

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:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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).**
- 5. 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.**
- 6. 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.