

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

Date: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024, 4:00 pm

Time: 4:04 pm – County Board

Room

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

Members Absent: Mark Hughes and John Wright

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

The committee met to discuss the following:

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

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

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

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

Date: Thursday, May 30th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

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

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

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

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

Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman

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

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

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

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

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

Appointments for Full Board meeting: None at present.

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

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

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

Date: Monday, April 30th, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM – County Board Room

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

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

Date: Monday, June 3rd, 2024

Time: 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: Tuesday, June 4th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

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

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

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Date: Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

Members Absent: None

Other Present: Mike Plunkett of County Board Administration

The committee met today to discuss the following:

Roads & Bridges Committee:

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

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

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

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

Montgomery County Board

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Agenda

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

Date: Thursday, June 6th, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Members Absent: David Loucks

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

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie.

The committee met today to discuss the following:

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

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

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

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