

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 Cheatam 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.