

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

**Date:** Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 pm - County Board Room

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

**Members Absent:** Mark Hughes, Dan Hough

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

The committee met to discuss the following:

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

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

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

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

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

**Date:** Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm

**Time:** 5:00 pm – Conference Room

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

**Members Absent:** None

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

The committee met to discuss the following:

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

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

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

## EMA Equipment Needs for CO2 Response

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Members Absent:** None

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

**Public Comments:** None

**Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman:**

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

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

**Buildings and Grounds: Bob Sneed, Chairman:**

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

**Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman:**

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

**Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman:**

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

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

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

**Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman:**

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

**Appointments for this month's Full Board meeting:** None

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

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

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

County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

**Date:** Monday, March 4th, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 PM – County Board Room

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

**Members Absent:** Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Montgomery County Board

## Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

**Date:** Tuesday, March 5th, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

**Members Absent:** Russell Beason

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

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

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

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

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

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

# Montgomery County Board

## Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

**Members Absent:** Bill Bergen

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

### Roads & Bridges Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

# Montgomery County Board Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

**Date:** Thursday, March 7th, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

**Members Absent:** None

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

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

The committee met today to discuss the following:

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

8. **Ambulance Agreements Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed ambulance agreements with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service and Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. Agreements with Farmersville-Waggoner and Raymond-Harvel have yet to return. The committee would like to compare the Nokomis-Witt levy request to last year's **Motion by Ritchie, second by Whitworth, to recommend approval of agreement with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie, second by Folkerts, to recommend approval of agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. Motion to table agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service by Young, second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion to table carried.**
  
9. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:** None needed.
  
10. **Other Business:** The committee reviewed and discussed the following, which will be placed on the full board agenda for action. Niehaus also asked for a resolution in support of HB4512.
  - A. **\$2,590 ARPA Generator Maintenance Contracts Update/Approval**
  - B. **\$10,000 ARPA Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Pager Update/Approval**
  - C. **\$5,000 ARPA Taylor Springs Fire Department Pager Update/Approval**

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

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

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