green and Quint Shambaugh of Pinion Advisory, the consultant from Moweaqua developing the UKA permit application drainage plan. Shambaugh said Pinion's approach begins with outreach, diligence, and remediation. Of interest to the committee, Shambaugh said that a local contractor will be on-site during construction with the goal of

fixing “every single tile” damaged within 24 hours. Ruppert reminded committee members that there is no language in the county ordinance regarding drainage issues.

8. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Wright reported he and Poteau had meetings with Daniels and Plunkett, as well as Jeremy Connor from Hurst-Rosche, and plan to submit a permit application within the next week.
9. **Review Spreadsheet & Map of Wind and Solar Projects Update/Approval:** Daniels presented a spreadsheet of contacts planning solar and wind projects throughout the county, and displayed a framed map with project locations built by Kevin Brink in the county GIS office.
10. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Status Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported Chairman Donaldson had signed DCEO Energy Transition Grant Agreement last week, and the grant process is moving forward. County Clerk Leitheiser pointed out that Nextlink had filed 8 Structural Improvement Permit applications for cell towers in the county.
11. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** As part of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant, the county has been awarded \$182,935 for Small Business Start-Up Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 depending upon the number of employees. Plunkett has developed a grant application, and the committee reviewed. **Motion by Jones, second by Beason to recommend approval of county Small Biz Grant Application. All in favor, motion carried.**
12. **Tourism Grant Application Update/Approval:** Daniels presented an application for this year’s county Tourism Grant, and reported grant applications can be completed on-line on the county’s website. **Motion by Jones, second by Hughes, to recommend approval of county Tourism Grant Application. All in favor, motion carried.**
13. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Will be distributed when complete.
14. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
15. **Other Business:** Sheriff Robbins reported he anticipates as many as five new hires this fiscal year. Circuit Clerk Robbins said he has a new hire starting this month and another employee resigned this week. Ruppert encourage committee members to take the BEAD challenge.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Bob Sneed, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Russell Beason

Others Present: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Admin.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Ernst reviewed the 38 items on his monthly report, highlighting several including getting bids on DCEO Energy Transition Grant proposals and the Historic Courthouse chimney. He also noted tuck-pointing on the north VAC wall was finished, and his department responded to multiple call-outs during the past month.
3. **Historic Courthouse Chimney Liner Bid Update/Approval:** Ernst presented a bid from Klein's Chimney Service of Springfield for \$12,720 to install a 70-foot stainless steel liner in the Historic Courthouse chimney, where condensation moisture is damaging brick. **Motion by Hughes, second by Folkerts, to recommend approval of bid from Klein's Chimney Service to install chimney liner for \$12,720. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported that work, funded through the DCEO Energy Transition Grant, will begin when work in the New Courthouse is complete.
5. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported the tech grant has been approved, and Thompson Electronics Company will be on site on Wednesday, March 6th, for a pre-construction walk-through.
6. **Former Montgomery County Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the Montgomery County Highway Department has completed lot work on three lots at their former site on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro. He and Roads & Bridges Chair Ethan Murzynski have been in touch with the Hillsboro School District to see if there is any interest in using the lots as a potential high school building trades project site. Sneed pointed out the future return is worth donating the lots to the school district. Chairman Donaldson said after consultation with State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, the lots could be declared surplus property and given to the school district. Hughes asked if the school district could be present at next month's committee meeting to determine their interest. The County Board Admin office will extend an invitation.
7. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval:** None needed.
8. **Other Business:** Because the Historic Courthouse elevator had been out of service at the end of last year, Chairman Donaldson pointed out the inspection certificate had expired in December 2023. Ernst

said the new inspection had been completed, the bill was submitted for approval this month, and a new certificate would be forthcoming.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, March 6th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Bill Bergen

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, EMA Director Kevin Schott, and Maggie Poteau, Charles Wright and Troy Beal of UKA, and Jonathan Lochner of UKA by phone.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Wind Farm information from UKA Update/Approval:** Poteau said the presentation was in response to questions emailed to her by Committee Chair Murzynski. Wright began with a brief history of UKA, and description of the 3 prospective projects in Grand Prairie Energy Park, and a description of the first project, Virden Wind, which would generate 100 megawatts using 15-18 wind turbines east of Interstate 55 in the Panhandle area of Montgomery County. UKA plans to submit a permit application next week, begin construction in 2025, and be on-line in 2026. In response to questions from Ruppert, Wright said UKA has put up wind study towers, and land owner leases are for 30 years with options for two 5-year extensions. Beal showed photos of sample construction sites and reported that concrete bases are 30 feet across and 12-15 feet deep. Construction will require 4-5 acres; operation will require a half acre. Discussions on road use agreements will begin in a few months. Equipment will be brought in on 80-ton maximum trucks with 13-16 axels. Each turbine will require about 13 trucks and take about a month and a half to construct. Hub height of each turbine is 337 feet, and when blades are extended straight up, the total height to blade tip is 655 feet. The crane required during construction will be disassembled to be moved from site to site.
3. **Specifications for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** Greenwood is working on specs to be used on a case-by-case basis.
4. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Greenwood is working on an engineering agreement for a cost study.
5. **Resolution to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Witt Ave. Update/Approval:** Motion by Ruppert, second by Whitworth, to recommend approval of Resolution 2024-05 for an estimated \$12,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on Witt Avenue. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Resolution to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on New Bethel Ave. Update/Approval:** Motion by Loucks, second by Ruppert, to recommend approval of Resolution 2024-06 for an estimated \$8,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on New Bethel Avenue. All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Resolution to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Motion by Loucks, second by Ruppert, to recommend approval of Resolution 2024-07 for an estimated \$8,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a culvert replacement on Fillmore Trail. All in favor, motion carried.

8. **Repair/Replace roof on white block building Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported that he has drafted specs, sent them to Ruppert and Bob Sneed for comments, and will incorporate those comments into the specs then advertise for bids. Bid opening will be at Buildings & Grounds Committee.
9. **Former Highway Department lots Update/Approval:** Work is complete on 3 former highway department lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro, and the Buildings & Grounds Committee will inquire if the Hillsboro School District has any interest in them for possible Building Trades Class home sites.
10. **Other Items:** Greenwood informed the committee that a maintainer announced his intent to retire, and ads for a replacement will be placed on the county website and in the newspaper. He is also advertising for a box culvert on Wagoner Avenue with an April 1st bid opening. The oil letting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 1st. A 2001 John Deere tractor and mower is currently on an auction website. WHKS will present an update on the Walshville by-pass next month, and the City of Nokomis has approached the highway department about purchasing a 1992 International truck.

Motion by Whitworth, second by Ruppert, to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, March 7th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Admin

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Young, Ritchie and Whitworth provided a brief history of the Pledge.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor Niehaus said her office should have a contract with Grisham-Walshville-East Fork Multi-township Assessment District ready for approval next month. Her office is roughly one week ahead of last year's tax schedule, and 444 Board of Review tentative notices were mailed on March 6th. She is working with the State's Attorney to clarify whether 3 landlords should be getting Disabled Veteran Exemptions. She also asked the board to approve a resolution of support for Illinois HB4512, which would give counties the option to publish assessments either by newspaper or county website. Niehaus said in a typical year, publishing assessment changes is just under \$4,400 and in a quad year, just under \$22,000.
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The board reviewed reports submitted by County Treasurer Lohman. Ritchie noted a coal royalty payment of \$268,795.04 for January, and a January 31st Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$1,534,032.92.
4. **Bellwether Quarterly Budget Report Update/Approval:** Will be provided by Bellwether next month.
5. **Sale of Delinquent Mobile Homes Resolution Update/Approval:** Will be provided by Treasurer Lohman next month.
6. **Coroner and Circuit Clerk Elected Official Salary Resolution Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed a spreadsheet of county elected official salaries dating back to 1990. **Motion by Young, second by Beck, to recommend \$2,200 salary increase per year for Coroner and Circuit Clerk beginning in FY 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **DC Waste Recycling Baler Lease Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed proposed recycling baler lease renewal with DC Waste. Proposed new lease would be for 2 years with lessee options for third and fourth years. Remaining terms would remain the same as the previous 4-year lease: \$700 per month payment plus one no-charge 65-gallon recycling tote for county. Young stated he believes the county needs to sell the baler because it is a liability and of little value. Ritchie and Whitworth pointed out that the terms of the lease agreement protect the county, and Whitworth suggested the county request a copy of lessee's insurance. Chairman Donaldson said he will inspect the current condition of the baler. **Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to recommend approval of lease agreement with DC Waste for recycling baler. Ritchie, Beck, Folkerts, Loucks and Whitworth voted in favor; Young voted against. Motion carried.**

8. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed ambulance agreements with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service and Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. Agreements with Farmersville-Waggoner and Raymond-Harvel have yet to return. The committee would like to compare the Nokomis-Witt levy request to last year's **Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to recommend approval of agreement with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie, second by Folkerts, to recommend approval of agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. Motion to table agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service by Young, second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion to table carried.**

9. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.

10. **Other Business:** The committee reviewed and discussed the following, which will be placed on the full board agenda for action. Niehaus also asked for a resolution in support of HB4512.
 - A. **\$2,590 ARPA Generator Maintenance Contracts Update/Approval**
 - B. **\$10,000 ARPA Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Pager Update/Approval**
 - C. **\$5,000 ARPA Taylor Springs Fire Department Pager Update/Approval**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, March 28th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: None

Others Present: MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, EMA Director Kevin Schott, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, MCHD Administrator Hugh Satterlee, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin, Hillsboro City Planner 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:** Watkins reported that Consolidated is finished with their work on fiber redundant loop, and his office is installing equipment. He is also purchasing equipment for the court grant, bought 36 PCs for county office replacements, and is working on a plan to update phones.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Schott reported a press release on weather sirens has been sent out. Chairman Donaldson shared a letter Bill Schroeder had received from Sen. Tammy Duckworth regarding the effort to relocate weather radio services in Montgomery County.
3. **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Update/Approval:** The grant period is now open, and the deadline to submit a pre-application is Friday, May 17.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** The next meeting is April 18
5. **DCEO Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** The pre-application has been submitted.
6. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Satterlee asked if the committee would like revisions to his current 7-page monthly report. Donaldson asked if he could review the quarterly report submitted to the Health Department Board.
7. **Neece Cemetery Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Board member Folkerts had shared a letter about access and clean-up at Neece Cemetery in Audubon Township near the intersection of Oconee Avenue and E. 28th Road. Vice-Chairman Young said the Illinois Secretary of State's office has funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up. Chairman Donaldson referred the issue to the Finance & Budget Committee.
8. **Other Business:** None

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert would like to review proposed municipal contracts.
4. **HR Consultant Presentation from Travis Bushue Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
5. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Daniels reported that permit application was submitted on Monday, March 25, along with required checks for \$50,000 and \$5,000. A copy was submitted to Jeremy Connor at Hurst-Rosche, and a public hearing must be held within 60 days. State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti is searching for a public hearing officer.
6. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Virden Wind Application Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Agreements with sub-recipients have been emailed, and Hillsboro, LLCC, and East Fork Township have signed and returned.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** None.

9. **Tourism Grant Application Review/Award Update/Approval:** The committee will review applications.
10. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** The committee is waiting for language from the State's Attorney.
11. **Other Business:** Lohman reported that her office must determine the value of a sheep killed by a dog in 2022 and make reparations. Leitheiser reported that the BEAD Challenge closed on March 18, and Sheriff Robbins reported that his office is filling vacancies.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** The Hillsboro School District will be at the committee meeting.
3. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss artwork.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Leitheiser is eager for work to begin.
5. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Work will begin when equipment arrives.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss bids.
7. **Other Business:** Sneed asked about the status of the quit claim deed for old railroad right-of-way to be turned over to the City of Litchfield. After the meeting, Leitheiser researched and found the deed had been recorded on February 14, 2024.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **Specs for Drainage Tile Across/Along County Highways Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Road Reconstruction Update/Approval: :** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **WHKS Update on Walshville By-Pass Update/Approval: :** The committee will review and discuss.
4. **Waggoner Avenue April 1 Box Culvert Bid Opening Update/Approval: :** The committee will review and discuss bids.
5. **April 1 Oil Letting Update/Approval: :** The committee will review and discuss bids.
6. **1992 International Truck Sale to City of Nokomis Update/Approval: :** The committee will review and discuss recommendation.
7. **Other Items:** None.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Bellwether Quarterly Budget Report Update/Approval:** Lohman provided data to Bellwether for report.
4. **Sale of Delinquent Mobile Homes Resolution Update/Approval:** Lohman reported that a resolution amending the contract with Joseph E. Meyer & Associates may be necessary, but later in the meeting said that Meyer had just emailed her that the provision is already in the contract.
5. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** Agreements with Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service and Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service had been signed by the districts and will be presented for board approval.
6. **Baler Lease Payment Disposition (Coal or General Fund) Update/Approval:** The committee will discuss if the county should continue to deposit lease payments in Coal Fund, or change deposits to General Fund.
7. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said \$38,000 for grant inclusion was approved by the committee and full board, but not included in the grant. If the grant cannot be corrected, the county should honor the commitment.
8. **Other Business:** Lohman said she is working on ARPA reporting.

Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Monday, April 1st, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Travis Bushue of Bushue HR, Maggie Poteau and Charles Wilson from UKA.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Ruppert

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed. HRA usage for March was \$3,500 for a total of \$28,858 so far for FY 2024.
3. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Warden Gerl shared monthly stats with the committee. Updates at the facility are pending DCEO Energy Transition Grant approval, and Ruppert asked Gerl to make sure the pressure washer is repaired.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** The committee continued to discuss possible per capita charges for municipal contracts, including a possible \$2 per capita for Animal Control hours (9-5:30 M-F) and a per-call rate after hours. The committee is working toward having a municipal contract and policy updates ready for the May 29 mayors meeting.
5. **HR Consultant Presentation from Travis Bushue Update/Approval:** Travis Bushue told the committee that his company is a human resources and risk management consultant based in Effingham. He described services and answered questions from committee members and department heads. The fee is based on the number of county employees and the agreement does not limit the number of calls. **Motion by Bergen, second by Beason, to recommend approval of three-year agreement beginning April 10, 2024, with Bushue HR for \$9,480 for year one, \$9,600 for year two, and \$9,720 for year three. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** UKA applied for a permit for the Virden Wind Project on Monday, March 25. According to state law and county ordinance, a public hearing must be scheduled within 60 days, and Ruppert will contact the state's attorney to make sure a hearing date is scheduled.
7. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Virden Wind Application Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a proposal from Jeremy Connor of Hurst-Rosche to review the Virden Wind Project for compliance. **Motion by Hughes, second by Jones, to recommend approval of Hurst-Rosche proposal to review Virden Wind Project for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 that will be reimbursed by the petitioner. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** DCEO requires agreements between the county and sub-recipients. **Motion by Jones, second by Hughes, to recommend approval of all returned sub-recipient agreements. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** The committee discussed opportunities to share information about Small Business Start-Up Incentive grants with MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery and Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell.
10. **Tourism Grant Application Review/Award Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the 11 Tourism Grant applications totaling \$9,825. Ruppert pointed out that the budget this fiscal year is \$10,000. Applicants and amounts requested are Hell's Burrow Haunted Attraction (\$1,000), Historic Red Rooster 1st Anniversary Party (\$1,000), Historical Society of Montgomery County Looking for Lincoln site tour (\$975), Raymond Celebration (\$1,000), Coffeen Fall Fest (\$1,000), DAR Trivia Night Scholarship Fundraiser (\$1,000), Historical Society of Montgomery County "A Pickin' & A Lickin'" and Ulysses S. Grant (\$850), Litchfield Pickers Market (\$1,000), Imagine Hillsboro Cardboard Boat Regatta (\$400), Old Settlers Concerts (\$600), and Farmersville Irish Days (\$1,000). **Motion by Bergen, second by Hughes, to recommend approval of Tourism Grant funding for all 11 applicants. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Committee will wait until it can discuss potential updates with Bushue HR.
12. **Reparation Payment for Sheep Killed by Dog Update/Approval:** Ruppert said he will negotiate with sheep owner.
13. **Other Business:** None.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Admin, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell, Hillsboro School District Superintendent David Powell, Dean Lessman of Pro-Bilt

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Chairman Sneed opened bids from Pro-Bilt of Hillsboro, Landmark Roofing of Washington, and the apparent low bidder Central Roofing of Mattoon, with base bid amounts ranging from \$110,604 to \$185,500. An insurance claim will cover nearly \$56,000 of the cost. Each bidder also submitted alternates for coating and stainless screws. **Motion by Beason, second by Beck, to review the bids until next month to make sure the apparent low bidder is qualified and meets bid specs. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 46 items on his monthly report, and noted that Klein Chimney will be on site April 29 to install a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse. Chairman Sneed thanked the maintenance department for working with Dan Heise Plumbing on the Good Friday holiday to install 9 new water shut-off valves at the New Courthouse.
4. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Chairman Sneed said the county is interested in transferring three former highway department lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro to the Hillsboro School District for future building trades class sites. Hillsboro Superintendent David Powell said the school district is interested, but questioned whether the condition of property south of the lots might make new homes there difficult to sell. Chairman Donaldson asked if the county could recoup the costs of prepping the lots, \$14,308 according to County Engineer Greenwood. Powell said he would take the proposal to the Hillsboro School Board.
5. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed photos of a proposed Coal Historical Marker for the Historic Courthouse grounds, and a wall mural for the north side of the Courthouse Annex. Jeff Dunn will be at the May committee meeting to discuss, and Chairman Sneed said the projects should be coordinated with the City of Hillsboro. **Motion by Hughes, second by Beason, to table recommendations until next month. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** DCEO Energy Transition Grant funding has been approved, and the start of work is pending the contractor's schedule.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported that he has made the 50% payment required by the contract, and equipment has been ordered.

8. **Other Business:** Chairman Sneed asked for a resolution to be drafted for next meeting to declare an old jail generator as surplus property. Advertising for bids for roof replacement on the New Courthouse is pending approval in this year's DCEO Energy Transition Grant. Daniels shared a spreadsheet of projects submitted for the grant.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Assistant County Board Admin Mike Plunkett, Maggie Poteau and Charles Wilson of UKA, and Cory Chamberlain, Lindsey Jones and Katie Bohrman of WHKS

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** Charles Wilson of UKA informed the committee the permit application for Virden Wind was submitted to the county on Monday, March 25. UKA has also submitted a sample road use agreement.
2. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** The committee spent an hour in discussion with Cory Chamberlain, Lindsey Jones and Katie Bohrman of WHKS, the firm working on the preliminary engineering phase of a potential Walshville bypass. Jones said the county highway is a “major collector” based on the amount of traffic. Due to the “major collector” traffic on the road, Chamberlain said he is planning an eight-inch bituminous pavement on top of 12-inch aggregate as opposed to the typical six-inch bituminous pavement. The committee reviewed six road alignment options prepared by WHKS ranging from those with 50 mph curves to those with 30 mph curves. The 50 mph curve option would require the county acquiring 7.5 acres of addition right-of-way whereas the 30 mph curve option would require an additional 4.3 acres of right-of-way. Engineer Greenwood recommended Alternate 4A, a bypass along the south and east sides of Walshville which would allow for 40 mph curves and require an additional 4.5 acres of right-of-way. The committee concurred with Greenwood’s recommendation. WHKS will now begin working on a Project Development Report which will include public comment.
3. **2024 Township MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the township MFT oil letting. Low bids were received from both Louis Marsch of Morrisonville and Litchfield Bituminous of Hillsboro. Engineer Greenwood noted that on average, bid prices are five cents more than last year. **Motion by Ruppert, second by Bergen, to recommend approval of township MFT low bids from Louis Marsch, Inc. of Morrisonville and Litchfield Bituminous Corp. of Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **2024 County MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the lone bid submitted by Louis Marsch of Morrisonville. **Motion by Loucks, second by Ruppert to recommend approval of the county MFT low bid from Louis Marsch, Inc. of Morrisonville. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Waggoner Ave. Precast Box Culvert Letting Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the lone bid submitted by McCann Concrete Products of Dorsey for a 12x3 precast concrete box culvert and end sections. Engineer Greenwood said the funding for the project is in the FY 2024 budget in the County Aid to Bridge Fund. **Motion by Loucks, second by Bergen, to recommend approval of the low bid of \$61,525 from McCann Concrete Products of Dorsey for a precast concrete box culvert for Waggoner Avenue. All in favor, motion carried.**

6. **Specifications for Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** County Engineer Greenwood continues to work on specifications to be used in deciding requests on a case-by-case basis.
7. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Rd. Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Hurst-Rosche continues to work on an engineering study based on work that was begun in 2007.
8. **Surplus Equipment for sale Update/Approval:** The City of Nokomis has approached the highway department with interest in a single-axle truck. **Motion by Ruppert, second by Loucks, to declare a 1992 International 4900 as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood will check with the state's attorney on the possible use of an outside attorney for finalizing a road use agreement with UKA for the Virden Wind project.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, April 4th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin, Hillsboro City Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Andy Ritchie

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported that due to one Board of Review hearing date that was postponed to meet a petitioner's schedule, the tax cycle is now a week behind last year's schedule. Her office has over 200 structures to inspect that have been added or removed. One MTA contract remains outstanding.
3. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Chairman Ritchie reported \$1,603,808.28 in the Capital Improvement Fund after a coal royalty payment of \$60,838.80 in February. Treasurer Lohman added in the first quarter of the fiscal year, \$112,860.56 in interest has been added to the Capital Improvement Fund.
4. **Bellwether Quarterly Budget Report Update/Approval:** Bellwether provided their first quarterly budget report for General Fund revenue and expenses. Treasurer Lohman noted that a quarter into the fiscal year, the county has spent less than a quarter of budgeted expenses. Folkerts pointed out some inconsistencies in the way Bellwether reported, and Lohman said she would bring that to Bellwether's attention.
5. **Sale of Delinquent Mobile Homes Resolution Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported that there is no need for an update to the contract with Joseph E. Meyer & Associates, because the language is already included. County Clerk Leitheiser noted that the County Board approved selling delinquent mobile homes through the trustee in 2021.
6. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed returned signed contracts with Farmersville-Waggoner and Raymond-Harvel. Contracts with Hillsboro and Nokomis-Witt were approved last month. **Motion by Ritchie, second by Young, to recommend approval of contract with the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie, second by Beck, to recommend approval of contract with Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Baler Lease Payment Disposition (Coal or General Fund) Update/Approval:** For the first four-year term of the lease, recycling baler lease payments from DC Waste have gone into the Coal Fund to repay that fund for the purchase of the baler, \$40,500 according to 2018 minutes. The Coal Fund has been repaid \$33,600 through the first 48 payments. Young said lease payments should continue to go into the Coal Fund to repay the purchase price, adding that there it will earn interest whereas in the General Fund it will get spent. The current lease agreement is for two years followed by two years of

DC Waste options. **Motion by Young, second by Beck, to recommend baler lease payments continue to repay the Coal Fund for another year and then re-assess. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** According to minutes from the July 11, 2023, meeting, the Montgomery County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plans contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Grant. The grant has been received, but did not include the Waggoner project. County Board Admin has reached out to DCEO to determine if the error is correctible. Chairman Donaldson has also been in contact with sources who could help. The committee will continue to research options to stand behind the board's commitment.
9. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed a letter from a resident about Neece Cemetery near the intersection of Oconee Avenue and E. 28th Road in Audubon Township. The letter asked for help with clean-up and access to the abandoned cemetery. Young said there may be funds available through the Illinois Secretary of State; County Board Admin will research. County Clerk Leitheiser will research if an easement has been recorded. Sheriff Robbins said community service workers are likely no longer an option.
10. **Other Business:** The U of I Annual Agreement for FY 2025 in the amount of \$157,000 will be on the agenda for the County Board on Tuesday, April 9. Treasurer Lohman shared with the committee three Board of Review changes to assessments that were greater than \$100,000 and anticipates one more. Daniels shared a map of the Virden Wind footprint provided by UKA.

Motion to pay the bills and payroll by Beck and seconded by Young. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Beck and seconded by Loucks. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, April 25th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed.
Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, 911 Director Ed Boyd, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Information Services Director Curt Watkins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin, Bill Schroeder and Karyl Dressen.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: Citizen Bill Schroeder complained to the committee about the lack of information on the Route 185 sink hole. He questioned the possibility of sink holes opening in other areas, especially during planting season, and requested the county get answers from IDNR and the EPA. Citizen Karyl Dressen said she has family still farming in the mine area and urged the county to keep the public informed about the status of the sink hole. Chairman Donaldson responded that he and EMA Assistant Hough had been on site every day since the sink hole opened, and the land owner had not been allowing the mine access to the property.

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** IS Director Watkins reported that work on the redundant fiber ring continues, which will require short internet outages during the process. Cameras are being installed from the court grant, and his office is working on annual PC replacement and reviewing election and 911 cyber-security assessments.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA Assistant Hough reported on a weather radio discussion with the National Weather Service at a conference a few weeks ago. The National Weather Service is negotiating with two tower sites for a radio that would serve Montgomery, Bond and Fayette counties. He said there were nine tornadoes in Missouri and Illinois during an April 18 weather event, but none in Montgomery County. He said he has been responding to the Route 185 sink hole since the day it occurred and has been monitoring from a safety standpoint. The mine, IDNR and IDOT are involved, and he expects the mine to release a statement when more information is known. He said EMA's primary concern at present is the integrity of the water line serving the City of Coffeen, and stated Coffeen has an alternate source of water if the line is impacted. He is confident that Route 185 will not be re-opened until IDOT is sure it is safe. 911 Director Boyd added that his office is working on weather warning sirens in Fillmore and the Raymond-Harvel area that failed to sound.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the group met on Thursday, April 18, and is on track.
4. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** The committee was satisfied with the new report format, but the 708 Board would like to continue to see mental health statistics.
5. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 4 pm Wednesday, May 22 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has been following pending pipeline legislation.
6. **EZ Mayors Meeting 5 pm Wednesday, May 29 Update/Approval:** Mayors will review proposed contracts for Animal Control as well as Enterprise Zone issues.
7. **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Update/Approval:** A proclamation will be presented to the board for approval.

8. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson would like to honor National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week that was April 14-20.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Facility updates will be made if they are grant-funded.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** The committee will review and recommend policy updates, including municipal animal control contracts.
4. **Bushue Update/Approval:** The consultant will be asked to review the county FMLA policy, employee handbook and union contracts. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the communication process.
5. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Hearings are scheduled for April 29, April 30 and May 1.
6. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review North Sun 22c Application Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation to the full board.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** The first monthly report was submitted to DCEO for reimbursement on April 22.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Grant applications will be distributed at the May 29 EZ Mayors Meeting.
9. **Personnel Committee Handbook Update/Approval:** Bushue will be asked to review.
10. **Other Business:** None.

Buildings & Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** The committee is waiting to hear from the Hillsboro School District.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn will make a presentation to the committee.
5. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn will make a presentation to the committee.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood has reviewed the low bid. ARPA funds could be used to pay for costs in excess of the insurance claim.
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported that a meeting will occur within the next two weeks and invited Sneed to attend.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
9. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
10. **Other Business:** Sneed reported that bid specs for roof replacement on the Courthouse Complex will be reviewed and put out for bid.

Roads & Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman:

1. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported an upcoming meeting with the Mason County Engineer for road use agreement advice.
3. **Specifications for Drainage Tile Across/Along County Highways Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
4. **Section No. 24-00147-00-FP Nokomis Road Reconstruction Update/Approval:** Hurst-Rosche is working on cost estimates and a potential phased building plan.
5. **Other Items:** None.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** The committee will review and recommend.
4. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** If approved, the \$38,000 funds for the project would be taken from ARPA interest.
5. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** An easement to the cemetery is recorded, and the township is working on access.
6. **Opioid Settlement Revenue \$6,273 Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported a payment has been made and the State's Attorney is in charge of the fund.
7. **County Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** While the audit report is typically in April, Treasurer Lohman reported that the auditor has been working on ARPA reporting, and the presentation will be held at an upcoming meeting.
8. **Budget Information Schedule & Memo Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
9. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** The committee will review and recommend.
10. **911 FCC License Transfer Update/Approval:** Boyd reported that the current 911 FCC license is in the name of the vender, C&K, and cannot be transferred to the ETSB. It can, however, be transferred to the County Board. Boyd will continue to research and make a recommendation at the June committee meeting.
11. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** A break-in occurred at the tower shed, and Boyd asked if the County Board would split the anticipated \$9,000 cost to install security cameras with ETSB. The committee will discuss.
12. **Other Business:** Lohman reported she and Supervisor of Assessment Niehaus are working on preparing for mobile homes to be included in the tax sale. She also suggested checking with the property/casualty insurance provider before approving grant-funded capital projects, and asked the county to consider ACH instead of checks for accounts payable.

Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting:

1. William Beeler, Trustee, Raymond Community Fire Protection District, March 2024-March 2027 Update/Approval:

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Monday, May 6th, 2024

Time: 5:04 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, EMA Director Kevin Schott, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Admin, citizens Dan Mulch, Ken and Dionne Manzer. Charles Wright and Maggie Poteau of UKA attended virtually.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Citizen Ken Manzer told the committee he lives on five acres that are surrounded by the proposed North Sun solar project. He asked the county to consider amending its solar ordinance to require a 500-foot setback, to add additional conditions to require more screening, and about the possibility of delaying a decision on the permit application due to pending state setback legislation. Citizen Dan Mulch presented the committee with a list of considerations before making a decision on the Virden Wind project application, including improved communications, an underground coal mine map, and suggested the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District enforce drainage requirements. He also asked the committee to pause the permit process, re-examine the permit fee structure, and consider hiring an engineer to enforce permit conditions.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the monthly HRA report.
3. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Gerl reported five bite cases in the last two weeks, and a Giardia outbreak that has killed three dogs in the past two weeks. Gerl said animals are quarantined to prevent spread. Committee Chairman Ruppert presented a proposed municipal contract for \$2.50 per capita during business hours and \$250 per call after hours. The committee discussed the amounts and the eight municipalities currently under contract through November 2025. Beason recommended one correction to the proposed contract, and if approved, Chairman Donaldson will present it to mayors at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beason to recommend proposed Municipal Contract for Animal Control Services. ROLL CALL: Yes: Bergen, Beason, Hughes, Jones, Ruppert. No: None. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Bushue Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ruppert reported during a “fact-finding” meeting with Travis Bushue on Wednesday, May 1st, the HR consultant was familiarized with county procedures and was presented with a copy of union contracts and the county personnel manual. He said a regular monthly meeting will be established, and emergency contact info will be furnished to department heads.
5. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Charles Wright and Maggie Poteau of UKA attended the meeting virtually, and Poteau said the company has been talking to individuals who identified concerns with specific turbine locations at the hearings held April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st. Jones asked UKA to continue to investigate concerns about other utilities in the same footprint, and the possibility of a website. Committee Chairman Ruppert reminded the committee the recessed hearing will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th.

6. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review North Sun 22c Application Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed proposals from Hurst-Rosche to review solar permit applications from North Sun LLC and Plains Solar LLC for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 each. The Plains Solar proposal was not on the agenda because the permit application had been received earlier that afternoon. **Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to recommend approval of proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review North Sun LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Sub-recipient Lincoln Land Community College requested an extension for expending grant funds. The request was forwarded to DCEO and will be reviewed closer to the June 2025 grant deadline. Sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries will be presented at the full board meeting.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** The County Board Admin office reported three recent requests for grant applications. Information about the grant will also be provided at the mayors meeting on Wednesday, May 29th.
9. **Other Business:** The committee set a public hearing for the Plains Solar application for 6 p.m. Monday, July 1st, at the Historic Courthouse. Montgomery reported a new MCEDC logo and website, Leitheiser reported that she and Plunkett had been assisting Nextlink as they contact possible tower site owners, and the committee asked County Board Admin office staff to research any necessary revisions to the current solar and wind farm ordinances.

Motion to pay the bills by Beason and seconded by Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Jones and second by Beason. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

Time: 8:34 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA Director Kevin Schott, County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Admin, Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs and Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** Mayor Downs reported he had received three complaints about the mowing of the Historic Courthouse lawn, and reminded the committee he had donated two mulching mowers for better results.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 70 items on his monthly report, including a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse scheduled to be installed on May 20th. He also recommended the county accept a proposal from Altorfer to upgrade the maintenance agreement on a D60GC generator to “Platinum” level for an extra \$550 for five years. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to upgrade the maintenance agreement with Altorfer on D60GC generator to Platinum for \$550 for five years. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed an incentive from Schindler Elevator to renew the county’s current elevator service contract. Committee Chairman Sneed recommended rejecting the proposal. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to decline extending elevator service contract with Schindler Elevator. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** The committee has heard nothing further from the Hillsboro School District regarding lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro for a potential future building trades site.
5. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Dunn reported that the University of Illinois has agreed to pay the entire estimated \$4,800 cost for a coal historical marker on the Historic Courthouse lawn. Text for the marker must be submitted by mid-June, and Dunn anticipates a Spring 2025 dedication ceremony with receptions before and after.
6. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Dunn said that since the contractor did a good job tuck-pointing the north wall on the Annex Building, paint for a proposed mural can be applied directly to the brick, substantially reducing costs. He said the new mortar should be given plenty of time to cure, and anticipates artists will begin work in Spring 2025.
7. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that he checked references for the apparent low bidder, Central Roofing of Mattoon, after the bid opening last month for a new roof on the block building at the Highway Department. He said the contractor was highly recommended and the bid appears fair. Chairman Donaldson added that since last month, a Natural Hazard Mitigation grant has been applied for. **Motion by Beason and second**

by Hughes to recommend awarding the low base bid of \$110,604 to Central Roofing LLC of Mattoon. All in favor, motion carried.

8. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported that Ameresco has scheduled a pre-construction meeting for 10 a.m. Monday, May 13th, in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse.
9. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins reported equipment has been ordered and another walk-through was scheduled for Thursday, May 9th.
10. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the disposition of a replaced generator at the Montgomery County Jail. **Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to recommend declaring generator model number 30DLG L33658E as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Spec Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed bid specs prepared by Committee Chairman Sneed to replace the roof at the Courthouse Complex. Sneed reminded the committee that funds have been appropriated in the FY 2024 budget. With consent from the committee, Chairman Sneed set a schedule of advertising for bids beginning Thursday, May 10th, a pre-bid meeting at 11 a.m. Friday, May 17th, a bid due date of 4 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, and bid opening on Tuesday, June 4th, at next month's committee meeting.
12. **Other Business:** Committee Chairman Sneed asked Ernst to schedule stripping and waxing the floor in the Courthouse Complex basement. Ernst asked if power service could be restored to the mower shed, and Chairman Sneed asked him to research the cost.

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

Motion to Adjourn by Beason and seconded by Hughes. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Chad Ruppert

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Assistant County Board Admin Mike Plunkett

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** No update on the bypass. Engineer Greenwood reported that county forces may blade mix and seal coat through town while working on Elevator Road.
3. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** A draft road use agreement prepared by UKA has been submitted by Engineer Greenwood to an outside legal consultant. The County Engineer said the UKA road use agreement will set a precedent for those that follow.
4. **Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** After research, Engineer Greenwood recommended no special conditions. Instead, he suggested every variance request should be decided case by case, and the county could then approve, disapprove, or modify requests.
5. **White Block Building Roof Update/Approval:** The Buildings & Grounds Committee has recommended accepting the low bid, and Engineer Greenwood has submitted a Hazard Mitigation Grant request for partial funding.
6. **Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% County scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the resolution. **Motion by Loucks and second by Bergen to recommend Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% county scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Trail for an estimated \$20,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Section 18-13123-00-BR – Raymond Twp – Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed two bids on the bid tab sheet. The apparent low bid was more than \$22,300 under the approved engineer's estimate. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Loucks to recommend awarding the bid for Section 18-13123-00-BR Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement in Raymond Township to Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon for \$269,443.21. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Highway Maintainer position vacancy Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that Ethan Beeler has been hired to fill the Maintainer vacancy.
9. **Purchase of Used Equipment Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that Mason County is selling a 2017 Mack tandem truck with 33,000 miles (the oldest truck in their fleet) by sealed bid. Greenwood said if purchased, the truck would replace a county tandem truck that could be sold for \$50,000 bringing the total used equipment sold by the highway department this year to \$149,000. Greenwood has inspected the Mason County truck and recommended making a sealed bid. Committee Chairman Murzynski will contact the State's Attorney to discuss the process for doing so.

10. Other Items: None.

Motion by Whitworth and second by Bergen to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Loueks and second by Whitworth to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, May 9th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, IS Director Curt Watkins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett from the County Board Administration office, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service Vice-President Dave Schweizer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by County Clerk Leitheiser.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service Vice-President Dave Schweizer asked the board for their budget filing dates and tax levy deadlines. Treasurer Lohman said the budget is due in July. State's Attorney Affrunti advised that the County Board is responsible for the levy and may have to conduct a truth-in-taxation hearing in the service area if the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service wants to hit its maximum tax rate for the upcoming levy year.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the report.
3. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** From reports provided by Treasurer Lohman, Committee Chairman Ritchie reported a March coal royalty payment of \$68,230.41 and year-to-date interest in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$142,115.39.
4. **ACH Accounts Payable Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported that she is proceeding with Automated Clearing House (ACH) checkless payments instead of issuing paper checks for benefit expenses. County Clerk Leitheiser said she is open to more ACH payments in Accounts Payable.
5. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a bid tabulation sheet prepared by the County Board Administration office with two bids for electric rates. Your Choice Energy bid 0.06602 for 12 months, 0.07376 for 24 months, and 0.07689 for 36 months from Constellation. Option One bid 0.06535 for 12 months. Later in the meeting, a bid was received from Homefield Energy that was after the bid deadline and higher than the other two. The apparent low bid rate represents a 44% increase from the current rate. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recommend a 12-month low bid of 0.06535 from Option One. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Committee Chairman Ritchie gave background information. He said in July 2023, the Finance & Budget Committee recommended and the County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. The county received the grant, but the Waggoner project had not been submitted for inclusion. Treasurer Lohman added that the county can either re-allocate unspent ARPA funds for the project or use interest earned on ARPA funds. Young questioned whether the project is a proper use of ARPA funds. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend the re-allocation of \$38,000 in ARPA funds for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL: Yes: Beck, Whitworth, Ritchie. No: Folkerts, Loucks, Young. Motion failed 3-3.** Whitworth said Waggoner has been misled to think they had the DCEO reimbursement grant and has obtained a bank loan. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to**

recommend the allocation of \$38,000 in ARPA fund interest for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL: Yes: Beck, Whitworth, Ritchie. No: Folkerts, Loucks, Young. Motion failed 3-3. State's Attorney Affrunti advised the item should remain on the County Board agenda for a decision, and the Finance & Budget Committee should report the recommendation resulted in a tie vote.

7. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported researching state funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up and found none. There is an easement to the cemetery, Audubon Township is providing a culvert, and Hamlin-Jones is installing the culvert, hopefully resolving the cemetery access issue.
8. **County Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the annual audit report is not yet finalized.
9. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins expressed by email that due to a new form, an extension is needed. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend the board grant an extension for the annual Circuit Clerk audit. All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Budget Information Schedule & Memo Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported Bellwether will send out worksheets to department heads after non-union pay increases are recommended.
11. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** The board reviewed and discussed two spreadsheets prepared by the County Board Administration Office, one with historical County union and non-union wage increases, and the other comparing the salaries of County positions to the state average, national average, and UCCI county average. Young reported a 2.6% CPI for the Midwest. Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to recommend at 2.6% wage increase for non-union employees for FY 2025. Motion by Whitworth and second by Young to table to the June Finance & Budget Committee meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
12. **911 FCC License Transfer Update/Approval:** To be discussed in June.
13. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** Sheriff Robbins said 911 Director Ed Boyd reported to the ETSB Committee the lock had been cut at the Cress Hill Tower gate. Although there was no evidence of theft or vandalism, Sheriff Robbins recommended a security camera installed with the \$9,000 estimated cost split with the ETSB. IS Director Watkins added that fiber was extended to the tower using ARPA funds. Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend re-allocating \$4,500 in ARPA funds for 50% of the cost to install a security camera at the Cress Hill Tower. All in favor, motion carried.
14. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Ritchie asked for the previously un-funded ARPA request to be included on the County Board agenda for consideration. Treasurer Lohman reported that County Clerk Leitheiser's office had rolled property tax cycle information to her office, and she is working toward having property tax bills mailed before Memorial Day.

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

Motion to Adjourn by Loucks and seconded by Ritchie. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, 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: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024, 4:00 pm

Time: 4:04 pm – County Board

Room

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Chad Ruppert

Members Absent: Mark Hughes and John Wright

Others Present: Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Bill Schroeder

The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Citizen Bill Schroeder reported he had been in communication with those on a conference call regarding negotiations on SB3930, the Carbon Dioxide Transport and Storage Protections Act. He said protection of the Mohomet Aquifer did not get in the legislation, but it will require 75 percent of land to be under contract before amalgamation. The bill includes a fee for local EMAs, and the operator will remain liable for and pipeline and sequestration. The bill does not include eminent domain, and the moratorium will remain in effect until June 2026 or new federal regulation.
2. **Carbon Capture and Sequestration First Responder Needs List Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported no update from EMA Director Kevin Schott, who is working on a cost proposal for Code Red service. County Board Administrator Daniels said the ETSB Board heard a presentation on a similar Motorola program, and may be willing to partner on cost sharing.
3. **Pending Pipeline Legislation SB3930 and HB5814 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson shared information provided by the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition on both pieces of legislation. He and Ruppert discussed basing a county ordinance on one passed by Christian County, and Ruppert suggested making the 75% requirement for amalgamation part of any local ordinance. Folkerts said he would like to know why Navigator abandoned its proposed Montgomery County project.
4. **Test Well Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson noted the County Board Admin Office had communicated with Dan Brennan of the IDNR department that permitted the Navigator CO2 test well in Montgomery County, the Department of Oil & Gas, on Tuesday afternoon, March 12th, 2024. Brennan said that Navigator has responded to IDNR well inspectors, and the well status is “under administrative review to ensure everyone is safe and the well is in compliance with regulations.” County Board Administration will follow up for any further information.
5. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson set the next CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, beginning at 4 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, May 30th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: None

Others Present: IS Director Curt Watkins, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Kevin Schott, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Brad Schaivy and Trevor Lohman of LiUNA plus two other members.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** IS Director Watkins reported the redundant fiber ring is complete and equipment is in place. His office is making switch upgrades, upgrading security cameras in the Court Complex, and is in the process of switching out 36 county PCs. He would like the County Board to establish policies on security video recording and software/hardware/tech purchasing.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA Director Schott reported on the recent Hazmat incident that shut down the northbound lanes of Interstate 55 for 11 hours and the flood incident in Litchfield. He said EMA Assistant Dan Hough continues to monitor the sink hole off Route 185.
3. **Labor Disaster Relief Team Update/Approval:** Schaivy offered the services of highly-trained QRF (quick response force) LiUNA disaster response teams to deploy after disasters such as weather events. He said when requested by local EMA, LiUNA teams from Rock Island to Marion, including a new one headquartered at the Labor Local office in Hillsboro, can respond quickly with manpower, heavy equipment and highly-trained operators, as well as with light equipment such as chainsaws with highly-trained operators. The teams are licensed, insured, and work at no cost to the county. They deploy to remove downed trees and other structures from public and private property so that utility and rescue work is not delayed. Chairman Donaldson asked Schaivy to work with EMA Director Schott to set up the necessary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to begin the process. State's Attorney Affrunti reviews and endorsed the MOU for county use.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Nothing to report.
5. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 4 pm Wednesday, May 22 Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the ramifications of SB1289 that had passed since the May 22nd Ad Hoc Committee meeting.
6. **EZ Mayors Meeting 5 pm Wednesday, May 29 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reviewed discussion items at the meeting, such as the county Small Biz Start-Up Grant, the Natural Hazard Mitigation siren grant, and potential municipal Animal Control contracts.
7. **Long Term Recovery Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson noted the meeting date and time.
8. **Other Business:** None

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Animal Control Municipal Contract Update/Approval:** The committee will review recommendations from the Mayors Meeting and discuss.
3. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** The monthly meeting with Travis Bushue is scheduled for 9:45 a.m. Thursday, May 30th.

4. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** The committee will review testimony from four nights of public hearings and anticipates making a recommendation to the County Board regarding the permit application.
5. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Anacott Application Update/Approval:** The committee will review, discuss, and make a recommendation.
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported the county received \$1.3 million in the new grant round. The DCEO Energy Transition Ad Hoc Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 12th.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** No applications yet, but info was shared at Mayors Meeting.
8. **Other Business:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported her office is now mandated to supply Narcan, and she has training planned for her staff.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss. Sneed reported the chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse has yet to be installed.
2. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Bids will be opened by the committee. An insurance adjuster is examining roofs for damage.
3. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Process Update/Approval:** The committee will advertise for bids.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Work could begin as early as mid-June.
5. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed reported work is on track.
6. **Other Business:** New benches, provided by Big Dawg Dare, are now on site.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Work remains ongoing.
2. **Resolution 2024-09 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave., Irving Twp. Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Resolution 2024-10 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
4. **Resolution 2024-11 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** The committee will discuss and make a recommendation.
4. **ARPA Ordinance Update/Approval:** The committee will discuss the following ARPA ordinances:
 - State's Attorney Cellbrite \$50,000
 - Waggoner Baseball & Soccer Field Revitalization \$38,000
 - Cress Hill Tower Camera \$4,500
 - Taylor Springs Generators \$50,160.60
 - Witt Volunteer Fire Department Repeaters \$8,680
 - Litchfield Police SUB \$21,600
 - Raymond Water Maps \$9,600
 - Montgomery County Health Department Culvert \$1,800
 - Litchfield Patrol Boat \$36,000
5. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman asked for the budget and audit to be on the committee agenda.

Appointments for Full Board meeting: None at present.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Virden Wind Hearing Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Monday, April 30th, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM – County Board Room

1. **OPENING OF MEETING AND CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Committee Chairman Ruppert
3. **ROLL CALL: Members Present:** were Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones and Doug Donaldson.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Hearing Officer Attorney Scott Kains, County Special Attorney Andrew Keyt, County Board Member Patty Whitworth, County Board Member Connie Beck, County Board Member Ken Folkerts, County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Dan Hough and Joe Gasparich from Montgomery County EMA, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration
UKA Team Present: Head of Development Charles Wright, Project Manager Jonathan Lochner, Junior Project Developer John (Jack) Butler, Community Relations Specialist Maggie Poteau, Senior Construction Manager Troy Beal, Legal Counsel Amy Antonioli, Environmental Associate Sarah Lode, Comsearch Senior Manager David Meyer, Pinion Global Manager Ryan Green, Economic Impact Analyst Dr. David Loomis, Santec Consulting Senior Ecologist Terry VanDeWalle, Santec Consulting Senior Scientist JoAnne Blank, Santec Consulting Senior Acoustician Jacob Poling
4. **AGENDA UPDATE/APPROVAL:** Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to approve agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **HEARING RULES UPDATE/APPROVAL:** Hearing Officer Kains said Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti appointed him Hearing Officer and appointed Attorney Keyt to represent the County in the proceedings. He then explained the process, noting that the Development & Personnel Committee will make a recommendation regarding the permit application to the Montgomery County Board. He also read the Rules for Wind Energy Facility Siting Hearings. Motion by Beason and second by Ruppert to approve the rules. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **PERMIT APPLICATION OF VIRDEN WIND ENERGY LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of UKA North America LLC) TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY FACILITY COMPRISING OF UP TO 18 WIND TURBINES AND APPROXIMATELY 122.4 MEGAWATTS (MW) LOCATED GENERALLY 3.0 MILES EAST OF FARMERSVILLE, ILLINOIS UPDATE/APPROVAL:** Verbatim testimony was taken by a court reporter; transcripts are available at the County Board Administration office. Attorney Antonioli gave an opening statement and introduced exhibits. Testifying as expert witnesses for the applicant and answering questions were Maggie Poteau who introduced UKA and the team, Jonathan Lochner who described the 122MW 18-turbine project, and Dr. David Loomis who described his economic impact study. Hearing Officer Kains recessed at 8:57 p.m. Monday, April 29th.

The hearing was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 30th. The Pledge of Allegiance was again led by Committee Chairman Ruppert. Members present were Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones and Doug Donaldson. None were absent. Testifying and answering questions for the applicant were Charles Wright who has developed 11 prior wind projects, Troy Beal who has managed construction of 15 prior wind projects, Jack Butler who described setbacks, David Meyer who described possible telecommunication impacts, and Terry VanDeWalle who described anticipated wildlife impacts. Hearing Officer Kains recessed at 9:49 p.m. Tuesday, April 30th.

The hearing was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 1st. The Pledge of Allegiance was again led by Committee Chairman Ruppert. Members present were Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones and Doug Donaldson. None were absent. Testifying and answering questions for the applicant were Ryan Green who described drainage mitigation and remediation plans, JoAnne Blank who described decommissioning and shadow flicker, Jacob Poling who described acoustics, and Maggie Poteau who described the dispute resolution process. During the course of applicant testimony, 21 exhibits were introduced and admitted into the record. Citizen Dan Mulch of rural Raymond, also a drainage district commissioner, expressed disappointment over UKA communication, effects on the community, and the possible precedent set. He introduced an exhibit comparing the height of the proposed towers to national landmarks.

- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Citizen Don Murphy of rural Harvel, a participating landowner, spoke in favor of the project as a way to provide future farm surety. Citizen Jeremy Sanders of Moro, a union operating engineer, spoke in favor of the project in terms of construction jobs created, as did citizen Bob Schmidt of Highland, who represents 1,650 operating engineers including 31 in Montgomery County. Citizen Bea Leonard of Harvel, a non-participating landowner, spoke against the project in terms of turbine locations. Hearing Officer Kains summarized four written comments and entered them into the record, one from Lonnie R. Specht of Farmersville, one from Rachel A. Broughton of Bois D'Arc Township, one from Rick and Amy Loughry of Las Vegas, NV, and one from Pawnee Mayor Jeff Clarke.

Hearing Officer Kains then closed the evidence, allowing the entry of updated tables and maps of setbacks requested from the applicant, and reminded those present that Attorney Keyt, representing the county, will draft findings of fact which may include recommendations for permit conditions. Attorney Antonioli said she will make closing statements prior to Development & Personnel Committee deliberations and recommendations to the County Board. Hearing Officer Kains then recessed the hearing at 10:17 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 28th.

The hearing was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 28th. The Pledge of Allegiance was again led by Committee Chairman Ruppert. Members present were Chad Ruppert, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes and Jeremy Jones. Bill Bergen and Doug Donaldson were absent. Hearing Officer Kains summarized three additional letters received since the last hearing, one from David Wells from IBEW Local #193 in Springfield, one from Riki Dial, Jr., of Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council in Springfield, and one from Illinois State Field Director for the Land & Liberty Coalition Keatin Foor. Hearing Officer Kains also admitted into the record a preliminary review by Jeremy Connor of Hurst-Rosche, and 56 documents including maps and a table of setbacks submitted by Attorney Antonioli on behalf of the project. Attorney Antonioli then gave a closing statement, emphasizing the Virden Wind Project exceeds the minimum requirements of the Montgomery County ordinance. Deliberations began with Attorney Keyt summarizing draft Findings of Fact. In response to a question from Committee Chair Ruppert, Wright said he is working on moving Tower 18 1,500 feet to the north. Attorney Keyt then reviewed draft conditions for a Siting Permit, Construction Permit and Operating Permit. Committee Chair Ruppert would like to review the hearing transcript before making a recommendation; Attorney Keyt will provide the transcript to the committee when available. Hearing Officer Kains then recessed the hearing at 7:22 p.m. until the regularly scheduled Development & Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 3rd.

The hearing was reconvened at 5:41 p.m. Monday, June 3rd. The Pledge of Allegiance was again led by Committee Chairman Ruppert. Members present were Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason,

Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, and Doug Donaldson. Attorney Antonioli provided requested follow-up information regarding a map for the proposed Turbine 18 relocation, a clarification of tax revenue predictions, and lists of participating landowners as well as landowners within 500 feet of the project. Committee Chair Ruppert advised that the hearing transcript had been received, reviewed revised Findings of Fact, and reviewed proposed siting conditions in detail. In response to a committee question Maggie Poteau, participating virtually, gave project website addresses then later by email corrected those addresses to www.virden-wind.com and www.grand-prairie-energy.com. UKA is still working to create a 1-800 telephone number. Jones reminded the committee local government cannot enact a wind ordinance more restrictive than state statute, and Beason read a statement in support of fossil and nuclear energy and in opposition to alternative energy.

Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to approve the Findings of Fact. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Bergen, Beason, Hughes, Jones, Ruppert. Voting no: none. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to recommend the County Board approve the project subject to conditions. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Bergen, Hughes, Jones, Ruppert. Voting no: Beason. Motion carried.

Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to recommend the County Board adopt the Draft Conditions. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Bergen, Hughes, Jones, Ruppert. Voting no: Beason. Motion carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Beason and second by Hughes. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board Development & Personnel Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Monday, June 3rd, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, IS Director Curt Watkins, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, County Board members Ken Folkerts and Connie Beck, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Jeremy Connor of Hurst-Rosche, Attorney Amy Antonioli and Senior Construction Manager Troy Beal of UKA Virden Wind

After the Pledge of Allegiance the committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** None
3. **Animal Control Municipal Contract Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported at the Mayors Meeting on May 29th, mayors were dissatisfied with the proposed municipal contract requiring a per capita fee of \$2.50 and \$250 for after-hours calls. Chairman Donaldson said municipal budgets had been planned based on a per capita fee of \$2.00 and no additional after-hours call charge. Chairman Donaldson presented a spreadsheet totaling the difference between the per capita fees, and pointed out that Animal Control requires staff and funds. Jones added that mayors at the meeting would like to compare their Animal Control ordinances with the county's ordinance to make them similar. **Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to recommend amending the Animal Control Municipal Contract from \$2.50 per capita to \$2.00 per capita. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Bergen, Beason, Hughes, Jones. Voting no: Ruppert. Motion carried 4-1.** Ruppert said the committee will continue to work on the Animal Control policy manual.
4. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported at a meeting with Travis Bushue on Thursday, May 30th, the HR consultant discussed how the county pays quarterly unemployment insurance, reviewed the current FOP contract, discussed new hire and 1099 portal reporting, and is developing standardized employment applications and new hire paperwork. Monthly meetings with Bushue will likely follow the monthly Coordinating Committee meetings.
5. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Agenda item discussed as part of the reconvened public hearing.
6. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Anacott Application Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed. Jeremy Connor was present to answer questions. **Motion by Bergen and second by Hughes to recommend approval of Hurst-Rosche proposal to review Anacott application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported that the County Board Administration office learned on May 24th that the county has been selected to receive \$1,351,928 in the next round of DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant funding. Chairman Donaldson

scheduled an Ad Hoc Committee meeting for 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 12th, to discuss the county's application.

8. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Ruppert reported the county is statutorily responsible for a sheep that had been killed and another injured by a neighbor's pit bull on May 6th, 2022. The vet bill for the injured sheep was \$289.50 and Ruppert researched the average livestock value for the deceased sheep at the time of the incident. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to recommend the county pay \$600 in reparations for killed and injured sheep to Noah Gallion. All in favor, motion carried.**

Plunkett reported the county received an application for a Small Biz Start-Up Grant. Committee Chair Sneed said the committee will consider the application next month.

Beason recommended the board use the recently enacted two-year CO2 sequestration state moratorium to consider a county ordinance. Chairman Donaldson said the CO2 Ad Hoc Committee will research that option.

IS Director Watkins said that although Montgomery County is complimented on its tech department, there is more and more after-hours work and cyber security issues. He said the cost of software licenses continues to rise, and in order to retain tech staff the county needs to invest more in resources.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, June 4th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Ernst answered questions regarding the 46 items on his report, including a leaking plastic diesel fuel tank at the Animal Control incinerator. The incinerator was replaced by a code-compliant double-wall metal tank. The committee also requested County Board Administration to re-establish electric service at the county utility shed.
3. **Chimney Liner Update/Approval:** Ernst said Klein Chimney will return on Saturday, June 8th, with a lift to install the chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse.
4. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed reported he had been in contact with the insurance agent to request an adjuster determine if roofs at the Courts Complex, Historic Courthouse, and Jail had been impacted by hail damage. An adjuster has yet to arrive. Sneed suggested putting off opening the received Courts Complex roof bids until the July Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting pending roof review by an insurance adjuster. The committee concurred.
5. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Process Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed asked Ernst to supply County Board Administration with information necessary to advertise for bids to sell the surplus old jail generator. Bids will be opened at the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting set for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 2nd. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to recommend the County Board sell the surplus jail generator by sealed bid. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed reported work should begin mid-June or July.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Robbins said a walk-through had been scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, June 4th.
8. **Other Business:** The committee expressed gratitude for four new outdoor benches at the Historic Courthouse, provided by the Big Dawg Dare through the City of Hillsboro. Committee Chair Sneed asked Sarah McConnell to relay to the city that the benches may be bolted down at their present location.

Motion to pay the bills by Beason and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to Adjourn by Beck and second by Hughes. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Other Present: Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported that UKA had emailed a traffic analysis. Committee Chair Murzynski read a text message from County Engineer Cody Greenwood relaying that he would be spending the next few months reviewing a potential road use agreement.
3. **Resolution 2024-09 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Ave., Irving Twp. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution and discussed the location. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Bergen to recommend Resolution 2024-09 to appropriate \$10,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 50/50 \$20,000 culvert replacement on Meisenheimer Avenue in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Resolution 2024-10 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution and discussed the location. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Loucks to recommend Resolution 2024-10 to appropriate \$21,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 100% county culvert replacement on Walshville Trail. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Resolution 2024-11 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Tr. Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution and discussed the location. **Motion by Loucks and second by Whitworth to recommend Resolution 2024-11 to appropriate \$25,000 from the County Aid to Bridge Fund for a 100% county culvert replacement on Walshville Trail. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Other Items:** None

Motion by Ruppert and second by Bergen to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Loucks and second by Whitworth to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Agenda

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

Date: Thursday, June 6th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: David Loucks

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, IS Director Curt Watkins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Public Comment:** Hough, speaking on behalf of the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance District, informed the committee that he was presenting the district's portion of payment for the district's new ARPA ambulance. Treasurer Lohman affirmed that the county was ready to write the ARPA check for \$263,238.18. Hough said the new ambulance was scheduled to be delivered on Tuesday, June 11th, and he would try to have it at the County Board meeting that evening.
- 2. SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported farmland values are established by the Illinois Department of Revenue and not subject to county or Board of Review control. Any complaints must be filed at the state level. She also said her office now requires signatures for name and address changes as required by law, and that she is working with County Board Administration to outline the process for assessing solar and wind farm projects. She is working with IS regarding a computer to enter data remotely from the field, and said the pickup truck formerly used by her office could be declared surplus.
- 3. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** From reports provided by Treasurer Lohman, Committee Chair Ritchie noted an April coal royalty payment of \$124,452.87 and a Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$1,436,867.20.
- 4. FY 2024 Audit & FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported auditors are working on a projected timeline. Bellwether is preparing FY25 budget packets which should be out by the end of June. The Treasurer also reported an overall 8% increase in county EAV to over \$630,000,000. She anticipates more than one ambulance district will request levies more than 5% over last year's levy requests.
- 5. Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson shared a spreadsheet provided by Treasurer Lohman detailing what wage increases at various percentages would cost the county General Fund, from \$77,112 for 3% to \$154,225 for 6%. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said she has been unable to fill one of her vacancies. Treasurer Lohman reminded the committee of new upcoming overtime requirements. County Clerk Leitheiser asked the committee to retain the wage momentum from last year. IS Director Watkins said because of frequent staff turnover, he spends 25% of his day training staff. Whitworth said salary increases in the 5% range could help retain and recruit staff. Young said he preferred raises in the 3% range, pointing out the 44% increase in electric rates and a reluctance in raising taxes with over \$9 million in coal funds.
Motion by Whitworth and second Beck to recommend 5% salary increases for non-union staff

for FY 2025. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Beck, Folkerts, Whitworth, Ritchie. Voting no: Young. Motion carried 4-1.

6. **ARPA Ordinance Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie presented a list of ARPA ordinances based on projects approved at the May meeting of the Montgomery County Board. Folkerts asked if approving the ordinances means the county is re-opening ARPA funding. Committee Chair Ritchie said he would not be opposed to that in the future if ARPA funds remain unused. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend approval of the following ARPA ordinances. All in favor, motion carried.**
- a. **Cellbrite \$50,000**
 - b. **Waggoner Baseball & Soccer Field Revitalization \$38,000**
 - c. **Cress Hill Tower Camera \$4,500**
 - d. **Taylor Springs Generators \$50,160.60**
 - e. **Witt Volunteer Fire Department Repeaters \$8,680**
 - f. **Litchfield Police SUV \$21,600**
 - g. **Raymond Water Maps \$9,600**
 - h. **Montgomery County Health Department Culvert \$1,800**
 - i. **Litchfield Patrol Boat \$36,000**
7. **Other Business:** Circuit Clerk Robbins noted that while it still has state-mandated revenue, the Child Support Admin Fee line-item had no budget for expenses, so it will be in the red.

Motion to pay the bills and payroll by Beck and second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried. Motion to Adjourn by Beck and second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm - County Board Room

Members Present: Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson, Mark Hughes, Sandy Leitheiser, Dan Hough

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dan Rogers, Daniel Robbins, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **2024 DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported County Board Administration learned that Montgomery County was approved for \$1,351,928. Chairman Donaldson added that projects totaling \$4,488,342 had been requested.
3. **Recommend Projects to be Included in 2024 Phase of the Energy Grant Application Update/Approval:** After Chairman Donaldson suggested eliminating nearly \$3 million in grant requests that he believed may not qualify, the committee also eliminated projects that have already been completed and those that may have a another funding source. The committee then discussed items that could be deferred to next year's round of grant funding, and changed the amounts on some projects to meet the grant budget. The list is tentative and subject to DCEO approval. Rogers said he will email County Board Administration to request information for grant narratives from the various department heads, and County Board Administration will collect and compile that information from departments requesting funding. The grant application is due by the end of July.
4. **Other Business:** The committee set a tentative meeting date of 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 26th, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro if necessary; Rogers will let County Board Admin know if the meeting is required.

Motion to adjourn by Hughes and second by Ruppert. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 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
Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Thursday, June 27th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: None

Others Present: EMA Director Kevin Schott, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Sheriff Rick Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Curt Watkins reported downtown county buildings are hooked up to the redundant fiber ring; the HVFD has yet to be. He has been prepping for court grant work and working the County Clerk's office. He recommended the county use IS contingency funds for a \$95,000 phone system upgrade and hopefully reimburse the fund with the DCEO Energy Transition grant.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Kevin Schott reported the Small Business Administration is in Litchfield taking applications for low-interest long-term loans for those severely impacted by the rain event emergency.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported a meeting is set for July 18th.
4. **Labor Disaster Relief Team MOU Update/Approval:** Director Schott recommended the county board adopt the Memorandum of Understanding.
5. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** The ad hoc committee is continuing to meet in preparation for the July 31st grant application deadline.
6. **Long Term Recovery Meeting (COAD) Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported the next step is for MCEDC to appoint a committee to receive tax-exempt donation and distribute funds in case of an emergency. That discussion will continue.
7. **Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) System Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported learning about IRAD, a department of the State Archives that will provide micro-filming and scanning at no cost. Plunkett said the County Board Administration office is interested in participating, and Sheriff Robbins said his office is also interested. County Clerk Leitheiser said her records are used daily and she does not want them taken off site. Chairman Donaldson asked County Board Administration to continue to investigate.
8. **Other Business:** Volunteers from the Village of Wenonah who have raised nearly \$7,000 for a veterans memorial have asked the county for assistance to complete the job. Chairman Donaldson passed their information on to Pattern Energy for a possible monetary donation and to the Laborers Local for a possible in-kind donation.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Animal Control Municipal Contract Update/Approval:** Changes made last month will be presented at the next Mayors Meeting.
3. **Animal Control Municipal Billing Update/Approval:** The committee will discuss.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** The committee will continue to discuss.

5. **Wind & Solar Permit Fees Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said he would like his committee to review data collected by County Board Administration and recommend a new permit fee structure.
6. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** The next meeting has yet to be scheduled.
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** The ad hoc committee is continuing to meet in preparation for the July 31st grant application deadline.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** The committee will review two pending grant applications and make a recommendation to the County Board.
8. **Next Sun 22c Solar Update/Approval:** The Public Hearing will reconvene at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 1st. Committee Chair Ruppert said he believes issues with non-participating neighbors have been resolved.
9. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** The Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 1st.
10. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Ruppert said he would like the Rules Committee to examine board member pay for solar and wind hearings, and he will be meeting with Treasurer Lohman to discuss Animal Control expenses. Vice Chairman Young asked about a meeting with a wind energy company; Chairman Donaldson said Pattern Energy hosted local labor and government officials for an event in January where all County Board members were invited, and again on June 26th, to which Development & Personnel Committee members were invited.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **DAR Traveling Display Request Aug. 3-9 Update/Approval:** The committee will discuss the request.
3. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn will attend the committee meeting with Historic Marker pictures and text samples.
4. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** The committee will open and review bids.
5. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Opening Update/Approval:** The committee will open and review bids.
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported work began on Tuesday, June 25th.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Prerequisite electric work is complete.
8. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Sneed reminded the 44% electric rate increase will have an impact on next year's budget.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee will continue to review.
2. **Coffeen Power Station Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported that Vistra has asked the County Board to let IEPA know it prefers a Coal Ash Impoundment at the former Coffeen Power State be closed in place rather by removal, which would require some 46,000 truckloads. The committee will review and discuss.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Commission Election Judges Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser will present a list of potential election judges for approval.
4. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman said she continues to be in communication with the auditor.
5. **State's Attorney Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported a state 4.7% Cost of Living Adjustment will apply to the State's Attorney salary beginning July 1, and subsequently to the Public Defender and Sheriff.
6. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** The committee will review recommended changes.
7. **FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman continues to work with Bellwether.
8. **Declare Supervisor of Assessments F-250 Surplus Update/Approval:** The committee will review and consider a recommendation.

9. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman said the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance District has already requested a levy that will require a Truth-In-Taxation Hearing, and she anticipates the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance District will do the same. There may be other similar requests from the other county special districts or special service areas.

Appointments for Full Board meeting:

1. **Bois D' Arc King #3 Drainage District Board – Bryan Fesser, Ed Goebel and Montgomery Elvidge**

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Monday, July 1st, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, County Board Member Ken Folkerts, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Jeremy Connor of Hurst-Rosche, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** A report and presentation is scheduled for next month.
3. **Animal Control Municipal Billing Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said he will discuss at the next Mayors Meeting. Animal Control Warden Gerl said she is meeting with the Irving Village Board on Tuesday, July 9th.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** The committee discussed correspondence from Fillmore Mayor Rexdon Boliard and Ruppert stated they will continue to work on the policy. Gerl reported 310 animals taken in to date and reviewed other stats on her report. Gerl showed the committee a “no kill” shelter plaque the facility received based on euthanasia rate stats.
5. **Wind & Solar Permit Fees Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed information from UCCI compiled by County Board Administration from 25 counties throughout the state. Currently, Montgomery County's ordinances require a \$2,500 fee for a solar siting permit and \$50,000 fee for a wind siting permit. Committee Chair Ruppert said he favored a fee structure based on “per megawatt” with a fee cap. **Motion by Jones and second by Bergen to recommend changing language in both the county Solar Ordinance and Wind Ordinance to reflect a non-refundable application fee equal to \$2,500 per megawatt of proposed nameplate capacity up to a maximum fee of \$250,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert asked County Board Administration to schedule a meeting for all office-holders to attend after the next Coordinating Committee meeting.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert would like the committee to consider all applications received to date at their next meeting.
8. **Other Business:** None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

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

Date: Monday, June 3rd, 2024

Time: 6:40PM

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: State Representative Wayne Rosenthal, County Board members Ken Folkerts and Connie Beck, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Jeremy Connor of Hurst-Rosche, Developer Alex Farkes, Engineer Sean Hickey and Attorney Ben Jacobi of 22c.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Committee Chair Chad Ruppert
2. **Identification of North Sun 22c Application and Project Overview:** Committee Chair Ruppert described the purpose of the hearing, which was to discuss the proposed solar project application for North Sun LLC submitted by 22c Development, LLC, as outlined in the Montgomery County Solar Energy Farm and Solar Gardens Installations in Unincorporated Montgomery County, Illinois Ordinance. The project application is to install an up-to-10 MW commercial solar energy facility on parcel 06-14-400-003 bound to the east by North Road and bound to the south by N. 21st Avenue. A verbatim record was taken by a court reporter; transcripts are available at the County Board Administration office.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert detailed rules and procedures.
4. **Presentation by Applicant:** Applicant Alex Farkes, Attorney Ben Jacobi, and Engineer Sean Hickey described the scope of the community solar project that will feed into an Ameren line. Farkes said that after discussion with neighbors, he would move the project to 200-foot setbacks from property lines instead of the ordinance-required 50-feet.
5. **Questions for Applicant:** In addition to members of the Committee, questions were asked by Tim Marten, Mark Schweizer, Dionne Manzer, Dan Mulch, Ken Manzer, and Jeremy Connor.
6. **Presentation by Independent Consultants for Montgomery County:** None
7. **Public Comment:** Ken Manzer addressed many concerns, including severe weather and basement drains, and said he believes that being surrounded on three sides by the solar project would diminish his enjoyment of his property. Dan Mulch referenced noise and glare, submitted photos of the application site from his property, invited the Committee to the site, and asked them to take time to review new information.
8. **Receipt of Written Comments Regarding the Application:** Committee Chair Ruppert accepted three letters into the record, one from the Wood Family Partnership, one from Larry Wernsing of Raymond, and one from Robert Mulch Sr.
9. **Closing Comments by Applicant:** None

10. Set Meeting Date for Deliberation and Vote to Recommend/Deny Application Update/Approval:

The meeting was recessed at 9:26 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 1st 2024.

Committee Chair Ruppert reconvened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 1st, with Chard Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Mark Hughes and Jeremy Jones present. Neighbor agreements between the project representative and the Manzlers and Mulches were entered into the record, as well as letters from the Manzlers and Mulches expressing no opposition to the project. A new project map was also entered into the record that indicated a 100-foot setback to the north and west and a 200-foot setback from Manzer property lines. Mulch indicated that North Sun has agreed to relocate components to mitigate any potential noise and has submitted a glare study. Committee Chair Ruppert questioned the impact of the new project location on existing drainage district tiles. Mulch, who is also a Drainage District Commissioner, said the district has no agreement yet. Committee Chair Ruppert suggested a condition to the siting permit be an agreement with the Raymond-Rountree Drainage District regarding the existing tile main. Committee Chair Ruppert then closed testimony. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beason to recommend approval of a siting permit for North Sun on the condition that the project reach an agreement over existing tile main with the Raymond-Rountree Drainage District. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Bergen, Beason, Hughes, Jones, Ruppert. All in favor, motion carried.**

11. Adjournment Update/Approval: Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Bob Sneed, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Ken Folkerts, and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 52 items on his monthly report. He stated weed killer has not been used around the Historic Courthouse cannon
3. **DAR Traveling Display Request Aug. 3-9 Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed said the Christiana Tillson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) had requested permission to display their Revolutionary War Veterans display on the Historic Courthouse lawn for Old Settlers. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to allow the Christiana Tillson DAR Chapter to place a Revolutionary War Veteran display on the Historic Courthouse lawn August 3rd through August 9th. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn was unable to attend and asked to be placed on the August committee agenda. Through email, he complimented the Historic Courthouse lawn and offered to provide bricks from his building that match the Historic Courthouse for the county to use as spares. Plunkett will put him in touch with Maintenance Director Ernst.
5. **New Courthouse Roof Replacement Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed began the discussion by explaining insurance adjusters determined the county has no claim for the Courts Complex roof. He then opened four bids: C&A Restoration \$126,345.89 plus \$50/sheet for any necessary sheeting replacement, Central Roofing \$108,380 plus \$3.65/square foot for sheeting, Young's Roofing \$188,880 plus \$80/sheet, and HD Exteriors \$128,576.31 with no bid for sheeting. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to recommend awarding the bid of \$126,345.89 to C&A Restoration of Rockford. Motion withdrawn.** During discussion before the motion was withdrawn, Sales Manager Aaron Bankes of C&A Restoration was present and told the committee his bid exceeded specs with a 50-year warranty on material and labor, and his bid would repair what he considered an error in installation where the current shingles meet the flat rubber roof. When Committee Chair Sneed asked Bankes if his bid met the prevailing wage requirement, the bidder asked what the term "prevailing wage" referred to. After a telephone call to State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Chairman Donaldson said the county is obligated to go with the low bid if it meets specs. Committee Chair Sneed said the low bid does meet specs, including where the shingles meet the flat rubber roof. Chairman Donaldson voted as an ex-officio member of the committee. **Motion by Folkerts and second by Beason to recommend awarding the low bid of \$108,380 to Central Roofing of Mattoon. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Folkerts, Sneed, Donaldson. Voting no: Beck, Beason. Motion carried 3-2.**
6. **Surplus Old Jail Generator Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed opened two bids, one from the Village of Taylor Springs for \$1,550 and the second from Brad Niemann for \$1,700.

Motion by Beason and second by Folkerts to sell the surplus old jail generator to Brad Niemann for \$1,700. All in favor, motion carried.

7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Work is progressing.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Electric work has been completed on schedule.
9. **Other Business:** Circuit Clerk Robbins asked if furniture from the Courts Complex that has been replaced can be declared surplus.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Agenda

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

Date: Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported on a recent conference call with UKA and their consultant. The Virden Wind developer has not finalized the construction haul route yet, and Greenwood needs to study the final haul route before determining pre-construction road needs.
3. **Vistra Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan Update/Approval:** The committee discussed a request from Vistra for the county to let the Illinois EPA know if it prefers an impoundment structure at Coffeen Power Station be closed in place rather than closed by removal. Engineer Greenwood said closure by removal will result in over 46,000 truckloads of material transported to a local landfill, averaging out to a truckload every two minutes. **Motion by Bergen and second by Loucks to recommend the county express to IEPA its opinion that an impoundment structure at Coffeen Power Station be closed in place. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that a meeting date will be set at a location in Walshville, likely at Village Hall, to discuss the proposed bypass with the public. He anticipates the meeting will be within the next few months.
5. **Surplus Equipment Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood asked to declare two Bush Hog rotary cutters as surplus property so they can be sold. Greenwood said the equipment has not been used since it was replaced by John Deere bat wing cutters. **Motion by Loucks and second by Bergen to recommend declaring a 2021 and a 2022 Bush Hog rotary cutter as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Other Items:** Chairman Donaldson reported that seismic testing at the Route 185 sink hole site revealed no void under the highway.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee Agenda
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm - County Board Room

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Sandy Leitheiser, Dan Hough

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Mark Hughes

Others Present: Dan Rogers, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration

A quorum was not present to conduct business. County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson chaired the meeting in the absence of Committee Chair Patty Whitworth. The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None

2. **2024 DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett advised the committee due to a math error, the committee still had \$126,549 grant funds to allocate in the application. The committee discussed using the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) services for scanning county records. Leitheiser said that is not an option for her land records because she would have to relinquish the originals, and had concerns about the records' security. Chairman Donaldson suggested adding \$50,000 to the Information Services phone system upgrade to complete the project, add \$11,800 for the maintenance request to repair and paint the band around the Historic Courthouse, and increasing the EMA request for a training area and safe room at the block building at the highway department to \$144,749. The committee concurred.

3. **Other Business:** None

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

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Agenda

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

Date: Friday, July 5th, 2024

Time: 8:33 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Evan Young

Members Absent: Andy Ritchie, Patty Whitworth and Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus noted her department is spending 2-3 days per week in field work. Wooded acres, she added, are being reassessed as they are sold because wooded acres sold after 2007 are no longer assessable as farmland. She is also looking into the assessment status of the Hillsboro Country Club and structures at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.
3. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported after a \$98,671 May coal royalty payment, the coal fund has a \$9.4 million total fund balance.
4. **Commission Election Judges Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser presented a list of potential Election Judges as provided by party chairs. If the list is approved by the full board, the County Clerk will publish a legal notice on July 11th announcing the date, time and location for the court commission approval of the list. **Motion by Young and second by Loucks to recommend commission of list of Election Judges. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the audit should be completed by July 25th.
6. **FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman dispersed second quarter General Fund reports provided by Bellwether, and provided non-General Fund reports from her office. She noted that the salaries line items in Animal Control deserve attention. Lohman reported department heads should have budget forms the following week, and will she suggest hearing dates to Bellwether. Two ambulance districts have requested levies substantially greater than 5% over last years, which will require at least two Truth-In-Taxation hearings. The Treasurer and County Board Administration will work on a schedule for the hearings.
7. **State's Attorney Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the State of Illinois has made a 4.7% cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the State's Attorney salary, which will also result in changes to other county office holder salaries determined by the State's Attorney's salary.
8. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser presented a revised Pre-Approved Vendors list, reflecting a vendor name change from Benefit Planning Consultants to Chard Snyder, and adding Direct Energy Business as the new power supplier. **Motion by Loucks and second by Folkerts to recommend approval of changes to the Pre-Approved Vendors list. All in favor, motion carried.**

9. Declare Supervisor of Assessments F-250 Surplus Update/Approval: Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said her office no longer needs a 2000 Ford F-250 that was originally purchased by the Montgomery County Highway Department. **Motion by Folkerts and second by Loucks to declare a 2000 Ford F-250 regular cab pickup truck as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**

10. Other Business: None

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

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

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

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

Date: Thursday, July 25th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Connie Beck, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: Andy Ritchie

Others Present: EMA Director Kevin Schott, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, IS Director Curt Watkins, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: Curt Watkins reported he has been working on switch upgrades, moving computers in the Circuit Clerk's office, working on the court grant and County Clerk renovations. He is beginning the ARPA-funded video storage project and plans to use coal reserves that will be reimbursed through the DCEO Energy Transition Grant to begin phone system upgrades.
2. EMA Report Update/Approval: Kevin Schott reported he plans to retire as of September 30th, and is planning a budget based on a full-time salaried replacement. He said serving the county has been an honor and a pleasure. Dan Hough reported on the landfill fire.
3. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported after a meeting on Thursday, July 18th, he remains Chair. The organization exceeded its goals for the past year, and requested Montgomery County Board adopt a proclamation naming September as Workforce Development Month.
4. Long Term Recovery Meeting (COAD) Update/Approval: Plunkett reported planning continues.
5. Witt Fire Department ARPA Request Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson passed the request along to the Finance & Budget Committee.
6. Nextlink Presentation Update/Approval: Mike Johnson will report to the full board.
7. Other Business: None

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval: Amanda Mast has resigned and Tony Johnston will report to the committee.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported Animal Control has exhausted its budget, and he predicts adjustments will need to be made.
3. Animal Control Policy Update/Approval: The committee will continue to discuss.
4. Wind & Solar Ordinances Update/Approval: The committee will discuss proposed changes centered around a description of the application process.
5. Plains Solar Update/Approval: The Public Hearing is in recess until August 12th; Committee Chair Ruppert anticipates postponing that hearing until later in the year.
6. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: Work continues on next phase application.
7. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval: Applicants have been invited to the committee meeting.
8. Other Business: None

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval: Jeff Dunn will be at the committee meeting.

3. Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval: Leitheiser reported work continues.
4. County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval: Circuit Clerk Robbins reported the schedule may be pushed back.
5. Other Business: Committee Chair Sneed reported working on the budget, a two-year plan, and the elevator contract.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval: The committee will continue to discuss.
2. Walshville Bypass Update/Approval: Greenwood reported a public information meeting is set for Tuesday, August 6th, from 4-7 p.m. at Walshville Village Hall.
3. Surplus Equipment Sale Update/Approval: Greenwood anticipates selling surplus Bush Hog mowers on the Government Deals website.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Vice Chair

1. SOA Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Audit Presentation Update/Approval: The audit should be ready for presentation.
4. FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval: Bellwether has established a hearing schedule on Thursday, August 1st. Sheriff Robbins questioned the process, and other office-holders echoed those concerns.
5. Truth-In-Taxation Discussion Update/Approval: The committee will discuss.
6. Convey Deeds to Village of Coalton Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. ARPA Ordinance for IS Video Back Storage Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
8. Surplus Ford F-250 Bid Opening Update/Approval: So far, no bids have been received.
9. MCSO Dodge Durango Bid Opening Update/Approval: One bid has been received.
10. Other Business: None

Announcements:

1. BLH Fall Electronics Recycling Update/Approval: Saturday, September 14, 9am-12noon, Highway Dept.

Appointments for Full Board meeting:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Monday, August 5th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Maggie Poteau of UKA, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Committee Chair Ruppert invited those who had submitted Small Biz Grant applications to introduce themselves, their business proposals, and answer questions. Ten of the 12 applicants were in attendance and did so.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the monthly HRA report and heard from Tony Johnston of Assured Partners regarding the status of the group health plan. Johnson described how the Member Advocacy Program had saved policy participants and reviewed county claims. During the 2023 policy year and so far in 2024, claims are running ahead of premiums. Because of that, Johnson told the county to expect a 35% renewal premium increase. When that number becomes available in late August or September, Johnson said Assured Partners will begin final negotiations and bidding health insurance coverage.
3. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Warden Gerl reported 24 dogs, including 5 bite cases, in a facility designed to hold 20. She was optimistic that some animals would soon be leaving on rescue transfers.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reported difficulties during the budget hearing with Bellwether on Thursday, August 1st, during which Animal Control requested a \$370,000 budget that would operate at a predicted \$270,000 deficit. Treasurer Lohman relayed Marion County operates Animal Control on an \$88,000 budget and Jefferson County operates on a \$79,000 budget. She said Finance & Budget Chair Andy Ritchie suggested Montgomery County Animal Control visit those counties. County Clerk Leitheiser asked about revenues received from the eight municipalities currently under contract. Treasurer Lohman also pointed out that Animal Control was on the verge of spending funds exceeding its appropriation this fiscal year. The committee discussed options to avoid that, and Chairman Donaldson suggested laying off all part-time employees.
5. **Wind & Solar Ordinances Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert presented a document describing the wind and solar permit procedure developed by County Board Administration, the Supervisor of Assessments, County Clerk and Recorder, and independent engineer Jeremy Connor for inclusion in both ordinances. The procedure describes steps in the county process from application through operating permit. **Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to recommend amending the county wind and solar ordinances to include the permit procedure. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said after the Plains Solar public hearing that began on July 1st had been recessed to August 12th, both the applicant and the county expressed an

interest in postponing resumption of the hearing. **Motion by Jones and second by Russell to reschedule resumption of the Plains Solar Public Hearing until 6 p.m. Monday, November 4th. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. **Oil Sun Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reported 22c had submitted a second solar application, this one for Oil Sun Solar, on Friday, August 2nd, after receiving the \$25,000 application fee on Friday, July 26th. The committee set a tentative public hearing date of 6 p.m. Monday, August 26th.
8. **Bushue HR Update/Approval:** During a meeting in July, Bushue HR presented a universal county employment application to be used by all or most county offices and posted on the county website. Applications completed online could be sent to all county officeholders. County Clerk Leitheiser requested the county encourage Bushue to provide any necessary updates to the county employee manual. **Motion by Jones and second by Bergen to recommend approval of the universal employment application developed by Bushue HR. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported the final phase of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant Application had been submitted on July 30th, a day ahead of the deadline, and received by DCEO.
10. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** After hearing from applicants earlier in the meeting, the committee reviewed and scored applications and made recommendations to award \$125,000 of the \$336,594.55 available grant funds. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to recommend awarding the following Small Biz grants: \$40,000 to Noko Sugar Rush in Nokomis; \$20,000 to Willow Lane in Litchfield; \$20,000 to Neon Café in Hillsboro; \$10,000 to The Revived Soul in Hillsboro; \$10,000 to Cosmo's Place in Litchfield; \$7,500 to Majors Ink in Litchfield; \$7,500 to Que-One-Seven in Hillsboro; \$5,000 to Interurban Designs in Hillsboro; \$5,000 to Scout House in Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried (Hughes abstained).**
11. **Other Business:** None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, August 6th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Sandy Leitheiser, Rick Robbins, Kendra Niehaus, Dan Hough, Hugh Satterlee, Phil Ernst

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** National Maintenance Cleaning was hired to clean the Historic Courthouse four hours per day during her medical absence. Sheriff Robbins reported he can't pay the clean company out of his salary line item. Phil Ernst reported on some of the items in his written report. The committee discussed the need to replace some parking lot light bulbs at the New Courthouse. **Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to approve the purchase new bulbs for the parking lot lights at the New Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn was absent and will report next month.
4. **Health Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Health Department Hugh Satterlee addressed the committee regarding a request for some county owned land behind the health department to build solar arrays. Hugh shared a diagram of how the project would look. The committee will look into the request.
5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Leitheiser stated the remodel project is moving along and both entrances to the office have been reopened. The glass for the counters still needs to be installed.
6. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** The technology upgrades to the board room should begin next month. Ameresco has been on site to evaluate and Hillsboro Electric has completed the electrical upgrades for the new equipment.
7. **Two-Year Plan Update/Approval:** Sneed reported he and Phil will be working on a two year plan for building and grounds projects to present next month. Committee discussed cleaning the outside of the windows on the Historic Court and decided to wait until the roof is replaced.
8. **Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the elevator maintenance contract will be addressed in November.
9. **Other Business:**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Chris 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, August 7th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood shared a map of the proposed road use for the UKA Virden Wind Project for committee members to review.
3. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported he attended the Public Information Meeting regarding the Walshville Trail Improvement Project that was held on August 6th, 2024 at Village Hall. There were 4 alternatives for the project prepared by WHKS Engineering shared with the public. Greenwood stated there were about 22 people in attendance and the meeting went well. Some written comments were received and Greenwood said the next step is to address those. Right of Way will need to be negotiated.
4. **Other Items:** The committee discussed the request from Hugh Satterlee at the Health Department for some land to install their solar array. The Building and Grounds Committee will address the request.

Motion by Bergen, second by Ruppert to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, August 8th, 2024

Time: 8:32 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth (arrived at 10:50 a.m.), and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: Engineer Cody Greenwood, EMA Director Kevin Schott and Assistant Dan Hough, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl, County Board members Mark Hughes and Chad Ruppert, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, bidders Harry Jackson and Eric Gray.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Engineer Cody Greenwood.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported she will no longer require structural improvement notifications for residential solar installation. She also told the committee she would like to change her budget request by transferring some of the money in her salary line item to the line that funds her staff salaries.
3. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie noted a coal royalty payment of \$79,887.87 in June and a Capital Fund balance of \$1,468,337.15 as of June 30.
4. **Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the audit is finished and will be presented to the County Board in August or September. She also informed the committee she would like to group grants in one grant fund next fiscal year, which will require a resolution to transfer funds.
5. **Convey Deeds to Village of Coalton Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman presented resolutions to transfer to Trustee parcels in Coalton, 08-27-310-012 and 08-27-134-035, to the Village of Coalton for \$820 each. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Loucks to recommend conveying parcels 08-27-310-012 and 08-27-134-035 to the Village of Coalton for \$820 each. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **ARPA Ordinance for IS Video Back Storage Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed ARPA ordinances funding three previously approved projects, but only one was on the committee agenda. All three will be considered by the full county board. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed \$24,000 made available from ARPA funds for the purchase of Data Storage Monitoring for the IT Department. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Witt ARPA Request Update/Approval:** The Witt Fire Department recently emailed a request for ARPA funds for a training facility. Chairman Donaldson said since matching funding sources have fallen through, the request does not need considered.
8. **Surplus Ford F-250 Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie opened the bids for the surplus Ford F-250, the first from Eric Gray for \$251 and the second from Harry Jackson for \$650. Both were present, and Gray declined the option to raise his bid. **Motion by Ritchie and second by**

Beck to recommend selling the surplus For F-250 to winning bidder Harry Jackson for \$650. All in favor, motion carried.

9. MCSO Dodge Durango Bid Opening Update/Approval: Sheriff Robbins and Undersheriff Holshouser reported the loan bidder for a new Dodge Durango squad was Victory Lane in Carlinville for \$43,193. The Montgomery County Health Department is providing funds to purchase and equip the vehicle, which will be available in a few weeks.

10. FY 2025 Budget Process Update/Approval: The committee discussed several remaining issues from the August 1st FY 2025 budget meeting conducted by Bellwether. The first was Animal Control, who had requested a \$370,000 budget. Warden Gerl said she currently employs a staff of six in addition to herself, but two are off work for medical reasons. State's Attorney Affrunti asked for their job descriptions, and Beck pointed out the salaried department head should be responsible for more of the work. Development & Personnel Committee Chair Ruppert requested the County Reimbursement revenue line be increased from \$7,500 to \$15,000 and suggested increasing the Municipal Reimbursement line from \$0 to \$40,000. Ruppert told the board he would work with Gerl to resubmit the budget based on anticipated revenues. State's Attorney Affrunti was asked for options for the current fiscal year in which Animal Control salary expenses are on the verge of exceeding the appropriation. The State's Attorney scheduled a meeting with Gerl and Ruppert for 1:30 pm Tuesday, August 13th, and asked for payroll vouchers to review in the meantime.

In response to questions about Highway Department requests, Engineer Greenwood said the \$300,000 Building Maintenance request was to account for any unforeseen costs in construction of the Highway Department's ARPA-funded building, and the \$600,000 requested from coal funds was for a blade mix on Niemannville Trail and to partially fund a new tandem truck.

State's Attorney Affrunti reported to the committee his full-time salary line item increased due to the addition of a second secretary, but his Assistant State's Attorney salary line item will remain the same as the current fiscal year.

Sheriff Robbins discussed the need for a full-time \$17/hour FOIA office position, and the committee concurred. Chairman Donaldson reported the EMA budget will go from three part-time positions to two part-time positions, but EPA responsibilities will be moved from County Board Administration and combined with EMA Director position to make it a full-time job.

11. Truth-In-Taxation Discussion Update/Approval: Assistant County Board Administrator Plunkett reported the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance, Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance, 708 Board and VAC had requested levies that would require a truth-in-taxation hearing, and the tentative levy for county funds would also require a hearing. The county board must approve an estimated tax levy during their September meeting.

12. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes

Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Building
301 South Cleveland St. Farmersville, IL 62533

Date: Monday, September 23rd, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Connie Beck, Jeremy Jones, Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Christine Daniels, Attorney Alex Rabin, and Ambulance Board members: Jack Webb Mike Webb, Cheryl Hampton and Liz Brown.
2. **Acknowledgement of Publication of Public Hearing Notice in Local Newspaper:** Affrunti acknowledged a proper legal notice was published in the Thursday, September 12, edition of The Journal-News.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Affrunti pointed out that the Rules for the public hearing were printed on the back of the agenda.
4. **Presentation of Levy Request by Taxing Body:** Farmersville-Waggoner Board member Mike Webb pointed the need for the increase in the levy. The requested amount is \$114,200 which is a 38.2% increase.
5. **Questions for Taxing Body:**
 - a. **Members of Units of Local Government:** Farmersville-Waggoner Board members Jack Webb, Mike Webb and Cheryl Hampton all spoke in favor of the increase and stated the extra funding is much needed to keep the service going. They also stated that it is very hard to find volunteers and the ones currently active are in their 60's.
 - b. **Members of the Public:** None
6. **Public Comment:**
 - a. **Those who Requested to Present Testimony:** None
 - b. **Members of the Public:** County Board member Jeremy Jones who represents the District for this area stated the Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance needs the money to operate the service and he would like to see it happen.
7. **Closing Statements by Taxing Body:** None
8. **Adjournment of Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed by Affrunti at 6:05 p.m.

Hillsboro Area Ambulance Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Andy Ritchie, Evan Young, David Loucks, Ken Folkerts, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Jeremy Jones, Patty Whitworth, Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Ed Boyd, Dan Hough, Mike Plunkett, and Barb Schmedeke.
2. **Acknowledgement of Publication of Public Hearing Notice in Local Newspaper:** Affrunti acknowledged a proper legal notice was published in the Thursday, September 12, edition of The Journal-News.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Affrunti pointed out rules were printed on the back of the agenda.
4. **Presentation of Levy Request by Taxing Body:** Hillsboro Area Ambulance Director pointed out that the Special Service area has under-levied and used surplus funds. In recent years, costs have risen and salaries have increased to retain staff.
5. **Questions for Taxing Body:**
 - a. **Members of Units of Local Government:** In response to questions, Schmedeke said Hillsboro Area Ambulance will be raising fees for service, but Medicare and Public Aid set the fees they pay. Reserves have fallen from \$458,000 in February to \$227,000 in July, and Hillsboro Area Ambulance has spent roughly \$158,000 covering Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance calls. Schmedeke also presented their most recent audit.
 - b. **Members of the Public:** None
6. **Public Comment:**
 - a. **Those who Requested to Present Testimony:** None
 - b. **Members of the Public:** Jeremy Jones pointed out that the cost of ambulance equipment has more than tripled in recent years. Ed Boyd said ambulance special services areas are not-for-profit organizations with local boards.
7. **Closing Statements by Taxing Body:** Schmedeke pointed out ambulance special service areas routinely provide better service than for-profit services.
8. **Adjournment of Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed by Affrunti at 6:28 p.m.

Community Mental Health Board Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Time: 6:32 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti at 6:32 p.m. Also present were Andy Ritchie, Evan Young, Ken Folkerts, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Jeremy Jones, Patty Whitworth, Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Ed Boyd, Dan Hough, Mike Plunkett, Cory Bilyeu, and Ethan Murzynski.
2. **Acknowledgement of Publication of Public Hearing Notice in Local Newspaper:** Affrunti acknowledged a proper legal notice was published in the Thursday, September 12, edition of The Journal-News.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Affrunti pointed out rules were printed on the back of the agenda.
4. **Presentation of Levy Request by Taxing Body:** Dan Hough reviewed the history of the Community Mental Health Board, whose levy cap of .15 was approved by voters. Hough said the current rate is .12. Hough said the board made \$799,000 in awards this year in response to \$940,000 in funding requests.
5. **Questions for Taxing Body:**
 - a. **Members of Units of Local Government:** Questions were asked about funds awarded to other taxing bodies, such as school districts and the health department. Hough said funding is if the request is for a service that is not being provided.
 - b. **Members of the Public:** None
6. **Public Comment:**
 - a. **Those who Requested to Present Testimony:** None
 - b. **Members of the Public:** None
7. **Closing Statements by Taxing Body:** None
8. **Adjournment of Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed by Affrunti at 6:56 p.m.

Veterans Assistance Commission Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Andy Ritchie, Evan Young, David Loucks, Ken Folkerts, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Jeremy Jones, Patty Whitworth, Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Ed Boyd, Dan Hough, Mike Plunkett, Ethan Murzynski, Christine Daniels, Cassandra Hampton, Dave Strowmatt, and members of the VAC Board.
2. **Acknowledgement of Publication of Public Hearing Notice in Local Newspaper:** Affrunti acknowledged a proper legal notice was published in the Thursday, September 12, edition of The Journal-News.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Affrunti pointed out rules were printed on the back of the agenda.
4. **Presentation of Levy Request by Taxing Body:** Superintendent Cassandra Hampton gave a history of the VAC, beginning with voters approving a .02 tax levy. In 2017 the commission had \$250,000 in reserves, so the board elected to decrease the levy and use reserve funding. Now the reserve is down to \$25,000. Hampton also described the services provided by the commission, noting that over 2000 veterans are served annually, and the commission has helped bring in over \$10 million annually in assistance.
5. **Questions for Taxing Body:**
 - a. **Members of Units of Local Government:** In response to questions, Hampton said the VAC receives no federal funding. Although need-based funding can only be distributed to Montgomery County veterans, the office will serve veterans on a number of issues regardless of their address.
 - b. **Members of the Public:** None
6. **Public Comment:**
 - a. **Those who Requested to Present Testimony:** None
 - b. **Members of the Public:** Dave Strowmatt said Hampton has improved the VAC; to continue that work the service needs to be properly funded.
7. **Closing Statements by Taxing Body:** None
8. **Adjournment of Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed by Affrunti at 7:17 p.m.

Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Truth In Taxation Hearing Minutes

Nokomis City Hall
22 South Cedar Street, Nokomis, Illinois, 62075

Date: Wednesday, September 25th, 2024

Time: 6:04 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** The Public Hearing was called to order by State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Nikki Lohman, Sandy Leitheiser, Mike Plunkett, Dave Schweizer, Dennis Aumann, Ken Folkerts, Kirby Furness, Joletta Hill, Gary Wemple, Nelson Aumann, Evan Young, Chad Ruppert, Dylan Goldsmith, Dan Rogers, Patty Whitworth, Andy Ritchie, Ellen Christner, Aaron Johnston, Angela Lynch, Jared German, Tyler Beaty, Jared Spears, Michael Smalley, Brett Goldsmith, Mike Stombaugh, Don Keiser and others who did not sign in .
2. **Acknowledgement of Publication of Public Hearing Notice in Local Newspaper:** Affrunti acknowledged a proper legal notice was published in the Thursday, September 12th, edition of The Journal-News.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Affrunti pointed out rules were printed on the back of the agenda.
4. **Presentation of Levy Request by Taxing Body:** Board member Dave Schweizer said the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service does not generate sufficient revenue from fees for service. In recent years, the pandemic and inflation have impacted expenses. He said the service currently taxes at a rate of .385 but is allowed to tax up to a rate of .45. Because the County Board used to include ambulance levies with their levy, the service has taxed below its rate cap. He also reported difficulties in finding staff and the suspension of running transfers due to ambulance break-downs.
5. **Questions for Taxing Body:**
 - a. **Members of Units of Local Government:** In response to questions from local government officials, Schweizer said the service had 24-hour staffing until two years ago but currently runs 12-hour shifts three or four days a week; volunteers handle the rest. The service currently has about \$200,000 in reserve, but that amount must last until the 2025 taxes are received. The service has been borrowing funds and repaying them when taxes are received. He also answered questions on the ambulance fleet, a 2005, 2006, and 2010 that is broke down. The services is audited by Patton & Company annually, and Schweizer reported previous problems with collections when billing was handled by Montgomery County.
6. **Public Comment:** State's Attorney Affrunti went around the room giving everyone in attendance the opportunity to make a comment or ask questions. Board member Gary Wemple said that while the service collected only \$135,000 for service the past year, Workers Comp insurance is up 37%, as are utilities, insurance, oxygen and supplies. The service needs to add a second crew, but other ambulance services are paying \$4-6 per hour more. Witt Fire Chief Don Keiser said he recognized the service's needs, but property taxes continue to rapidly rise. Board member Nelson Aumann pointed out that as an appraiser, home values are increasing faster than farmland. Dan Rogers asked about the services plan for hiring and long-term plan, and would like to see the service return to the practice of running transfers. Mayor Dylan Goldsmith asked about calls per month, the plan to return to Advanced Life

Support (ALS) service, and expressed doubts that the current board could operate the service efficiently. Ellen Christner asked if the service could be put out for bids. Mike Stombaugh, a former EMT, questioned how the service got to a point where more money is required to operate a lesser service. Board member Jared German said while the service has few volunteers now, they are working to recruit more. Kirby Furness said he believed a \$500,000 tax levy would not be enough for the service to reach its goal, and said he believed contracting with another service to provide ambulance service for Nokomis could be a better plan. Brett Goldsmith asked how crews are scheduled to staff the service, and Treasurer Nikki Lohman asked about training future volunteers and staff members.

7. **Closing Statements by Taxing Body:** Board member Nelson Aumann said it is imperative to keep the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance service active, noting if an ambulance had not responded to him in less than five minutes, he would not be alive.
8. **Adjournment of Public Hearing:** The Public Hearing was closed by Affrunti at 7:38 p.m.

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

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024

Time: 8:33 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Engineer Cody Greenwood, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, IS Director Curt Watkins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Tony Johnson of Assured Partners by telephone

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: Curt Watkins reported the new front desk for court security is in and his office is working on connections as well as finishing work in the Circuit Clerk's office. Courtroom equipment has been delayed, and his office is still updating PCs and tracking phishing emails. Future plans include security video storage, multi-factor log-ins and a phone system upgrade.
2. EMA Report Update/Approval: Dan Hough reported the transition is going well. He intends to make an inventory list and attend training sessions in November.
3. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported the next meeting is set for October 17th.
4. Extension Budget Presentation to County Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported Committee Chair Andy Ritchie and Mike Plunkett met with Sara Marten on September 18th, and she will be at the October County Board meeting to make a presentation.
5. Operation Green Light for Veterans Update/Approval: A resolution will be presented to the full board to support Operation Green Light for Veterans by lighting the Historic Courthouse green November 4-11.
6. County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval: The committee reviewed and discussed the resolution requiring PLAs passed in 2011 and turned over to the Development & Personnel Committee for a recommendation.
7. Appointment of EPA Inspector/Administrator As of Oct. 9, 2024 Update/Approval: Dan Hough will be appointed as of December 2nd at the November board meeting.
8. Accept Retirement Letter Sheriff Robbins as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval: The County Board will take action October 8th.
9. Appointment of County Sheriff as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval: The County Board will take action on October 8th.
10. Accept Retirement Letter Coordinator Daniels as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval: The County Board will take action at the November board meeting to accept the retirement letter as of November 29th.
11. Appointment of County Coordinator as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval: The County Board will take action at the November meeting to make an appointment as of December 2nd.
12. Appointment of Enterprise Administrator as of Nov. 1, 2024 Update/Approval: The County Board will take action at the November meeting to make an appointment as of December 2nd.
13. Other Business: None

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported four pending applications to review.
2. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval: During a telephone conversation with Tony Johnson of Assured Partners at the end of the meeting, the committee reviewed a proposal for switching to

four Blue Cross Blue Shield options and eliminating the HRA at an anticipated premium increase of 13.5 percent.

3. 2025 Holiday Schedule Update/Approval: The committee will review and make a recommendation.
4. FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval: A meeting has been scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 9th, to begin negotiations.
5. Animal Control Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported new Animal Control Warden April Pier began work on Monday, September 23rd. Chairman Donaldson reported the proposed Animal Control contracts were well-received by mayors at the Wednesday, September 25th, meeting.
6. Plains Solar Update/Approval: Resumption of the public hearing will be scheduled.
7. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: Mike Plunkett reported to date, the county has submitted \$838,424.78 in expenditures for grant reimbursement and has received nothing.
8. City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported the Surplus Delinquent Properties Fund previously used to assist municipalities has replenished. Lohman also suggested potentially using the fund to offset the cost of recycling TVs or a shredding event.
9. Other Business: None

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Schindler Elevator Non-Renewal Letter Update/Approval: A letter has been prepared to meet contractual requirements.
3. Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval: Committee Chair Sneed said Phil Ernst has been soliciting proposals.
4. Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval: Health Department Administrator Satterlee said a surveyor has been scheduled and he is proceeding with plans.
5. Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval: County Clerk Leitheiser said the contractor is waiting on safety glass to arrive.
6. County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval: Equipment has been delayed.
7. Other Business: NAGS will attend the committee meeting to request signage for the Arches Rail Trail.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood reported UKA documents should arrive soon.
2. Walshville Bypass Update/Approval: The committee will continue to discuss.
3. Solar Panel Project Update/Approval: The committee will review progress.
4. Heavy Equipment Shed Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood reported concrete and electric bid openings are set for November.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. SOA Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Kane County Intergovernmental Agreement Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
4. Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the resolution provided by County Clerk Leitheiser.
5. FY 2024 Audit Update/Approval: The County Board will be asked to accept the audit as presented.
6. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. Aggregate FY 2025 Tax Levy Update/Approval: The committee will review and recommend final levy amounts.
8. FY 2024 Animal Control Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert will have a recommendation.
9. FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported an FY 2024 budget amendment may be needed due to an extra payroll on the final day of the fiscal year.
10. Senior Citizens Solar Update/Approval: Senior Citizens may need financial help beginning this project if DCEO reimbursements for previous projects are delayed.
11. Other Business: County Clerk Leitheiser suggested a study from either Bellwether or Maximus regarding ambulance services.

Announcements: None

Appointments for Full Board meeting: None

Motion to adjourn by Donaldson and second by Ruppert. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leifheiser.

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

Date: Monday, September 30th, 2024

Time: 5:05 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Jeremy Jones, Russell Beason

Members Absent: Bill Bergen, Mark Hughes, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Tony Johnson of Assured Partners, Rebecca Cheatham of Cypress Creek Renewables, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Chris and Melanie Sherer, Dan Rogers, Matt Weiss, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Trish Roemelin, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Tyler Yount

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** The committee heard from and asked questions of Small Biz Grant applicants Dan Rogers of First Due Consulting, Tyler Yount of Salon RE, Matt Weiss of Weiss Construction, and Chris and Melanie Sherer of Mel's Slots. Near the end of the meeting, the committee discussed and scored applications. **Motion by Beason and second by Jones to recommend awarding the following Small Biz grants: \$15,000 to Mel's Slots in Taylor Springs, \$15,000 to First Due Consulting in Irving, \$12,500 to Weiss Construction in Hillsboro, and \$5,000 to Salon RE in Coffeen. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reviewed the report with \$40,751 in HRA expenses to date. Tony Johnson of Assured Partners informed the committee after a 39% renewal increase from United Healthcare, he is recommending switching to Blue Cross Blue Shield at an 11% increase with an 8% rate cap next year. The proposal would make the county's cost the same across four offered plans, eliminate the HRA, and by-and-large be less expensive than current options for employees. Open enrollment would begin October 21st. **Motion by Jones and Second by Beason to recommend the Assured Partners Blue Cross Blue Shield employee health insurance proposal. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **2025 Holiday Schedule Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the proposed 2025 Holiday Schedule, which adds Christmas Eve as a county holiday. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said if a holiday must be exchanged for Christmas Eve, removing Election Day from the holiday schedule would be cost effective. County Clerk Leitheiser reminded the committee Election Day is a federal holiday. Since there is no Election Day federal holiday in 2025, the committee discussed approving the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule with 14 holidays as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval:** The committee will begin contract negotiations at 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 9th. Plunkett will check with Bushue HR about any contract language revision suggestions.
6. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reported new Warden April Pier has been attending training. She has been cleaning up the facility and found cash and checks dating back to May. Committee member Jones said he would like to have Animal Control Policy revisions completed sooner than later.

7. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Project Manager Rebecca Cheatham of Cypress Creek Renewables was present and told the committee due to impact of Hurricane Helene on her company's home office in North Carolina, resumption of the Plains Solar public hearing should be postponed until no earlier than November. She said she has been meeting with neighbors of the project, and the committee told her they want to see a detailed map of the project location on Tosetti property and distance of the project from neighbors.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported after Treasurer Lohman made contact with the Governor's office, response from DCEO has improved and payments are pending. Nextlink provided a written update; their towers in the northern part of the county are up and running, and they are finalizing locations on towers to the south which will be partially funded by the DCEO grant. A voucher for the \$100,000 grant amount is among this month's bills and will be roll called at the Full Board meeting.
9. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman gave a history of the account established by former Treasurer Ron Jenkins from the sale of surplus delinquent properties from which the county would fund up to \$500 to municipalities for dumpsters for city-wide clean-up days. The program was paused in 2012 when the fund depleted, but it has since built back up and Lohman suggested returning the program. She also asked the committee to consider funds for TV drop-offs at the Electronic Recycling drives and a potential county shred day. She will continue to research details. **Motion by Beason and second by Jones to reinstate the municipal clean-up program, increasing reimbursable dumpster expenses from \$500 to \$750, beginning in Fiscal Year 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Project Labor Agreement Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said he is reviewing the resolution passed in 2011 requiring the County to attach a project labor agreement (PLA) to projects over \$100,000. Ruppert said he is waiting for feedback from the State's Attorney and believes the amount is outdated.

11. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

Time: 8:38 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Bob Sneed, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Ken Folkerts, and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, NAGs President Glenn Savage

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** County Clerk Leitheiser asked if pavement near the Montgomery County Courthouse needs cleaned up further after the roof replacement. Maintenance Director Ernst said he has done so and will send out an email so that county employees may once again park there.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst reviewed his 80-item report. The roof on the Montgomery County Courthouse was finished within a week and a half despite numerous court-required shut-downs, and a 13-year-old chiller is down at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Ernst is researching repair and replacement costs.
3. **Arches Rail Trail Signs Prohibiting Motorized Vehicles Update/Approval:** NAGs President Glenn Savage asked the county to consider installing signs to prohibit motorized traffic on the Arches Rail Trail between Bremer Sanctuary and Butler. NAGs has maintained the county recreational trail since its inception in 2011, and Savage said motorized vehicles are cutting muddy ruts that interfere with foot and bicycle access. Four signs are needed. NAGs will, with input from the State's Attorney, suggest wording for the signs and research costs.
4. **Schindler Elevator Non-Renewal Letter Update/Approval:** The current contract with Schindler expires February 27th. Committee Chair Sneed signed a non-renewal letter that will be sent out on November 7th per contract requirements.
5. **Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst is soliciting proposals and the committee will review next month.
6. **Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed said survey work has been ordered and the Health Department solar project is moving forward.
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed reported the project is largely complete except for security glass.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett said Circuit Clerk Robbins had informed him that due to a change in staff at Thompson Electronic Company, a new project manager is catching up. Thompson staff were in the building taking assessments that morning.
9. **Other Business:** None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Bill Bergen

Other Present: County Board Assistant Administrator Mike Plunkett, Maggie Poteau of UKA by telephone

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski said the county is still waiting on a traffic impact analysis. Maggie Poteau of UKA, present by telephone, said the company should have the analysis to the county by the end of October or early November. Poteau also reported the company has begun work on the Phase II footprint with new land agents joining the team.
3. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski said the consultant continues to work on response letters to public comments. A meeting with a local land-owner has been planned.
4. **Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township – Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a tabulation sheet from a Monday, September 30th, bid letting. Two bids were received. The low bid from C Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill for \$816,789.70 was less than the \$865,000 engineer's estimate. Committee Chair Murzynski said County Engineer Cody Greenwood had reviewed the low bid and recommended accepting it. **Motion by Loucks and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding the low bid of \$816,789.70 from C Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill for Section 17-05121-00-BR Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement in Fillmore Consolidated Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Arches Rail Trail Sign Request from Natural Area Guardians Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said Natural Area Guardians (NAGs) President Glenn Savage had asked the Buildings & Grounds Committee for signage prohibiting motorized vehicles on the county-owned Arches Rail Trail. NAGs will work with the State's Attorney on sign language, and Committee Chair Murzynski said the Montgomery County Highway Department can order and install the signs. Details will be finalized next month.
6. **Other Items:** None

Motion by Loucks, second by Ruppert to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Loucks, second by Whitworth to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

Time: 8:34 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Dave Schweizer of the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance, Kirby Furness, Chris Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ellen Christner, Chief Deputy Supervisor of Assessments Cindy Laurent, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Senior Probation Officer Brian Hampton, VAC Superintendent Cassandra Hampton, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie

1. **Public Comment:** Dave Schweizer of the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Board presented to the committee a five-year plan, suggested at the Truth-in-Taxation hearing. He said the levy increase sought by the district would cost \$40 per year to the average homeowner. He said he believed the district needs at least \$425,000 to meet its FY 2025 budget. Kirby Furness said after looking into other ambulance districts, he believes Nokomis-Witt should operate more like Raymond-Harvel and Farmersville-Waggoner as a Basic Life Support service. He said Nokomis-Witt does not have the volume to support an Advanced Life Support service.
2. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Chief Deputy Supervisor of Assessments Laurent said EAV has increased \$23 million to over \$600 million for tax year 2024 payable in 2025. She responded to several questions about timberland reassessments.
3. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie reported an August coal royalty payment of \$185,829.42 and interest of \$41,662.14.
4. **Kane County Intergovernmental Agreement for Juvenile Detention Update/Approval:** Senior Probation Officer Hampton reported since the closure of Juvenile Detention centers in Franklin and Sangamon County, his office had reached an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County as a back up to Juvenile Detention services in Madison County. The cost to Montgomery County will be \$175 per day when utilized. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend approval of an intergovernmental agreement with Kane County for Juvenile Detention services. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported the State's Attorney is reviewing a resolution that would require state agencies pay the same recording fees as the public. The resolution will be considered by the committee next month.
6. **FY 2023 Audit Update/Approval:** The County Board has been reviewing the audit report presented in September. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend approval of the FY 2023 Audit Report. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman presented an updated tentative FY 2025 budget that predicts a \$223,629 General Fund surplus after changes in several line items, most notably a change in predicted health insurance costs. She also presented the committee which small changes still to be made, and pointed out that final property/casualty, workers comp, and unemployment insurance premiums will need to be adjusted. Treasurer Lohman pointed out there is still \$213,478 in

ARPA funds yet to be committed. Vice Chairman Young asked if those funds could be transferred to the General Fund and Lohman said she would inquire. Whitworth and Beck both voiced they would prefer to see ARPA funds committed to specific projects that could offset predicted General Fund expenses. Committee Chair Ritchie requested the committee to come up with ideas, develop a plan at the November committee meeting, and contract for the projects in December.

8. **Aggregate FY 2025 Tax Levy Update/Approval:** The committee spent ample time discussing the estimated tax levies, most notably the five that had hosted Truth-in-Taxation hearings last month. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend a Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance levy of \$114,200 (an increase of 38.2487%). All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Whitworth second by Beck to recommend a Hillsboro Area Ambulance levy of \$300,000 (an increase of 164.5104%). ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Beck, Whitworth, Ritchie. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Young. Motion failed 3-3. Motion by Young second by Folkerts to recommend a Hillsboro Area Ambulance levy of \$226,834 (an increase of 100%). ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Folkerts, Loucks, Young. Voting no: Beck, Whitworth, Ritchie. Motion failed 3-3. Motion by Ritchie to recommend a Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance levy of \$500,000 (an increase of 56.6552%); motion died for lack of second. Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend a Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance levy of \$88,738 (an increase of 4.9997%). All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend a Veterans Assistance Commission levy of \$113,086 (an increase of 105.4626%). All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend a Community Mental Health levy of \$945,411 (an increase of 40.0158%). ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Beck, Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Young, Ritchie. Motion failed 2-4. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend a Senior Social Services levy of \$119,672 (an increase of 4.5942%). All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend an Extension Service levy of \$157,000 (a decrease of 0.0202%). All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend a Montgomery County Aggregate levy of \$4,906,619 (an increase of 4.9999%). All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **FY 2024 Animal Control Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported Development & Personnel Committee Chair Chad Ruppert is working on a solution that will likely require a budget amendment.
10. **FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman said since an extra payroll happens to fall on the final day of the fiscal year, a budget amendment will likely be necessary because county accounting is cash basis and not accrual.
11. **Senior Citizens Solar Update/Approval:** Senior Services had requested solutions for beginning a grant reimbursable solar project. Treasurer Lohman said funds could be used from their account balance or the grant fund that will be in the FY 2025 budget.
12. **Other Business:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported the potential of new Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts in the county, and shared a spreadsheet on the impact of the current four county TIFs to taxing bodies. Plunkett asked for and received guidance on two outstanding invoices.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Special Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

Time: 8:34 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, EMA Director Kevin Schott, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, VAC Superintendent Cassandra Hampton, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, IS Director Curt Watkins, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Roads & Bridges Committee Chair Ethan Murzynski

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Bloome Water Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie noted some offices are buying water and coffee from budget funds, and some are paying themselves. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said she typically pays for water in her office from her pocket, but had unintentionally signed a voucher for \$18. The voucher has since been voided. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend establishing a policy that each office self-fund beverages. Motion and second withdrawn.**
3. **FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** The committee re-examined Fund 308 Document Storage expenses, addressed a typo on page 45 of the budget, heard from Treasurer Lohman about a plan to move grants to a separate fund, discussed Bellwether budget services, and a new FOIA officer at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The board also reviewed the FY 2025 Animal Control Budget, which balances pending a \$58,000 transfer from the Vanek Estate. The Animal Control budget has been cut by \$170,000 from its first presentation. State's Attorney Affrunti reminded the committee that according to state statute, the Animal Control Administrator, currently Development & Personnel Committee Chair Chad Ruppert, is ultimately responsible for the department. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend retaining Bellwether for budget preparation next year. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Ritchie, Beck, Whitworth. Voting no: Folkerts, Loucks, Young. Motion failed. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend keeping a new FOIA officer in the FY 2025 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office budget. None in favor, motion failed.**
4. **Tax Levy Discussion Update/Approval:** The committee discussed estimated tax levies, which must be approved at the September meeting. Hillsboro, Farmersville-Waggoner, and Nokomis-Witt ambulance districts, as well as the Veterans Assistance Commission and Community Mental Health Board have all requested levies substantially greater than 5% over last years, which would require truth-in-taxation hearings. The levies currently requested by County offices total a 13.4687% increase, which would also require a truth-in-taxation hearing. Responding to questions from the committee, State's Attorney Affrunti said the County Board ultimately determines ambulance levies. The committee requested County Board Administration work with Treasurer Lohman to develop a levy with less than a 5% increase for comparison.
5. **Other Business:** None

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, August 29th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed

Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: IS Director Curt Watkins, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Kevin Schott, EMA Assistant Dan Hough, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: Curt Watkins reported his department is working on courtroom multimedia projects, working on the Montgomery and Christian County CAD-to-CAD connection, and has noticed an uptick in phishing emails caught by the county firewall.
2. EMA Report Update/Approval: Kevin Schott said transition work continues, and Dan Hough reported he has been training and reaching out to contacts.
3. EMA Director Appointment Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson said he will recommend promoting Dan Hough to EMA Director at the September board meeting. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Ritchie to recommend approval of the appointment of Dan Hough as Montgomery County EMA Director effective October 1, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson said goals were exceeded for this year and will increase for next. The council meets next in October.
5. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson shared a FOIA response from IDNR requested by County Board Administration regarding the Route 185 sink hole.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval: More applicants will be invited to the September 30th committee meeting.
2. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Employee Performance Appraisal Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the form recommended by Bushue.
4. Employee Exit Policy & Procedures Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the form recommended by Bushue.
5. Animal Control Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported Animal Control Warden Emily Gerl submitted her resignation effective August 29th. County Board Administration is collecting applications for the vacancy.
6. Oil Sun Solar Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported the committee recessed the Monday, August 26th, public hearing until Thursday, September 5th.
7. Plains Solar Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert noted the recessed public hearing is tentatively scheduled to resume on November 4th, but that schedule may be adjusted.
8. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The County received preliminary notification of the grand award.
9. Grain Belt Express Appellate Decision Update/Approval: Chairman Ruppert reported an appellate court has overturned the decision to grant eminent domain.
10. Other Business: The committee will review and discuss the tentative 2025 holiday schedule. Treasurer Nikki Lohman asked the committee to consider adding Christmas Eve to the holiday list; other officeholders present concurred. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus asked the board to consider a dress code.

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. VAV Controller Replace & Upgrade Judges Office Update/Approval: Committee Chair Sneed said the item did not need to be on the committee agenda.
3. Two-Year Plan Update/Approval: Chairman Sneed reported work continues.
4. Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval: Jeff Dunn is scheduled to address the committee.
5. Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval: Committee Chair Sneed reported the Health Department is working on a survey.
6. Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval: Work continues and is nearing completion.
7. County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval: Work will begin this fall.
8. Other Business: The committee will discuss surplus office equipment and the future of the Green Diamond Bike Trail.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval: Engineer Cody Greenwood said UKA continues to work on their traffic impact analysis.
2. Walshville Bypass Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood reported that after the public meeting last month, consultants are working on responses to public comments.
3. Surplus Equipment Sale Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood said two surplus mowers up for bid did not meet their reserve for a second time. He is considering keeping the mowers.
4. Other Business: Engineer Greenwood said the committee will review bid openings for a heavy equipment shed and solar panels. Chairman Donaldson asked about the 2011 County resolution requiring Project Labor Agreements on projects over \$100,000. State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti will review and the Coordinating Committee will discuss next month.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. SOA Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Audit Presentation Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman is working to schedule a report and plans for an Auditor Rep to attend the County Board meeting.
4. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported the tentative General Fund deficit is down to \$358,000. Committee Chair Ritchie said he will ask the committee to consider transferring Coal Fund interest to the General Fund.
5. Ambulance Districts FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
6. Estimated FY 2025 Tax Levy Update/Approval: The committee will discuss whether or not to recommend a county Truth In Taxation hearing.
7. FY 2024 Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will discuss options for addressing the FY 2024 budget situation.
8. Other Business: The committee will review and discuss a resolution to commit ARPA funds to the EMA building roof to supplement insurance funds. Treasurer Lohman said the committee will need to review and make a recommendation regarding parcels sold at the trustee sale.

Announcements:

1. BLH Fall Electronics Recycling Update/Approval: Saturday, September 14, 9am-12noon, Highway Dept.

Appointments for Full Board meeting:

1. Re-appoint John L. Welch of Farmersville to the Farmersville-Waggoner Fire Protection District for a 3-year term September 2024 through September 2027

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: THURSDAY, September 5th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Mark Hughes and Jeremy Jones

Members Absent: Russell Beason and Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Andrew Affrunti, Daniel Robbins, Ken and Dionne Manzer, Bill Montgomery, Sarah McConnell, Sandy Leitheiser and Nikki Lohman

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Tony Johnson from Assured Partners presented their monthly report and stated the United Health Care renewal came back at a 39% increase which included a 3% reduction of premium due to product bundling of the Dental/Vision and Life Insurance. Johnson said this is a firm number and he has already started the process of seeking other insurance companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield and Aetna. Johnson shared that BCBS is offering an 8% rate cap for 2025 and offers bundling discounts. The employee open enrollment will take place in mid to end of October and Johnson will have insurance numbers ready at next month's committee meeting.
3. **Employee Performance Appraisal Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the draft of the Employee Performance Appraisal form as prepared by Human Resource Consultant Bushue. Circuit Clerk Robbins started the discussion regarding the elected offices or union contract offices not having to use this form. Committee Chairman Ruppert feels this is a good policy to add to the employee personnel manual. **Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to recommend the approval of the Employee Performance Appraisal Form. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Employee Exit Policy & Procedures Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the draft of the Employee Exit Policy and Procedures form that was prepared by Bushue. This form is basically a check of list for when an employee is leaving county employment. **Motion by Bergen and second by Hughes to recommend the approval of the Exit Policy and Procedure form. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Animal Control Warden Resignation Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the county received a resignation letter from Emily Gerl effective August 29th, 2024. **Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to recommend the approval of the Resignation letter from Emily Gerl. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Animal Control Warden Hire Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported he received three applications for the vacant animal control warden position and has conducted interviews. Ruppert wants to offer the position to April Pier and feels she is very qualified and received good written references from Dr. Probst and his office manager Tracy Collins. Ruppert stated he also called Dr. Probst and Ms. Collins for additional input. Ruppert will make a motion at Tuesday's full board meeting to hire April Pier as the County Animal Control Warden. Ruppert also stated he will work with Bushue on developing an "Offer of Employment Letter" which the County doesn't currently have.
7. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** The Public Hearing was held on August 26th, and was recessed with a reconvene date of November 4th, 2024.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Coordinator Daniels reported we received word that round two of the Energy Transition Grant in the amount of \$1,351,928 has been awarded and we are waiting for a contract from DCEO. Monthly expense reports have been submitted every month since April 30th and there have not been any reimbursements yet from the State.

9. **Grain Belt Express Appellate Decision Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported there is nothing new to discuss.
10. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Oil Sun Application Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the proposal from Hurst-Rosche Engineers for services to review the Oil Sun Solar Application for an amount not to exceed \$3,500. **Motion by Hughes and second by Bergen to approve the Hurst-Rosche proposal to review the Oil Sun Application for an amount not to exceed \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **2025 County Holiday Schedule Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a draft of the 2025 Holiday Schedule and discussion took place on possibly making adjustments to include Christmas Eve as a holiday. Circuit Clerk Robbins reported he was instructed by the Judge's Office not to schedule anything for this Christmas Eve. County Offices are in favor of closing this day as there is little activity. Some suggestions were discussed of exchanging other holidays such as Election Day or Columbus Day to have Christmas Eve off. The discussion and approval of the 2025 Holiday Schedule will be addressed at the October meeting.
12. **Employee Manual Dress Code Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated he was approached about a implementing a county dress code and Bushue will be contacted for input on this issue.
13. **Oil Sun Solar Application Update/Approval:** Ruppert read an email with a statement of conditions prepared by Alex Farkas for the drainage discussion on the Oil Sun Solar Project Application. *"Applicant shall, at Applicant's sole cost, upgrade the main tile line on Applicant's property to approximately thirty inches (30") in width from its existing approximately twenty-two inches (22") and Applicant, pursuant to 55 ILCS 5/5-12020 (s-5), shall use reasonable efforts to cooperate with neighboring property owners to provide updated tile and solar plans if requested by such neighboring property owners prior to construction. In addition, Applicant may extend any of the new approximately 30" tile line onto neighboring properties if in accordance with the provisions of Illinois Drainage Code and if it is mutually agreed upon between Applicant and any adjacent property owner(s) next to Applicant property".* **Motion by Bergen and second by Hughes to recommend the approval of the Oil Sun Solar Application with the conditions as stated. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. **Other Business:** Ruppert reported the committee will review a couple of more Small Biz grants at next month's committee meeting. Clerk Leitheiser inquired about any feedback from Nextlink regarding the \$100,000 for Broadband and since there was not, Ruppert asked her to follow up with them. Maggie Poteau from Pattern Energy was in attendance and stated the Traffic Impact Study for their Wind project should be completed soon, but didn't have a definitive date. MCEDC Director Bill Montgomery shared they had a meeting on August 20th and discussed building tourism awareness and young families. Their new website is up and running and hope to build content on Social Media.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024

Time: 8:32 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Bob Sneed, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, County Board Administration Assistant Mike Plunkett, Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 63 items on his report for the committee to discuss.
3. **Two-Year Plan Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed eight items on a 2-year building maintenance plan developed by Ernst and Committee Chair Sneed. The committee discussed adding sealing and repainting the north wall of the Courthouse Annex building.
4. **Historic Courthouse Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society was present to review copy for a historical marker that will be placed on the Historic Courthouse lawn in 2025. The marker, “Hillsboro – A Town of Industry and Innovation” pays homage to the industrial history of Hillsboro, Taylor Springs, Schram City, and Kortkamp. Dunn said he has raised the \$5,600 cost for the marker through sponsors (Schram City and the Old Settlers Association). He is also planning a dedication ceremony and private reception in Spring 2025.
5. **Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Work remains pending.
6. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed reported work is nearing completion. Glass installation and work by Wareham’s Security are among items yet to be completed.
7. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Work remains pending.
8. **Surplus Office Equipment Update/Approval:** The committee discussed surplus office equipment at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Circuit Clerk Robbins said once the items are declared surplus, he could dispose of them to other offices, by bids, and by throwing away unusable surplus. **Motion by Beck and second by Hughes to recommend declaring unused Montgomery County Courthouse office equipment as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the continued cost of maintaining the Green Diamond Bike Trail between Farmersville and Waggoner. The board will reach out to units of local governments to determine if there is any interest in taking over the trail, and County Board Administration will reach out to Natural Area Guardians (NAGs) to determine if there is interest in a maintenance agreement similar to the one for Arches Rail Trail.
10. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Sneed asked County Board Administration to notify Schindler the county intends to request bids for an elevator service contract, and Sneed asked Ernst to begin developing a list of possible bidders.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, September 4th, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche, Trent Laughlin of LMD Solar, Maggie Poteau of UKA by telephone

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported his office is waiting on UKA's traffic impact analysis before developing a Road Use Agreement (RUA) and any required pre-construction plans. The committee discussed the timeline with Maggie Poteau of UKA. Greenwood said he would like to have a signed RUA before the end of the calendar year in order to hire a consultant to begin developing the pre-construction roadwork anticipated. Greenwood anticipates townships will mimic the county RUA.
3. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed comments provided by consultant WHKS from a public information meeting held August 6th regarding a proposed Walshville Bypass. Engineer Greenwood said WHKS will evaluate and respond to comments before making a recommendation.
4. **Solar Panels Bid Results Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed a tabulation sheet provided by Engineer Greenwood with 2 bids to install solar panels at the Montgomery County Highway Department in an attempt to offset the cost of power used by the department. Trent Laughlin of LMD Solar of Hillsboro discussed his bid with the committee. Laughlin said the project would be eligible to receive a 30% federal income tax credit of \$43,750 and a 10% federal Energy Community credit of \$13,291 plus a state Illinois Shine payment averaging \$11,600 per year paid over the next seven years. Greenwood said he has more than \$150,000 left in his Building Maintenance budget line item in Office 225. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding the low bid of \$132,918 to LMD Solar of Hillsboro for solar panels at the Montgomery County Highway Department. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 2 Bid Results Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed a tabulation sheet provided by Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche, representing Bid Package 2 for a 13,248 square foot heavy equipment shed at the Montgomery County Highway Department. Engineer Greenwood said Bid Package 2 was bid before Bid Package 1 (concrete work) because the County Board has approved ARPA funding for the project, which requires a signed contract before the end of the year. Downen said four bidders requested bid packets and three returned bids. Bids ranged from \$496,448 to \$517,990. The bid package includes a 72x184 shell, doors, a finished ceiling and prep work for future insulation. Greenwood said the new 13,248 square foot building will replace the 9,732 square foot block building and 4,140 brown building totaling 13,872 square feet. Both Greenwood and Ruppert agreed the apparent low bidder, FBi Buildings of Remington, IN, appear to meet the specs. Downen said Hurst-Rosche had not worked with FBi before, but Committee Chair Murzynski pointed out the company built the new Shoal Creek Fire Department building in Donnellson, and Ruppert said FBi built a city shed for Litchfield. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Bergen to recommend awarding the**

low bid of \$496,448 to FBI Buildings of Remington, IN, for Bid Package 2 of a heavy equipment shed at the Montgomery County Highway Department. Motion carried 4-1 (Loucks voted against).

6. Other Items: None

Motion by Ruppert, second by Loucks to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, September 5th, 2024

Time: 8:31 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Kevin Schott, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, IS Director Curt Watkins, Engineer Cody Greenwood, VAC Superintendent Cassandra Hampton, Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Committee Chair Ritchie

The committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Public Comment:** Resident Kirby Furness asked the committee to consider avoiding a Truth in Taxation hearing. He suggested using coal fund interest in the General Fund, and said that taxing bodies, including ambulance districts, should only levy the taxes required to operate.
- 2. SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus asked the committee to budget \$17,000 for a part-time data collector rather than budgeting \$27,000 for the full-time vacant field position. She also reported she is continuing to work on completing wooded acreage reassessments.
- 3. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** As of the end of July, Committee Chair Ritchie reported total coal funds of \$9,812,364.24. The committee reviewed and discussed the report.
- 4. Audit Presentation Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman anticipates the FY2023 audit will be presented at the September 10th Montgomery County Board meeting.
- 5. EMA Roof ARPA Ordinance Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed an ARPA Ordinance to partially fund the roof replacement at the under-development EMA building at the Highway Department. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend an amount not to exceed \$30,000 ARPA funds be made available for a roof restoration for Montgomery County EMA. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 6. 13 Parcel Sold At Trustee Sale Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed resolutions to convey 13 parcels as a result of the Montgomery County Trustee sale. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend conveying 13 parcels to buyers at the Montgomery County Trustee sealed bid auction. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 7. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed budget changes including removing grants from the General Fund, removing the proposed new FOIA officer, changes in Supervisor of Assessments and County Board Administration staffing, HRA usage, and property tax revenue. Committee Chair Ritchie asked the committee to considering setting a new minimum Coal Fund reserve and using Coal Fund interest as a General Fund revenue. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to use FY 2024 Coal Fund interest as a General Fund revenue for FY 2025. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to use remaining available ARPA interest as a General Fund revenue for FY 2025. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to maintain a \$10 million Coal Fund reserve, use any Coal Funds in excess of**

\$10 million only for non-recurring expenses, and dedicate Coal Fund interest as a General Fund revenue. All in favor, motion carried.

- 8. Ambulance Districts FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed proposed budgets from the Farmersville-Waggoner, Hillsboro, Nokomis-Witt, and Raymond-Harvel ambulance special service areas. Treasurer Mike Webb of the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service answered questions on speaker phone. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to forward all four ambulance special service area budgets for board consideration without a recommendation. All in favor, motion carried.**

- 9. Estimated FY 2025 Tax Levy Update/Approval:** The committee spent substantial time reviewing and discussing requested Montgomery County tax levies as well as those from the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service, Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service, Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service, Veterans Assistance Commission, Community Mental Health (708) Board, Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service, Senior Social Services, and Extension Services. Requested Montgomery County tax levies would result in a 13.4687% levy increase, and the committee debated whether that was advisable given the relative health of the proposed FY2025 budget and the current level of Coal Fund reserves. **Motion by Folkerts and second by Young to recommend decreasing the proposed Montgomery County Corporate General Fund FY2025 levy by \$371,889 to \$904,415 which would result in a 4.999% increase over FY2024. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to schedule tentative Truth In Taxation hearings at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, for the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance at the Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Building in Farmersville; at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, for the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro; at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, for the Community Mental Health (708) Board at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro; at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, for the Veterans Assistance Commission at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro; at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, for the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service at Nokomis City Hall. All in favor, motion carried.**

- 10. FY 2024 Animal Control Update/Approval:** Due to changes in Animal Control staffing, Development & Personnel Committee Chair Chad Ruppert asked the committee to give him two weeks to recommend a solution to the FY2024 budget issues.

11. Other Business: None

Motion to pay the bills and payroll by Young 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 12:58 pm. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Special Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Time: 5:12 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Sheriff Rick Robbins, Chief Deputy Jeff Roach, Field Rep Brian Rapozo, Sgt. Brett Holiday, Investigator Bill Kenny

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **FOP Contract Negotiations Update/Approval:** The committee exchanged proposals and entered into contract negotiations.
3. **Recess Meeting Update/Approval:** **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to recess the meeting until 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 29th. All in favor, motion carried.**

The meeting reconvened at 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 29th, in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse. The committee continued contract negotiations until a tentative agreement was reached. Field Rep Rapozo will make agreed upon contract changes and forward to County Board Administration.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Russell Beason

Members Absent: Bob Sneed and Evan Young

Others Present: Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Dan Hough, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, IT Director Curt Watkins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: Curt Watkins said the county will likely qualify for another court grant in 2025. His department has been working on server upgrades and operating systems, integrating the 911 server, and moving forward with multi-factor authentication and password management on county computers.
2. EMA Report Update/Approval: Dan Hough reported hosting a meeting with mayors on Tuesday, October 29th, and receiving a Hazmat \$9,000 “spiller pays” reimbursement check. He plans to apply for a Farm Bureau grant for radios, and will ask for Finance & Budget Committee approval to budget for a 10-hour per week assistant, and approval to spend \$24,900 remaining ARPA funds for AED replacement and \$3,700 for CPT training.
3. 2025 Meeting Dates & Times Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson distributed the schedule for County Board and committee meeting dates, and asked the committees to review.
4. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson said the last meeting was on October 18th in Carlinville. The council is meeting its goals and working with Ronk in Nokomis.
5. Appointment of EPA Inspector/Administrator As of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson will ask the board to appoint Dan Hough at the November County Board meeting.
6. Accept Retirement Letter Coordinator Daniels as of Nov. 29, 2024 Update/Approval: The chairman will ask for action on the letter at the November County Board meeting.
7. Appointment of County Coordinator as of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson will ask the board to appoint Mike Plunkett at the November County Board meeting.
8. Appointment of Enterprise Zone Administrator as of Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson will ask the board to appoint Mike Plunkett at the November County Board meeting.
9. Set County Board Reorganizational Meeting for Dec. 2, 2024 Update/Approval: The chairman set the meeting for 5 p.m. Monday, December 2nd, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse. County Clerk Leitheiser said new and reelected board members will take the oath of office before the meeting, and Development & Personnel Committee Chair Ruppert said his committee will meet immediately after the special meeting.
10. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson shared an email from IDNR Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management Director Dan Brennan stating the Navigator CO2 test well will be plugged.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and review four new applications.
2. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and review.
3. County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said he has discussed options with the State’s Attorney and will present them to the committee.
4. FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert reported a tentative agreement was reached on Tuesday, October 29th.
5. Animal Control Update/Approval: Ruppert said the new warden is making progress.

6. Plains Solar Update/Approval: The next hearing date has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, December 16th.
7. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Assistant Administrator Plunkett reported the county has received two reimbursement checks and has been assigned a new DCEO grant administrator.
8. City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Daniels said she has been collecting survey information from municipalities.
9. Other Business: Plunkett said the City of Nokomis has informed the county they are researching establishing a TIF district, and Plunkett said Bushue has submitted an Employee Handbook template. Leitheiser stated the County Board should request compensation from City of Nokomis TIF funds.

Buildings and Grounds: Russ Beason

1. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Operation Green Light for Veterans Update/Approval: Beason said the county is prepared to illuminate the Historic Courthouse green November 2-11.
3. Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss proposals.
4. New Postage Machine Lease Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
5. Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval: The committee will review progress.
6. Other Business: None

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval: Committee Chair Murzynski said the committee will review and discuss new information.
2. Walshville Bypass Update/Approval: The committee will discuss.
3. Arches Rail Trail Sign Request Update/Approval: Murzynski said the Highway Department will order and install signs when verbiage is ready.
4. Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Awards Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
5. Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineer Salary Update/Approval: Committee Chair Murzynski said he is waiting on information from IDOT.
6. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski said the committee agenda will also include a bridge replacement in Irving Township, Coffeen Road and Seven Sisters issues, and the potential of the Village of Waggoner taking over the Green Diamond Bike Trail after the county has oiled it.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. SOA Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Assessment Issue Request/Tim Lovelace Update/Approval: The committee anticipates hearing from a property owner who was denied a deadline extension.
4. Woodland Assessment Request/Brandi Lentz Update/Approval: The committee anticipates hearing from property owners. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said she is confident she is following the law, passed in 2006 and in effect since 2007.
5. PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman will prepare the form for salary reimbursement for the new sheriff.
6. Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval: County Clerk Leitheiser reported the State's Attorney has approved the resolution.
7. Surplus ARPA Plan Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported Bellwether suggest allocating the remaining ARPA funds in November. There are funding requests from EMA, Maintenance, and ETSB.
8. FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman is working on a resolution with Bellwether.
9. Property Casualty/Workers Comp/Unemployment Insurance Renewals Update/Approval: Premium quotes will be included in the FY 2025 budget.
10. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman will distribute change sheets.
11. FY 2025 Budget Appropriation/Levies/Resolutions Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman has prepared for committee review.
12. Other Business: EMA Director Hough asked for an EMA assistant to be budgeted for FY 2025.

Announcements:

1. Vistra Tour for County Officials set for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12

Appointments:

1. Janice Katelynn Huber to the Coffeen Fire Protection District

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Monday, November 4th, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Mark Hughes, Russell Beason and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Jeremy Jones

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, Mike Plunkett and Chris Daniels of County Board Administration, Tony Johnson of Assured Partners, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Animal Control Warden April Pier, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Montgomery.

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** The committee heard from four applicants: Natasha Downs of Mara Elizabeth Hair, Kory Brink of Shug Smoke Shack, Jennifer Helgen of Just Off Route 66 Car Wash, and Heather Greenwood of Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beason to recommend awarding \$5,000 to Mara Elizabeth Hair; \$20,000 to Shug Smoke Shack; and table awards to Just Off Route 66 Car Wash and Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Tony Johnson of Assured Partners reported 151 of 152 county employees completed open enrollment by the Nov. 1 deadline. Of those, 101 chose a medical plan, 75 chose the dental plan, 74 chose the vision plan, and 69 chose the voluntary life insurance. There was no HRA report.
4. **County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported that Matt Blankenship of Local #1084 had asked him if the county is using the PLA. Committee Chair Ruppert said he had asked the State's Attorney to review the PLA. Ruppert said the County Board needed to determine if the agreement is needed or if the amount that triggers it (currently \$100,000) needs to be changed. The committee will review and make a recommendation next month.
5. **FOP Contract Negotiation Update/Approval:** A tentative agreement has been reached, and the county is waiting for the union to forward an updated contract.
6. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Warden Pier said the facility currently has nine dogs after four dogs and one cat have been adopted out in recent weeks, in addition to several that have been sent out through PAWS.
7. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the public hearing will resume at 6:00 p.m. Monday, December 16th.
8. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported the county has received grant payments of \$19,887.56 and \$29,665.75 and has been assigned a new grant manager.
9. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** Daniels reviewed survey results indicating communities could use county assistance. The committee will continue to review.

10. Bushue HR Employee Handbook Revision Update/Approval: The next meeting has been set for 1:00 p.m. Thursday, November 14th, in the County Board Room.

11. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson informed the committee he has been notified the City of Nokomis is pursuing a TIF district.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Friday, November 8th, 2024

Time: 8:33 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Chris Daniels of County Board Administration, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Board member Ethan Murzynski.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** Tim Loveless, who had been on the Finance & Budget Committee meeting agenda the day before, had intended to address that committee but had the wrong day. A Gillespie resident who owns rental property in Montgomery County, Loveless said he had a fire in his office in September 2023 and his records were soaked. Applications for Homestead Exemptions are due to the Supervisor of Assessments office in January, but Loveless said he missed the deadline because of the fire. Without the exemptions, he anticipates his taxes will increase from \$28,000 to \$48,000 and requested the Finance & Budget Committee to direct the Supervisor of Assessments to accept his late Homestead Exemptions.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 90 items on his monthly report, including leaks in cast iron plumbing pipes in the Historic Courthouse. He will continue to research potential fixes. He also presented a proposal from Dan Heise Plumbing to replace bad water fountains in the New Courthouse. **Motion by Beck and second by Beason to accept proposal from Dan Heise Plumbing to replace water fountains in the Montgomery County Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Entec Project Proposal Update/Approval:** Jared Bergman of Entec presented a proposal to investigate the compressor failure in the existing chiller for a cost not to exceed \$4,250. **Motion by Beck and second by Beason to accept a proposal from Entec to investigate the compressor failure in the existing chiller at the Montgomery County Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Operation Green Light for Veterans Update/Approval:** Ernst reported the Historic Courthouse Montgomery County Courthouse and Montgomery County Jail will remain illuminated green through Veterans Day for Operation Green Light for Veterans.
5. **Elevator Contract Proposals Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed elevator service contract proposals from Allrise, Kone, Otis, and TK, for three and five years. The committee had previously opted out of the current contract with Schindler for \$10,986 per year. Committee member Hughes conveyed a recommendation from an elevator inspector for Kone. Otis provided the least expensive full maintenance bid. **Motion by Folkerts and second by Beason to recommend approval of three-year elevator maintenance agreement with Otis for \$6,899.40 per year. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **New Postage Machine Lease Update/Approval:** After research, the current two postage meters will remain certified through December 2027. **Motion by Beck and second by Beason to recommend 30-month agreement with Midwest Mailing for postage meters at no price increase. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. **Highway Department Land Acquisition Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
8. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman reported \$216,500 uncommitted ARPA funds remain available for infrastructure improvements, including a new roof for the Historic Courthouse. She will prepare an ordinance for full board. Chairman Donaldson thanked retiring Committee Chair Sneed for his service and expertise.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, Dean Lessman

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported his office had received an updated traffic impact analysis, but it was missing data. UKA is working to correct the omissions before a road use agreement is developed.
3. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said the consulting engineer is finalizing the project development report, which will then be forwarded to IDOT.
4. **Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township – N. 17th Ave. Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the three submitted bids. Engineer Greenwood said the project is 80% state, 10% township, and 10% county. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Bergen to recommend awarding the low bid for Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township North 17th Avenue bridge replacement to Stutz Excavating of Alton for \$287,693. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Resolution 2024-12 appropriating funds from the Federal Aid Matching Fund for Construction Engineering fees for Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd./Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed. **Motion by Loucks and second by Ruppert to recommend approval of Resolution 2024-12 appropriating up to \$100,000 to match federal funds for engineering fees for Section 20-00145-00-PV Coffeen Road and Seven Sisters Avenue intersection improvement. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd./Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection Joint Funding Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said the county is waiting for the final version from the state. (Note: later in the day Greenwood received and forwarded the agreement for County Board approval.)
7. **Resolution 2024-13 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2025 Update/Approval:** No information has been received from the state.
8. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 1 Letting results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported the bid package is not yet ready.
9. **Other Items:** Plunkett reported board member Jeremy Jones had reached a verbal agreement with the Village of Waggoner to take over the Green Diamond recreational trail pending the county oiling it. Greenwood said Louis Marsh has shut down operations for the year; oiling will have to be completed next year. Retiring committee member Loucks said it has been a privilege to serve, and the committee expressed their appreciation for his work.

Motion by Loucks, second by Whitworth to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Whitworth, second by Loucks to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk and 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: Thursday, November 7th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, David Loucks, Patty Whitworth, Evan Young and Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Chris Daniels of County Board Administration, County Board Member Ethan Murzynski, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Engineer Cody Greenwood, 911 Director Ed Boyd, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, EMA Director Dan Hough, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Chief Deputy Lance Weitekamp.

Pledge of Allegiance: Committee Chair Ritchie thanked veterans present, and asked veteran and committee member Patty Whitworth to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported her office is conducting field work and hopes to have data entered by November 15th. The Board of Review met on October 29th, and Attorney Chris Sherer will be representing the county in Property Tax Appeal Board hearings. Her office has also sent out MTA invoices. Niehaus also noted an increase in EAV does not necessarily lead to a state multiplier. SOA Niehaus then presented a Power Point presentation on the 2007 law that took effect regarding wooded acres that are not a part of a farm operation. She said that wooded acres that are part of a farm operation will remain classified as farmland; the law applies to acres not part of a farm operation that are more than 50% wooded. She indicated that effected landowners could avoid the classification change by filing a CRP contract with her office. While landowners cannot appeal classification, they can file complaints with the Board of Review regarding fair market value. She also showed examples from surrounding counties of wooded acres that have been reclassified, and reviewed her qualifications as Chief County Assessment Officer.
2. **Public Comment:** The committee heard from seven citizens, all opposed to the reclassification of woodland acres. As part of his opposition, Jesse Boehler asked committee members to listen to the people who elected them. John Lentz pointed out that the value of property over the past 17 years, and asked the county to grandfather impacted landowners or phase in the changes. Vince Reincke questioned the classification for farmland and asked the committee to consider future implications of taxing more for trees. Junior Whitlow said he has considered running for county board and questioned assessing woodland acres which produce no income or marketable value at one-third its market value. Included in his remarks, Nathan Hemken expressed frustration at getting no responses to emails to county board members and being unable to discuss the issue with a board member face-to-face. Megan Beeler pointed out 26% of county residents are senior citizens. She said woodland reclassification would result in more parcels going to the tax sale and potentially generating no tax dollars. She said capturing 17 years of inflation overnight was unfair, and pointed out that previous state multipliers of 1.000 means assessments are accurate. She asked the committee for a resolution opposed to the woodland reclassification or a vote of no confidence in the Supervisor of Assessments.
3. **Woodland Assessment Request/Brandi Lentz Update/Approval:** A county landowner and business owner, Brandi Lentz criticized implementation of wooded acre reclassification for its lack of transparency and the unfairness of the process with no public notification. She said she had reviewed committee and full board minutes as well as audio recordings and was upset by the flippancy expressed during discussion of the issue, and believes it should be discussed thoroughly by the full board. She

said she had reached out to 100 other assessors and found no consistency in implementing the law, but pointed out that Christian County was proactive with ample public notices. She also questioned answers she had received about the complaint process, and asked the committee for a resolution to put off implementation of the law. Committee Chair Ritchie asked State's Attorney Affrunti about options to incrementally implement the law, and the State's Attorney said he believed that is what the Supervisor of Assessments is doing. He said he would look into the question of whether the SOA office could just reassess woodland acres. Committee member Folkerts asked about potential consequences of not implementing the law, and the State's Attorney said there have been no past consequences but there could be in the future. Chairman Donaldson asked about court challenges to the law, and SOA Niehaus said it has been upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. Committee member Whitworth said while she believes the SOA has done a great job, her heart bleeds for those impacted and she favored staggered implementation. Vice Chairman Young suggested putting a freeze on the process and waiting to see the state's reaction. He said a County Board resolution to not implement woodland reclassification would protect the Supervisor of Assessments. Committee member Loucks said he was concerned implementation of the law would lead to tax defaults. Committee Chair Ritchie said he appreciated the public comments, and the board would consider the concerns expressed and research options with the State's Attorney.

4. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie said the reports will be reviewed at the full board meeting.
5. **Assessment Issue Request/Tim Lovelace Update/Approval:** Mr. Lovelace was not present at the meeting. SOA Niehaus said he was late in turning in leases for owner-occupied exemptions and had requested an exception to the deadline.
6. **PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported filing the form is required for salary reimbursement for the new sheriff. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend approval of PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser presented the resolution as a result of a new state law requiring the state to pay the same recording fee as the public. Currently the state pays \$11 instead of the \$88 public recording fee. Leitheiser said the resolution has been reviewed and approved by the State's Attorney. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to recommend approval of the County Clerk/Recorder Fee Schedule Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Surplus ARPA Plan Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported the county currently holds \$390,238 in remaining uncommitted ARPA funds, and all but the interest (\$182,229) must be allocated by December 31st, 2024. Lohman will prepare resolutions for requests from 911 for \$45,000 to upgrade the Motorola Flex server, from EMA for \$30,000 for AED replacement and training, from CEFS for \$50,000 for meals on wheels, and from the Building & Grounds Committee for chiller replacement and Historic Courthouse roof replacement.
9. **FY 2024 Budget Amendment Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman presented a FY 2024 Budget Amendment Resolution required because an extra payroll falls in the final day of the fiscal year. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Folkerts to recommend approval of the FY 2024 Budget Amendment Resolution. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Property Casualty/Workers Comp/Unemployment Insurance Renewals Update/Approval:** Agent Erik Braasch of Dimond Brothers Insurance recommended the county remain with ICRMT for property/casualty and with IPRF with workers comp. He said the total is up 16%, and Treasurer Lohman reported the new premium numbers are in the FY 2025 budget.

- 11. FY 2025 Budget Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman presented FY 2025 budget changes and the latest draft that predicts \$8.5 million in General Fund expenses and a General Fund surplus of \$160,708. She pointed out that the surplus was reached after the board cut the General Fund levy by more than \$300,000 and will transfer only interest from the Coal Fund to the General Fund. EMA Director Hough asked the committee to add a part-time 10-hour-per-week administrative assistant for his office to the budget for \$8,000. Half of the expense will be reimbursed through a Natural Hazards Mitigation grant; if the grant is not received, the position will not be filled. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend adding \$8,000 for a part-time 50% reimbursable administrative assistant to the FY 2025 EMA budget. All in favor, motion carried (Young voted against).** The committee also discussed the County Coordinator salary in the FY 2025 budget but took no action.
- 12. FY 2025 Budget Appropriation/Levies/Resolutions Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie said required levies, resolutions and appropriation ordinance will be presented at the full board meeting.
- 13. Convey Parcel 16-13-305-023 to Kaulunahenahe Samson Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution and map. **Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to recommend transfer of parcel number 16-13-305-023 in Hillsboro Township to Kaulunahenahe Samson. All in favor, motion carried.**

14. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed

Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: Christine Daniels and Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Dan Hough, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell.

Public Comments: Before Public Comments, Chairman Donaldson asked Assistant County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett to read a press release containing the Chairman's comments that assessment changes made this year due to timberland reclassification statutory requirements will not go into effect. Instead, the Chairman will establish a Wooded Acreage Assessment Ad Hoc Committee to address issues raised in Montgomery County with state government.

Two people had filled out Public Comment Cards. Donna Yeske elected to not make any comments. Brandi Lentz commented that the county board had been aware of wooded acreage reclassification but taken no action until that day. She said she has called for a full investigation by the Attorney General.

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Curt Watkins reported his department has been working on end-of-year projects, and requesting quotes for tech items that will be supplied by the new court grant. The Cress Hill camera project is almost complete, and his department is integrating the 911 server into the county system. Future work includes multi-factor authentication implementation, security video storage, and a phone system upgrade. In response to a question, he said his department could train offices to post items on the county website, such as committee agendas and minutes.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Dan Hough said his department had purchased 14 new AEDs through ARPA funding, and he brought one to display. Employee training will be scheduled after January 1st, 2025. He also mentioned a National Weather Service storm spotter class scheduled for March 18 at the Lincoln Land Community College Litchfield campus.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported the next meeting is in January.
4. **Ad Hoc Committee to Address SB17 Wooded Acreage Assessments Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said he will be appointing a committee of County Board members and the public to a Wooded Acreage Assessments Ad Hoc Committee. He hopes the committee will develop statutory changes to present to state legislators. Donaldson said Rep. Wayne Rosenthal indicated he was confident legislation could be introduced.
5. **Other Business:** Plunkett reported receiving a \$5,000 donation from Vistra to offset the costs of weather sirens near Coffeen Lake. Vistra also intends to donate to the proposed Coffeen Veterans Memorial, and Hough said he has had positive conversations with Vistra about returning a weather radio to the site. Plunkett also reported UKA will be making a \$3,000 donation to the Panhandle Food Pantry, a \$1,000 donation to the Farmersville Illuminatus Motorcycle Club, and a \$300 donation to Panhandle Project Third Day for their Farmersville Polar Express Day. The county is expecting reimbursements from the current DCEO grant, and was notified of award of the second phase of the grant.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** The committee will review two previous applications and five new ones.
2. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.

3. **County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the committee will review the trigger amount.
4. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the committee will review police updates. County Clerk Leitheiser reported training is needed at Animal Control on the voucher process.
5. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the public hearing will resume on December 16th.
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert referenced Plunkett's earlier report.
7. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss implementation.
8. **Other Business:** None

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

1. **Historic Courthouse Roof Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Sneed said a pre-bid meeting was held on November 21st, and bids will be opened and reviewed at the committee meeting.
2. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss. Committee Chair Sneed added New Courthouse water fountain compressors can be replaced.
3. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss turning the trail over to the Village of Waggoner.
4. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Sneed reported Entec has diagnosed the New Courthouse HVAC system, and found the chiller to be compromised.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood said he has just received an updated Traffic Impact Analysis.
2. **Walshville Bypass Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski had no new developments to report.
3. **Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township – N. 17th Ave. Bridge Replacement Letting Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
4. **Section 20-00145-00-PV Coffeen Road/Seven Sisters Intersection Joint Funding Agreement Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski said action has been taken.
5. **Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Awards Update/Approval:** Electric and concrete bids will be opened at the committee meeting.
6. **Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineer Salary Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski said the committee is still awaiting the resolution from the State of Illinois.
7. **County Bulk Fuel Letting Update/Approval:** The committee will open and review bids.
8. **County Motor Fuel Tax Resolution Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
9. **Other Business:** None

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Assessment Issue Request/Tim Loveless Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie anticipates Mr. Loveless will attend the meeting.
4. **Woodland Assessment Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie referenced the ad hoc committee.
5. **Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser said the resolution is ready for County Board approval.
6. **IRS Mileage Rate Effective Jan. 1 Update/Approval:** The new rate has yet to be determined.
7. **Decennial Reports Update/Approval:** Reports will be available for committee review.
8. **PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
9. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser said the new health insurance provider needs to be added.
10. **ARPA Ordinance for MCHD Phone Upgrade Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
11. **Other Business:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said the committee needs to review Multi-Township Assessor Agreements, and Sheriff Holshouser said the committee needs to review bids for budgeted squad cars.

Appointments:

1. Re-appoint Gregory Weitekamp for 3-year term for the Pitman-Zanesville#2 County Zone #33, Drainage District.
2. Re-Appoint Melvin Wempen for a 3-year term for the Zanesville#3, County Zone #15, Drainage District.
3. Re-Appoint David Beal and Michael Smalley for a three year term on the ETSB Board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Monday, December 2, 2024

Time: 5:32 PM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Members Absent: Russell Beason

Others Present: Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, EMA Director Dan Hough, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Animal Control Warden April Pier, Maggie Poteau of UKA, Matt Blankenship and Dale Stewart

1. **Public Comment:** None
2. **Small Biz Grant Application Update/Approval:** The committee heard presentations from Heather Greenwood of Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness, Dalton Downs of Downs Plumbing, Caleb Osborne of Manifesto Wine Bar, Abby Barcum of State Street Event Center, Jamee and Jennifer Dunn of Dunns n' Roses, and Alan Reynolds of R Custom Cuts. **Motion by Jones and second by Daniels to recommend awarding \$10,000 to Raise the Bar Recovery & Wellness; \$5,000 to Downs Plumbing; \$7,500 to Manifesto Wine Bar; \$10,000 to State Street Event Center; \$7,500 to Dunns n' Roses; and \$5,000 to R Custom Cuts. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **County Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the County Board needs to determine if a PLA is needed, and if so, does the \$100,000 trigger amount need to be raised. Matt Blankenship of Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) distributed information on PLAs and said they guarantee no strikes, no labor shortages, and provide security that public funds spent on public projects remain local. Committee Chair Ruppert expressed concern about giving up a level of control in the bidding process, and Committee Member Jones raised questions regarding the ability of non-union contractors to utilize their employees. Ruppert said he will address those questions with the State's Attorney before proceeding.
4. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Animal Control Warden Pier said she has learned that prices for veterinary services are increasing at local veterinary offices and is recommending reviewing costs for county Animal Control services. She will continue to research potential fee changes for adoptions and cremation. County Clerk Leitheiser noted cost studies are among Bellwether's services. Committee Member Jones suggested pursuing vendor agreements for spay/neuter services. Committee Chair Ruppert suggested increases in rabies tags. **Motion by Jones and second by Bergen to recommend one-year rabies tags increase to \$15 and three-year rabies tags increase to \$30 effective January 1st, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **Plains Solar Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reminded the committee that the Public Hearing will resume at 6 p.m. Monday, December 16th, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett said monthly reports have been approved through October, and payment is pending submission of BEP lien waivers.
7. **City-Wide Clean-Up Grant Update/Approval:** Discussion will continue next month when Treasurer Nikki Lohman is present.

8. **Department of Labor Final Overtime Rule Update/Approval:** According to an email from Bushue HR, a Federal District Judge in Texas blocked the salary threshold increase for the new Department of Labor overtime rule on Friday, November 15th. The salary threshold will revert to the amount prior to July 1st, 2024, which is \$35,568 annually. Bushue will continue to monitor.
9. **Other Business:** County Clerk Leitheiser referenced potential new TIF districts in Litchfield, Hillsboro and Nokomis. She also reported Hillsboro Energy significant permit revision applications provided by statute to her office and the County Board Chairman's office.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Roll Call - Members Present: Mark Hughes, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Keith Hancock, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Evan Young

Others Present: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, EMA Director Dan Hough, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Tim Weisner of TMI, Chase Jackson of Central Roofing

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Historic Courthouse Room Bid Opening Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Hughes opened two bids, one from Central Roofing for \$116,931 and one from Young's Roofing for \$179,880. Work would begin in the spring, but to meet ARPA requirements, a contract must be signed before the end of 2024. Central Roofing has completed county contracts for roofing the EMA block building and the Montgomery County Courthouse earlier this year. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to recommend awarding the low bid of \$116,931 to Central Roofing of Mattoon for Historic Courthouse roof project. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Ernst highlighted many of the 43 items on his monthly report, including replacing compressors instead of water fountains at the New Courthouse for \$3,380 and replacing cast iron pipes in the Historic Courthouse to a third floor restroom and second floor sink. **Motion by Beck and second by Beason to approve a quote of \$1,805.24 from Bondurant Plumbing to replace cast iron pipes to a third floor restroom and second floor sink at the Historic Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.** The committee also discussed using allocated ARPA funds to replace carpet in the Montgomery County Treasurer's office and break room, and the cleaning contract at the New Courthouse.
4. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval:** The State's Attorney is working on Quit Claim deeds to turn the property and maintenance funds over to the Village of Waggoner.
5. **New Courthouse HVAC Update/Approval:** The committee heard from Tim Weisner, Service Administrator at TMI, who described the process of repairing the New Courthouse HVAC system and replacing it. Currently, the county has two new compressors provided under warranty. Installing them will cost over \$20,000 and the system needs to be running to diagnose the cause of the system failure. That diagnosis may or may not lead to the need to replace the system. Replacement components will take 5-6 months to arrive, which is well into cooling season. The committee will continue to research the bid process with State's Attorney Affrunti.
6. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Hughes, EMA Director Hough, and Engineer Cody Greenwood will walk through the EMA block building to determine ceiling, insulation and heating needs. Committee Chair Hughes reported the survey for property needed by the Montgomery County Health Department for solar panels has been completed. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to recommend transferring property to Montgomery County Health Department for solar panels. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, Keith Hancock, Chad Ruppert, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Members Absent: Rob Corso, Doug Donaldson

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration, Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche

The committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Public Comments:** None
- 2. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported he had received a draft of the Traffic Impact Analysis and shared a map with the committee. Greenwood reported the haul route is from Interstate 55 to Route 48 and up Black Diamond Trail. He estimated the route utilizes 13 miles of county highway, plus township roads in Harvel and Bois D'Arc. Greenwood said he will continue to review the Traffic Impact Analysis and consult with an outside attorney on drafting a Road Use Agreement.
- 3. Heavy Equipment Shed Bid Package 1 Letting Results Update/Approval:** Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche opened three bids with representatives from all three bidders present: \$1,281,900 from Kinney Contractors in Raymond; \$850,000 from Bruce Unterbrink Construction in Greenville; and \$787,700 from Stutz Excavating in Alton. The apparent low bidder did not acknowledge one of two addenda for limited inside electrical finishing work on the bid sheet, but after a teleconference with the committee, provided by email previously submitted acknowledgement from the electrician. Engineer Greenwood said the 72x184 Heavy Equipment Shed has been awarded \$670,000 in ARPA funds. A bid package for \$505,921 for the building shell has already been awarded to Stutz Excavating leaving \$164,079 in ARPA funds. Greenwood said an additional \$300,000 has been appropriated in Highway Funds in the FY 2025 budget, leaving a shortfall of \$323,621 to complete the project. The committee discussed eliminating some concrete and site work from the bid. Engineer Greenwood said he could put off purchasing a new tandem truck he had anticipated purchasing in FY 2025 from \$500,000 appropriated Coal Funds. **Motion by Bergen and second by Ruppert to recommend awarding the apparent low qualified bid of \$787,700 to Stutz Excavating of Alton pending review by Hursh-Rosche. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 4. 2025-2026 Bulk Fuel Purchasing Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood opened one bid, submitted by Huels Oil Company of Carlyle. The two-year bid was for .18 delivery charge for No. 2 and Off Road diesel, .17 for unleaded gasoline, and .03 for Premium diesel additive and Winter Fuel additive. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding the low bulk fuel two-year bid to Huels Oil Company of Carlyle. All in favor, motion carried.**
- 5. Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township – Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Construction Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed an IDOT engineering agreement with WHKS & Co. of Springfield for \$149,296 for replacement of a bridge on Wonder Trail, 1.8 miles northeast of VanBurensburg. According to Engineer Greenwood, the bridge is an 80-10-10 project with the county responsible for 10%. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Bergen to recommend approval of Section 17-05121-00-BR Fillmore Township Wonder Trail Bridge Replacement Construction Engineering Agreement with WHKS & Co. of Springfield for \$149,296. All in favor, motion carried.**

6. **Section 17-09117-00-BR Irving Township – N. 17th Ave. Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reminded the committee that the letting award was recommended last month, but tabled at the Full Board Meeting. It is now ready for County Board action.
7. **Resolution 2024-13, 2025 County MFT Resolution Update/Approval:** The resolution appropriates \$1.2 million in County Motor Fuel Tax, the same amount as last year. **Motion by Hancock and second by Ruppert to recommend approval of the 2025 County Motor Fuel Tax Resolution 2024-13 for \$1.2 million. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Resolution 2024-14 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer’s Salary for 2025 Updated/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported his office is still awaiting the resolution from the Illinois Department of Transportation.
9. **Other Items:** None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 8:31 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Mike Plunkett from County Board Administration, Tim Loveless, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Vice Chair Connie Beck

The committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Public Comment:** None
- 2. SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported her office has been reverting parcels that she had reclassified this year due to the 2007 woodland reclassification statute. She said she looks forward to working with the County Board and the proposed Ad Hoc Committee to suggest legislative changes, include suggesting a new separate preferential classification for rural timberland. Niehaus said over 500 wooded acreage parcels in Montgomery County have been previously reclassified, primarily by elected Township Assessors. Vice Chair Whitworth said she believes Township Assessors should also revert those reclassifications
- 3. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie reported an October coal royalty payment of \$147,889.57 and noted the Coal Fund has earned \$403,508.84 in interest this year.
- 4. Assessment Issue Request/Tim Loveless Update/Approval:** Tim Loveless told the board he has rental houses in Litchfield, but due to a fire in his office on September 19th, 2023, he missed the January 31st, 2024, deadline to record leases for Homestead Exemptions. He presented written requests to the board to 1) make an exception to the deadline based on the hardship his business endured, and 2) do away with the requirement of recording leases. Board Member Young said he agreed with the exception request because increased costs will be passed on to the tenants. Vice Chair Whitworth said she also agrees with the exception request, but does not agree with directing the Supervisor of Assessments to grant it. Board Member Daniels asked if the Supervisor of Assessments had checked with the State's Attorney regarding the issue; she had. **Motion by Young to direct the Supervisor of Assessments to grant Tim Loveless and exception to the January 31st, 2024, deadline to record leases died for lack of second.** Committee Chair Ritchie said he will inform Loveless.
- 5. Fee Schedule Resolution Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser said the resolution to require state agencies to pay the same recording fees as the public, recommended by the committee last month, has been approved by the State's Attorney and has been legally posted. Upon County Board approval, it will take effect January 1st, 2025.
- 6. IRS Mileage Rate Effective Jan. 1 Update/Approval:** The IRS has not yet announced the new mileage rate.

7. **Decennial Reports Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a list of 21 Decennial Reports submitted to the County Board by local units of government, and also reviewed a list of those who have not yet submitted Decennial Reports. County Board Administration plans to post all reports on the Montgomery County website. **Motion by Daniels and second by Beck to recommend acknowledgement of receipt of 21 local government Decennial Reports. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **PTAX 451 Reimbursement Form Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman reported in order for the State of Illinois to reimburse half of the Supervisor of Assessments' salary, a PTAX-451 must be filed with the Illinois Department of Revenue. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend filing Supervisor of Assessments PTAX-451 with the Illinois Department of Revenue. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser presented changes required by the new health insurance carrier. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Daniels to recommend adding Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dearborn Life Insurance to the Pre-Approved Vendor List, and removing Metropolitan Life. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **ARPA Ordinance for MCHD Phone Upgrade Update/Approval:** An ordinance needs to be passed for the previously approved Health Department telephone upgrade. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend approval of an ordinance to expend ARPA funds not to exceed \$48,000 for a telephone system upgrade at the Montgomery County Health Department. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **MTA Agreement Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reported two intergovernmental agreements have been returned to provide township assessor services. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to recommend approval of a contract with the Butler Grove/Irving/Rountree MTA for \$7,000 and a contract with South Litchfield Township for \$12,000 for assessor services. All in favor, motion carried.**
12. **Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Vehicle Update/Approval:** Sheriff Tyson Holshouser asked for and received committee consent to advertise for the purchase of two new squad vehicles in the FY 2025 budget. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Daniels to approve advertising for two new Montgomery County Sheriff's Office squad vehicles in the FY 2025 budget. All in favor, motion carried.**
13. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman distributed a Compensation and Fee Disclosure provided by Assured Partners regarding commissions earned with the new health insurance plan. The County Board will be asked to consider a motion for Treasurer Lohman to sign the disclosure. Lohman also had a Trustee Deed Resolution from action last month that needed signed by the committee,, and a draft report of the final disposition of the FY 2024 budget showing a \$700,000 deficit, primarily comprised of DCEO grant expenditures that have yet to be reimbursed. Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus had questions about filling the vacant Data Collector position in her office and was referred to Bushue HR, and Circuit Clerk Robbins asked if the committee would like to see any changes in his report.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.