

Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Hearing Minutes

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

6:01 p.m. Monday, June 23, 2025

Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones

Members Absent: Bill Bergen, Russell Beason, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Reactivate Development Manager Gabriel Araiza, Reactivate Project Developer Andrew Jurewicz, landowners Robert and Pam Bloome.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. Identification of Application and Project Overview: Committee Chair Ruppert said the purpose of the hearing was to discuss a proposed solar project to construct, operate, and maintain the RDC IL N24TH Avenue solar project, a 4.95 MW AC ground-mount distributed generation CSEF located directly northwest of the intersection of N 24th Avenue and Harvel Road in Montgomery County, IL, on parcel 04-33-476-005 owned by Robert E. Bloome in unincorporated Montgomery County. The proposed project will occupy approximately 27.2 acres of a 38.85-acre parcel, currently cultivated cropland, surrounded by additional cultivated cropland to the north, south, east, and west. The application was available for review in Room 202 of the Historic Courthouse located at #1 Courthouse Square Hillsboro.
3. Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval: Ruppert reviewed the rules and procedures for the hearing as printed on the hearing agenda, noting the hearing was being recorded.
4. Presentation by Applicant: Reactivate Development Manager said the developer is a Chicago company, and described the project size and location, noting that it meets setback requirements, does not include lighting, and should have no negative impact on neighboring property values. He also described ground cover and the plan for periodic sheep grazing. Reactivate Project Developer Andrew Jurewicz said vegetative buffers will depend upon county requirements. Landowner Robert Bloome described the location and the research he had done on Reactivate. The proposed project site is located in the Union Drainage District #2 King & Harvel, and a tile survey will be completed before construction. Committee Chair Ruppert entered evidence of the certified mailings to neighboring property owners as Exhibit A.
5. Questions for Applicant: The committee asked questions about the nearest residence, property values, the location of the equipment pad, tile and drainage, the lease term, the interconnect agreement, transmission lines, required road use agreements, panel sourcing, distance between panels, ground cover, fencing, the construction workforce, bonding and decommissioning, and the potential vegetative buffer.
6. Presentation by Independent Consultants for Montgomery County: None
7. Public Comment: Landowner Robert Bloome told the committee he appreciates the job they are doing, and the efforts they are taking to protect landowners.
8. Receipt of Written Comments Regarding the Application: None
9. Closing Comments by Applicant: None

10. Date for Deliberation and Vote to Recommend/Deny Application Update/Approval: The committee will deliberate at their regularly scheduled meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025, and likely make a recommendation at their regularly scheduled meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 4, 2025. Remaining issues to resolve include a road use agreement, tile survey and contact with the drainage district, and the vegetative buffer.

11. Adjournment Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert determined there was no more evidence and closed the hearing. Motion by Jones and second by Daniels to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 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
Coordinating Committee Meeting Agenda
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 26, 2025

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Mark Hughes, Ethan Murzynski, Connie Beck for Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Ad Hoc Committee Chair Russ Beason

Members Absent: Andy Ritchie, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Engineer Cody Greenwood.

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Donaldson.

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: IS Director Curt Watkins reported his department is working on concluding court grant upgrades, annual PC upgrades, and server upgrades. He said county employees need to continue to be diligent and on guard for phishing emails. His department is beginning work on upgrading the phone system and switches, projects funded by the DCEO Energy Transition Grant.
2. EMA Report Update/Approval: EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough reported he has hired an assistant who will begin work the second week of July. He has ordered a new grant-funded drone that will be an asset to multiple departments, and is working on other grant opportunities.
3. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17.
4. Ad Hoc Committee to Address SB3455 Wooded Acreage Assessments Update/Approval: Chairman Russ Beason reported the next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 15.
5. Rules Committee Meeting Update/Approval: Committee Chair Connie Beck reported the next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 17.
6. Bluewave Solar Correspondence Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett reported a mail solicitation from BlueWave expressing an interest in developing a community solar project on county farm ground. The letter, however, also referenced Montgomery County, PA. Note: An hour after the committee meeting adjourned, County Board Admin received a call from Austin Grammer of BlueWave who said he had indeed identified county farm ground for a potential project, but since the ground is near MJM power lines and not Ameren's, the site is of no interest to BlueWave.
7. Supervisor of Assessments Resignation Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson said he received a letter of resignation from Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus on June 10. Her last day of employment will be July 11, and her last day in the office will be Friday, June 27. Donaldson thanked her for her time and service.
8. Other Business: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser shared a letter dated June 17, 2025, from IDNR to Deer Run Mine asking for numerous modifications to their application for Revision No. 1 to Permit No. 424 to increase an impoundment facility height. The letter gave the mine one year to complete the application modifications. Chairman Donaldson added he had learned Deer Run had withdrawn their request to accept Springfield City Water, Light & Power (CWLP) coal combustion waste.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Animal Control Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said he anticipates discussions on rates for adoptions and the procedure manual.
2. CF IL Solar (Farmersville) Siting Permit Update/Approval: The committee will discuss information from the public hearing and make a recommendation.

3. RDC IL N24th Solar (Harvel) Siting Permit Update/Approval: The committee will discuss information from the public hearing.
4. Atticus & Finch Solar (Route 127) Public Hearing Date Update/Approval: The public hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, July 7.
5. Montgomery IL Solar 1 (Route 16) Public Hearing Date Update/Approval: The public hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, July 28.
6. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The committee will discuss the Phase II grant agreement and Phase III application.
7. Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss a recommendation.
8. Secession Resolution Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert will discuss resolution development with the State's Attorney. Chairman Donaldson requested the item be on the July 30 Mayors Meeting agenda.
9. Other Business: Committee Chair Ruppert said he will also ask his committee to consider a wind ordinance revision to accommodate siting approval extensions. He would also like vacancies in the Supervisor of Assessments office to be posted.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Hughes, Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Historical Marker Update/Approval: Jeff Dunn will be present to provide new information.
3. Elevator Maintenance Contract Update/Approval: On the advice of the State's Attorney, the county will send a letter to Otis Elevator expressing service issues during the recent outage.
4. Generator Pad Bids Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
5. Window Cleaning Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
6. Other Business: None.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Building Construction Update/Approval: The committee will discuss building progress.
2. Other Business: Engineer Cody Greenwood anticipates agenda items including a Harvel Township bridge letting, summer maintenance projects, an update on the Coffeen Road/Seven Sisters intersection work, and a presentation from a Harvel drainage district.

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. Extension Agreement Update/Approval: The agreement was approved in April and need not be on the agenda.
4. Bruce Harris Contract Update/Approval: SOA Niehaus will request Bruce Harris reps to attend the meeting.
5. Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss recommendations from County Board Administration, the County Clerk, and State's Attorney.
6. Other Business: Additional agenda items that need to be discussed include the budget process, audit contract, and county offices' drinking water.

Appointments:

1. None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 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 Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

5:00 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2025

Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones (at 5:07 p.m.), Russell Beason

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Pivot Senior Developer Brittney Krebsbach

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was let by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Animal Control Update/Approval: Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin reported responding to 25 calls in June, as well as currently housing 12 dogs and 19 cats at the facility. She reported reviewing adoption fees. Most of the county costs related to adoptions is for required spay/neuter services, and she is working on a plan to reduce those costs. She also reported providing contractual services to Litchfield is going well, and the committee discussed the plan of action for enclosing the porch at the facility, an improvement that will be funded by Phase II of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant.
4. CF IL Solar (Farmersville) Siting Permit Update/Approval: Pivot Senior Developer Brittney Krebsbach reviewed a written presentation addressing seven issues raised at the May 22, 2025 public hearing including vegetative management research, community partnerships, drain tiles, cooperation with neighbors, local labor, glare potential, and sound mitigation. Due to feedback from the hearing, Krebsbach said the developer has moved inverters to the center of the project, is working on shifting the entire site away from Mine Avenue, and has added a vegetative buffer to the east side. Committee Chair Ruppert will work on siting approval conditions, share them with the developer, and present them for a recommendation vote at next month's committee meeting.
5. RDC IL N24th Solar (Harvel) Siting Permit Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert noted relatively few issues were raised at the June 23, 2025 public hearing. The committee consensus was to honor the property owner's request to waive the vegetative screening requirement in favor of a mowing agreement. Chairman Ruppert will work on standard siting approval conditions and then present them for a recommendation vote at next month's committee meeting.
6. Bluestar & Horseshoe agreements with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval: The committee reviewed standard agreements with Hurst-Rosche for independent review agreements. **Motion by Beason and second by Daniels to recommend approval of independent engineer review agreements with Hurst-Rosche for Bluestar and Horseshoe solar projects for fees not to exceed \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. Atticus & Finch Solar (Route 127) Public Hearing Date Update/Approval: The public hearing date is set for Monday, July 7, beginning at 6 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse.
8. Montgomery IL Solar 1 (Route 16) Public Hearing Date Update/Approval: The public hearing date is set for Monday, July 28, beginning at 6 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse.

9. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Plunkett said projects in Phase I are about 85% complete, the grant agreement for Phase II has been executed and projects are underway, and the initial application for Phase III was submitted to DCEO on Friday, June 27.
10. Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval: The committee continued to discuss the proposed Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative and Responsible Bidder ordinance that would allow local businesses who request to do so to reduce their bids up to a maximum of 5% if necessary to meet the low bid. The committee had been debating the \$20,000 cap. Matt Blankenship of Local 1084 said in his research, local labor initiatives have been utilized with success around the state, but suggested raising the cap to \$50,000. **Motion by Daniels and second by Beason to recommend approval of the Responsible Bidder Ordinance with "Montgomery First" Local Business Adjustment to Bid Award. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. Montgomery County Wind Ordinance Update/Approval: Because the Montgomery County Wind Ordinance had no provision for extending the one-year deadline for construction to begin after siting approval, the committee discussed adding language that would allow for an extension of up to two years, along with a \$250 per MW application fee for requesting the extension. **Motion by Daniels and second by Jones to amend the Montgomery County Wind Ordinance as presented, effective July 8, 2025, upon passage. All in favor, motion carried.**
12. Secession Resolution Update/Approval: Committee member Jeremy Jones is requesting an advisory referendum be placed on the March 17, 2026 ballot.
13. Employee Handbook Distribution Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert would like to schedule a virtual meeting between Bushue HR and all Montgomery County department heads to explain changes in the newly adopted Employee Handbook. Treasurer Lohman offered to email the new handbook to all employees along with a request to sign and return the signature page.
14. Supervisor of Assessments Position Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said with two resignations in the Supervisor of Assessments office along with two previous vacancies, only one person remains working in the office. Advertisements to fill the vacancies appeared in print on Monday, June 30, and the committee asked County Board Administration to post the vacancies on Indeed. Ruppert said he will contact retired staff for short-term help, and he will research contracting with another county. Treasurer Lohman said she will obtain a list of individuals who have already passed the qualifying exam from the Illinois Department of Revenue.
15. Other Business: The committee reviewed a press release from the City of Litchfield dated June 19, 2025 regarding the announcement of a new primer ammunition manufacturing facility to be located in Litchfield's I-55 Commerce Center. Phase I of the project will begin in 2025, be operational in 2028, and create 85 jobs. Phase II will be operational in 2032 and create 75 more jobs. The committee also learned of a new tax sale process lawsuit involving 62 Illinois counties.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 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 Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Illinois State Historical Society Director Jeff Dunn

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Vice Chair Beason.
2. Public Comments: Jeff Dunn said he would like to donate more stackable bookcases to the Historic Courthouse, and more reserve building bricks.
3. Historical Marker Update/Approval: Jeff Dunn shared with the committee a proof of the Illinois State Historical Society marker, as well as activities to celebrate planned for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2. Dunn said the marker, which should arrive in the next few weeks, will be affixed to a pole that needs to be four feet in the ground and anchored in concrete. The committee agreed the southeast corner of the Historic Courthouse lawn would be a good spot for the marker, and met with Dunn on the grounds after the meeting to determine a location.
4. J-Tec Pipe Coating Presentation Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Ernst said a presentation has been scheduled for next month's committee meeting.
5. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The maintenance department completed 51 work orders in June, and Maintenance Director Ernst reviewed his report. The committee will advertise for Courts Complex boiler bids to be opened at the August committee meeting and reimbursed through the DCEO grant.
6. DCEO Phase II Projects Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the six items requested by Maintenance Director Ernst and funded by Phase II of the DCEO grant. Additionally, Ernst will take the lead in the VAC and ROE entrance repair and the Courthouse Annex rest room access.
7. Elevator Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a letter written by County Board Administration to Otis Elevator detailing the issues encountered during the 10-week Historic Courthouse elevator outage.
8. Generator Pad Bids Update/Approval: The committee reviewed three bids ranging from \$5,600 to \$8,400 for concrete pad improvements for the soon-to-arrive generator replacement at the Courts Complex, plus two bollards to protect it. Maintenance Director Ernst added the low bidder has agreed to include a third bollard at no extra cost. **Motion by Young and second by Beck to recommend awarding the low bid of \$5,600 for 6x10 one-foot concrete pad plus three bollards to RL Construction of Butler. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. Window Cleaning Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a proposal to clean windows for \$2,205 at the Historic Courthouse and for \$2,750 at the Courts Complex, but took no action.
10. Other Business: Circuit Clerk Robbins asked the committee to consider bollards protecting the Courts Complex front glass, as well as a detailed cleaning after several construction projects.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 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, July 2nd, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth, Doug Donaldson

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Denny Held and Richard Lyons of Harvel Drainage District #2, Bill Yamnitz

1. Public Comments: None
2. Bid Opening for Section 23-07108-00-BR Harvel Township N. 26th Avenue Bridge Replacement Update/Approval: County Engineer Cody Greenwood opened sealed bids from C-Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill and Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon, and Bev Seamon tabulated results. Bill Yamnitz was present. Bids ranged from \$314,955.03 to \$344,888 (both under the approved engineer's estimate of \$376,545.50. The project will be 80% township funded and 20% county funded. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Corso to recommend awarding the apparent low bid of \$314,955.03 to Yamnitz & Associates of Fielden for Section 23-07108-00-BR Harvel Township North 26th Avenue Bridge Replacement. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. Harvel Drainage District #2 Drain Tile Improvements Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood said county policy regarding crossing county roads requires a bore, and cuts will only be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the situation and conditions. Harvel Drainage District #2 had asked for such consideration due to the substantial grade change required at Black Diamond Trail. Greenwood gave the district specific conditions, such as pipe specs, requiring a saw cut, and fill requirements, and shared plans with the committee indicating the conditions will be met. Drainage District Commissioner Richard Lyons, who was present with Dennis Held, said the district is working to replace a system that is 125 years old, the first drainage district main replacement in the state. In order to receive Rural Development financing terms, the project must be completed by Dec. 31, 2025. Engineer Greenwood said he intends to approve the request.
4. Coffeen Road/Seven Sisters Avenue Intersection Project Update/Approval: Engineer Greenwood reported the first layer of asphalt was laid on July 1 and the second on July 2. Dirt work and striping should be completed the following week before the intersection is open to traffic.
5. Other Items: Engineer Greenwood reported progress on the new building: the electrician has trenched conduit, and the contractor is currently working on overhead door headers. The committee also discussed the feasibility and scope of a Nokomis-Fillmore Road project. Committee members will attend a Nokomis City Council meeting in August to continue the discussion.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 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 Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 3, 2025

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Development & Personnel Committee Chair Chad Ruppert, Michaela Gray from the Supervisor of Assessments Office, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, Illinois Account Manager Alex Simpson of Bruce Harris & Associates.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Bruce Harris Proposal Update/Approval: Bruce Harris & Associates Illinois Account Manager Alex Simpson presented a proposal for the board to upgrade its public GIS website, noting Bruce Harris currently has 18 active websites and 5 more in development. The proposal included a cost of \$24,878.16 for building the new site which would take about two months, and the monthly fee would be \$752 which is substantially less than the current Beacon contract. Simpson said work could begin when a contract is signed, and cost could be paid next fiscal year. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recommend accepting the proposal from Bruce Harris & Associates to build and maintain the Montgomery County public GIS website at a set-up cost of \$24,878.16 and a monthly maintenance cost of \$752. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. SOA Report Update/Approval: Development & Personnel Committee Chair Ruppert reported the resignation of the Supervisor of Assessments and Chief Deputy leaves one person in the office, who is doing a great job. Vacancies have been posted, and Ruppert said the Illinois Department of Revenue allows a temporary SOA for 60 days, and the committee discussed reaching out to retired SOA Ray Durston. Another option, according to Ruppert, is to contract with a neighboring county for those services. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to appoint committee member Evan Young to contact Ray Durston about temporary work. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: According to reports furnished by Treasurer Lohman, the May coal royalty payment was \$98,165.83. Also in May, \$346,000 in coal interest was transferred to the General Fund per the County Board Resolution.
6. FY2026 Budget Process Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported she has been working with Bellwether on the FY2026 budget process. She anticipates budget hearings in August.
7. County Audit Contract Update/Approval: Scheffel Boyle remains under contract for the FY2025 audit.
8. COLA Salary Increase for State's Attorney Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman provided a Notice of Annual Salary Reimbursement Cost of Living Adjustment for State's Attorneys and Public Defenders setting a 6.1% COLA increase for state FY2026, which began on July 1, 2025. The notice set the State's Attorney salary at \$169,865.81 and the Public Defender salary at \$152,879.23. According to state statute, the Sheriff salary is to be 80% of the State's Attorney's, or \$135,892.65. **Motion by**

Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend setting the State's Attorney salary at \$169,865.81, the Public Defender salary at \$152,879.23, and the Sheriff salary at \$135,892.65 beginning July 1, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.

9. County Office Drinking Water Update/Approval: Per request from the Coordinating Committee, the Finance & Budget Committee was asked to reconsider the prohibition of office holders vouchering bottled water. Both Treasurer Lohman and County Clerk Leitheiser said the water quality in the Historic Courthouse is poor, and both pay for water for their employees from their pockets. **Motion by Daniels and second by Whitworth to recommend allowing department heads to voucher bottled water from Office Supplies budget line items. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. Pre-Approved Vendor List Update/Approval: As recommended by the Finance & Budget Committee last month, County Board Administration, the Treasurer, County Clerk, and State's Attorney met to develop a plan to revamp the Pre-Paid Vendor List and report vouchers paid from the list. Ultimately, the list will be re-named the Pre-Approved Payment List and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti will include statutory citations and special funds that grant authority for payments from them. Additionally, committees will be furnished with monthly reports of payments made from the Pre-Approved Payment List. The board will be asked to consider approval of the new list when it has been completed.
11. Other Business: Committee Chair Ritchie noted two solar public hearings scheduled for July, and County Clerk Leitheiser and Treasurer Lohman referenced a state-wide lawsuit questioning the tax sale process. The committee also discussed a possible pay increase for the lone employee in the Supervisor of Assessments office, the need to reinstate an Imprest Fund at Animal Control, and developing a policy regarding reimbursing the county for training for employees who exit early. Treasurer Lohman also provided information that \$717,000 of the \$10 million (7.2%) in property taxes collected to day have been paid electronically.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.