

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 PM.

Roll call was taken – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

Members Present: Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Doug Donaldson, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Gene Miles, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

Members Absent: Bill Bergen

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by County Board member Jeremy Jones.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Miles, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting: Motion by Young and second by Beck to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 15th, 2022. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beck and second by Folkerts to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Re-Organization Meeting held on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl – Report was submitted.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins – Report was submitted. Robbins was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham – Report Submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Report was submitted. Leitheiser was present for questions.
- 5. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee – Report was submitted. Satterlee was present for questions.
- 6. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood – Report was submitted. Greenwood was present for questions.
- 7. Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici – No report was submitted.
- 8. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson — No report was submitted.
- 9. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman – Report was submitted.
- 10. Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins – Report was submitted. Robbins was present for questions.
- 11. SOA Report** – Cindy Laurent – No report was submitted.
- 12. State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti – Report was submitted. Affrunti was present for questions.
- 13. Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman – Report was submitted. Lohman was present for questions.

14. V.A.C. Report – Dave Strowmatt – Report was submitted. Strowmatt reported the VAC board voted to elect Cassandra Hampton as the new VAC Superintendent, succeeding him when he retires. He stated she will start January 3, 2023, and he is retiring January 31, 2023.

APPROVAL OF 11 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Hughes and second by Miles to approve the 11 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Donaldson reported board member Murzynski will be the new liaison to the 708 board.
- **CEFS Board** – Donaldson reported board member Beason will be the new liaison to the CEFS board.
- **911 Board** – Bergen was absent, so nothing new was reported.
- **Health Department** – Donaldson reported board member Whitworth will be the new liaison to the Board of Health.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen was absent so nothing new was reported.
- **MCEDC** – Donaldson reported board member Hughes will be the new liaison to the MCEDC.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie reported they have not met for several months, and they are currently waiting on further direction for the battery storage ordinance they drafted.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Donaldson reported board member Folkerts will be the new liaison to the Senior Citizens board.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported they will not meet this month, but will meet next in January, 2023.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they will meet on Thursday, December 15th, 2022.
- **WCDC** – Donaldson reported board member Jones will be the new liaison to the WCDC.

After the County Board reorganized on December 6, 2022, all committee meetings preceding the December 13th Regular Full Board meeting were canceled; therefore, there were no committee reports given during this month's meeting. Pertinent items to be acted on during this meeting were placed under the Chairman's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Given by Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Pre-Approved Vendor List Addition of Probst Veterinary Clinic Update/Approval:** Motion by Young and second by Murzynski to approve the revised Pre-Approved Vendor List to include the addition of Probst Veterinary Clinic. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 241-242).
2. **County Board Committees and Liaisons Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported the County Board Committee and Liaison assignments were emailed to each of the board members earlier in the day and are also located inside of black binders on each

of their desks. He said if any board members have any questions or issues with the assignments, they should let him know.

- 3. Carbon Sequestration in Montgomery County Update/Approval:** Lan and Pam Richart with Eco-Justice Collaborative from Champaign, IL, gave a presentation in opposition of the proposed Heartland Greenway carbon sequestration project in Montgomery County. During the presentation, Mr. Richart stated the company involved in the Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) project (Navigator) has a strong financial incentive to get the pipeline and wells in the ground as soon as possible. He said Eco Justice believes the CCS project is unproven based on its magnitude so it needs to be heavily scrutinized. Richart also stated when the project was proposed in Christian County, most landowners didn't cooperate, which is why the developers have now moved to Montgomery County. He stated this is not a routine project for Navigator or any company.

Pam Richart stated the developers have not disclosed where the pipelines will go in Montgomery County and gave an overview of the risks of Carbon Sequestration and asked the County Board to call for a Moratorium on pipeline approval until updated federal safety regulations are in place. When asked why the County Board would support this project, Chairman Donaldson allowed for general questions from County Board members and the public, then stated the board has not said either they will support it or if they are against it. He said this project is new to the board and they will be doing more research at this time. Whitworth stated Montgomery County does not currently have zoning and therefore, cannot control what individual landowners do. Tenaska's CCS project representative Monte Ten Kley asked if the board would like them to speak to any of the questions asked. Donaldson said the plan for this meeting is to just listen to the other side of the argument since Heartland Greenway presented their side at a previous meeting. Donaldson thanked the representatives from Eco Justice for their presentation.

- 4. Other Business:** None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Whitworth and second by Ritchie to Enter into Executive Session, as allowed under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as found in Chapter 5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Section 120, to address this certain and restricted item: 1) "Litigation," when action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting." (5 ILCS 120/2(2)(C)(11). All in favor, motion carried. Board entered into executive session at 6:35 p.m. Motion by Whitworth and second by Jones to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Board returned to open session at 7:25 p.m. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & MINUTES:

Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to approve the Chairman's report and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Donaldson announced the Rules of Order Committee will need to meet soon to discuss the rules and other potential issues. Rules of Order Committee Chairwoman Beck said she spoke to Rules of Order committee members and they plan to meet in January.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None.

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion by Young and second by Jones to approve the appointment of Mark Meisner to the Pitman-Zanesville #2 Drainage District for a three-year term. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Young and second by Jones to approve the appointment of Gregory Weitekamp to the Zanesville #3 Drainage District for a three-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Heartland Greenway representative Jim Prescott stated they agree with the statement made by the opposition group tonight about the need to gather as many questions as needed and then ask those questions throughout this regulatory process. He stated he did not hear any questions asked about the project tonight which could not have been answered by Heartland Greenway representatives.

Christian County landowner Karen Brockelsby said she was approached about carbon sequestration and she would encourage Montgomery County to consider a moratorium similar to Christian County's. Christian County landowner Lee Brockelsby stated issues regarding insurance liability also need to be considered by landowners as well.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Manager Katie Wilson and Farm Bureau representative Dennis Hand presented the board with a plaque in recognition of the Resolution the board previously passed promoting agriculture.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL: Motion by Murzynski and second by Beck to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN: The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Whitworth and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.