

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023.

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

Roll call was taken – 14 members present, 0 members absent.

Members Present: Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, 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: None.

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 Folkerts to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, 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 Beck and second by Ritchie to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Animal Control Report** -- Emily Gerl – Report submitted.
2. **Circuit Clerk's Report** – Daniel Robbins – Report submitted.
3. **Coroner's Report** – Randy Leetham – Report submitted.
4. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Report submitted. Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
5. **Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee – Report submitted. Satterlee was present for questions.
6. **Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood – Report submitted. Greenwood was present for questions.
7. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici – Report submitted.
8. **Public Defender's Report** – Erin Mattson — No report submitted.
9. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman – Report submitted.
10. **Sheriff's Report** – Rick Robbins – Report submitted. Robbins was present for questions.
11. **SOA Report** – Cindy Laurent – Report submitted. Laurent was present for questions.
12. **State's Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti – Report submitted. Affrunti was present for questions.
13. **Treasurer's Report** – Nikki Lohman – Report submitted. Lohman was present for questions. She stated the ARPA funded digitizing project in her office has begun, and digitizing company employees are currently located in her office's break room working on the project if anyone would like to learn more about the project.
14. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton – Report submitted. Hampton was present for questions.

APPROVAL OF 13 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to approve the 13 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the 708 board met March 13 and discussed grant applications. He said they reviewed one application during their meeting.
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason reported they were waiting to hear about a plan proposed from Macoupin County Transit pertaining to our public transportation.
- **911 Board** – Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth stated there is nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes reported they held a meeting March 6th and stated MCEDC Executive Director Valerie Belusko is leaving the organization, as well as MCEDC Board President Jonathan Weyer. He stated they will possibly be looking for MCEDC members.
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie stated no meeting of the Planning Commission has been scheduled.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts reported they met February 20th and discussion included the Senior Citizens facility driveway needing rock and the review of lease documents.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported they held a meeting February 27th. He stated an attorney from the Energy Infrastructure Projects Division of the law firm Hepler and Broom, LLC, spoke at the meeting about statewide siting standards for wind and solar projects.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they will meet Thursday, March 16.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported they will meet Thursday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Donaldson stated there is nothing new to report.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** EMA Director Kevin Schott reported the Hazard Mitigation Plan is progressing and there is nothing new to report at this time.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Donaldson stated there is nothing new to report.
4. **Montgomery County Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee Update:** Donaldson reported he has been approached by a number of members of the community concerned about the mental health crisis in the county. He stated he reached out to surrounding counties to see how they were approaching the situation, has had no response. He determined Montgomery County needs to take the lead on this issue and he is going to create an Ad Hoc committee made up of members of the County Board, local law enforcement, Crossover Ministries' leaders and other community leaders. Donaldson reported EMA Assistant Coordinator and 708 Board Chairman Dan Hough will chair the Ad Hoc committee.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Connie Beck:

1. **Approve Committee Assignments Update:** Nothing new to report.
2. **Adopt Rules of Order for County Board Approval:** **Motion by Beck and second by Jones to adopt the Montgomery County Rules of the County Board as presented.** Young stated he would recommend moving Animal Control and EPA under the Roads and Bridges Committee to spread out the duties among all the committees. He said he thinks Animal Control should be under the Roads and Bridges Committee because Miles was overseeing them when they were under the Infrastructure Committee. He also said their facility is close to the Highway Department, which would be convenient for meetings. Young said the reason he believes EPA should be under the Roads and Bridges Committee is because most of the trash is along the roads. Hughes said he spoke with the Animal Control Officer Emily Gerl multiple times over the last week, and most of the issues they discussed have been personnel related. Hughes said he also dealt with animal control issues when he was chairman of the Safety and Elections committee. Beck said the Rules of Order Committee members and State's Attorney Affrunti both felt animal control should go under the Personnel Committee due to the Personnel Issues. State's Attorney Affrunti agreed and said animal control would be best suited for the Personnel Committee. He said they have the animal control services are not a concern, but the issues being brought to the committee have been personnel issues. Beck said the Rules Committee spent a lot of time discussing the assignments and deciding which committees to oversee their services. Miles said he spoke with Animal Control Officer Gerl recently also, and she expressed a desire to remain under his committee. Miles also stated he did not know how animal control got moved in the first place because it was most recently under the Infrastructure Committee, which consisted of Buildings and Grounds and Roads and Bridges. Young asked if he could make a motion related only to those two committee assignments. Affrunti responded they have to vote on the motion presented first. He stated if board members are not in favor of the proposed committee assignments, they should vote no on the motion to approve the rules as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE, Voting YES: Beck, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie and Whitworth. Voting NO: Beason, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Loucks, Miles, Sneed and Young. Motion failed by a vote of 8- NO, 6-YES.**
3. **Appoint Animal Control Administrator Approval:** Beck reported the board still needs to appoint an Animal Control Administrator, according to Illinois Statute, and we haven't had one since it went under the Infrastructure committee last year. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Hughes to approve making Mark Hughes the temporary Animal Control Administrator. ROLL CALL VOTE, Voting YES: Beck, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie and Whitworth. Voting NO: Beason, Bergen, Folkerts, Loucks, Miles, Sneed and Young. Motion failed by a 7-NO, 7-YES vote.** Donaldson stated unfortunately we will continue to be out of compliance until the board comes to a decision.
4. **Other Business:** Beck stated the Rules Committee will be scheduling another meeting.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported the maintenance staff remains busy throughout the Courthouse Complex. He also stated staff from National Maintenance and Cleaning Service continues to clean the Historic Courthouse and Jail while the custodian is absent.
2. **Furnace for Conference Room in VAC/ROE Building Update:** Sneed reported the committee reviewed bids for furnace maintenance in the conference room in the ROE building. He stated the committee voted to pay for maintenance of the furnace and chose the low bid from C&C Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$3660.
3. **Contract with Johnson Controls Update:** Sneed reported the committee voted to table this item until the next meeting.
4. **Security Cameras for Annex Building Update:** Sneed reported the committee voted to purchase cameras from Wareham's Security for cameras behind the ROE building after the building was broken into recently.
5. **Approve Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement for Elevators Approval: Motion by Sneed and second by Young to approve the Schindler Elevator Corporation preventative maintenance agreement in the amount of \$10,233.59. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Approval:** Sneed reported Hurst-Rosche Engineers' representative Jeremy Connor presented the latest figures and updates for replacing the sidewalks around the Historic Courthouse. He stated the city of Hillsboro is going to work with the county to share some of the costs of the project. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to advertise for bids to replace the sidewalks around the Historic Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update:** Sneed stated there is nothing new to report on this item, but County Clerk Leitheiser should be receiving more information next week.
8. **Approve Bids for County Farm Lease Approval:** Sneed reported the committee received four sealed bids to lease the County Farm, and the top bid went to Arlen Kasten of rural Hillsboro. **Motion by Sneed and second by Murzynski to accept the bid from Kasten Farming to lease the County Farm for three years at an amount of \$410 per acre. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **EMA Storage Building Update:** Sneed reported EMA Coordinator Schott and Assistant Coordinator Joe Gasparich approached the committee about possibly purchasing a building in Irving to store trailers and equipment and also provide office space. The building is listed at \$150,000, and Sneed said he told EMA to check with the Finance and Budget Committee as a next step. Schott stated that inquiry has been made.
10. **Old Highway Department Building Update:** Sneed reported the committee discussed bids to abate the asbestos at the old Highway Department building. He said they received bids of \$17,200, \$23,160 and \$33,600 respectively from different contractors to abate the building.
11. **Bid Old Highway Department Property Approval:** Sneed reported the committee is recommending the board advertise for bids for the old Highway Department property as is. **Motion by Sneed and second by Miles to advertise bids for the old Highway Department property as is, with the option for the top three bidders to increase**

their bids if they attend the Buildings and Grounds meeting on April 4th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in person. Young asked if there will be a minimum bid attached to the bid specifications. Sneed stated there will not. Hughes asked if the board will still have the right to refuse all bids. Sneed said yes, we will, but this provision needs stated in the bid advertisement. **All in favor, motion carried.**

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Hughes reported MCEDC will hold their annual meeting on April 27th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. and they will discuss the future of the organization.
2. **Monthly Insurance and HRA Report Update:** Hughes reported the committee reviewed the monthly HRA report and February's numbers are lower, most likely due to the change in insurance carriers for the fiscal year.
3. **Approve Appointing Supervisor of Assessments Approval:** Hughes reported Supervisor of Assessments employee Kendra Niehaus passed her state Supervisor of Assessments exam and may now be appointed to the position. **Motion by Hughes and second by Young to appoint Kendra Niehaus to the position of Supervisor of Assessments for a probationary period of six months, effective April 1st, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Heartland Greenway Carbon Sequestration Project and Development Agreement Update:** Hughes reported Chairman Donaldson is creating an Ad Hoc committee to discuss what to do next with the Carbon Sequestration project. He said the members of this committee will include County Board members Ken Folkerts, Doug Donaldson, Mark Hughes, Connie Beck and community member John Wright. He said these meetings will be open to the public.
5. **UKA North America – Wind Project Update:** Hughes reported UKA Senior Project Developer Ben Orcutt gave a presentation on a proposed wind farm project for Montgomery County during their committee meeting. He said Orcutt also attended the Roads and Bridges Committee meeting and provided a similar presentation. Hughes stated the board may see an application by late summer.
6. **Statewide Siting of Wind & Solar Facilities – Public Act 102-1123 Update:** Hughes reported the county's wind and solar ordinances must be in line with the changes made by the State by the end of May, 2023.
7. **Solar Provider Group - Permit Application and Setback Waiver Update:** Hughes reported a solar provider group is requesting a setback waiver for their project. County Board Administrator Chris Daniels said we received an application and a check, but have not received the waiver yet.
8. **Tourism Grants Update:** Hughes reported applications for tourism grants have been posted and are now available for pickup. He said they are due March 31st, 2023, and the Development and Personnel Committee will review and score them at their April meeting.
9. **DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Update:** Hughes reported the county's application for the Energy Community Transition Grant was approved and those taxing districts who applied are eligible for \$2,267,334. He stated the Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee will meet on March 22nd at 6 p.m. to work with grant writer Dan Rogers on completing Phase II of the grant application.

10. **Approve FY 2023 Agreement with Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service Approval:** Hughes reported these contracts will be sent out for the ambulance service representatives to sign, and then will be returned for signatures from the County Board. **Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the FY 2023 Agreement with the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Approve FY 2023 Agreement with Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service Approval:** Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to approve the FY 2023 Agreement with the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.
12. **Approve FY 2023 Agreement with Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service Approval:** Motion by Hughes and second by Folkerts to approve the FY 2023 Agreement with the Farmersville-Waggoner Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.
13. **Approve FY 2023 Agreement with Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service Approval:** Motion by Hughes and second by Young to approve the FY 2023 Agreement with the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.
14. **Animal Control Facility Update:** Hughes reported there are currently 19 dogs and 4 cats at the Animal Control Facility. Donaldson stated there are actually only 18 dogs as of a few hours ago, since his family adopted a dog from the facility recently.
15. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update:** Hughes said there is nothing new to report.
16. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Daniels reported the next electronics recycling drive will take place April 29th, 2023, from 9 a.m. to noon in Hillsboro.
17. **Other Business:** Hughes reported the Development and Personnel Committee voted to move their meetings to two Mondays before the Full Board meeting to help the Coordinated Services office catch up on their work load during committee week.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Ritchie deferred to temporary Supervisor of Assessments office manager Cindy Laurent, who presented her report to the board. She stated the office has one less employee after the recent passing of county employee Miles Harris, and the office will be advertising for that Field Representative position. She also reported she is training Kendra Niehaus on other required duties for the Supervisor of Assessments position so she can assume that role soon.
2. **Approve Purchase of TrueRoll Proactive Homestead Monitoring Software Approval:** Laurent reported the Finance Committee has recommended purchasing the TrueRoll Proactive Homestead Monitoring Software to help find exemptions and clean up other data in the SOA office system. She stated funds to purchase the software will come from the GIS budget utilizing multiple funds. Laurent said she believes it will be a great asset to the county. Ritchie stated the software should essentially pay for itself. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve purchasing the TrueRoll Proactive Homestead Monitoring Software in the amount of \$11,240. All in favor, motion carried.**

3. **Approve Salary for Supervisor of Assessments Approval:** Ritchie reported the board needs to approve the salary for incoming Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus. He stated the position was advertised at a range of \$55,000 to \$70,000, and the latter amount was budgeted. He said the committee is recommending a salary of \$57,500 for a probationary period of six months. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to approve a salary of \$57,500 for a six-month probationary period for Kendra Niehaus as Supervisor of Assessments.** Hughes asked if this will be the total \$57,500 for the six-month period, or an annual wage. Ritchie said it will be an annual wage. **Ritchie amends his motion, with the approval of Young, to state “to approve an annual salary of \$57,500 for a six-month probationary period.” All in favor, motion carried.** Hughes recognized temporary Supervisor of Assessments Laurent, who has been working hard to run the office; and those in attendance applauded her efforts.
4. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Ritchie reported the county received a \$310,000 capital improvement check in January and another \$300,000 check in February, the latter of which will be reflected in next month’s report.
5. **FY 2022 Audit Update:** Treasurer Lohman reported today she answered the last five questions the auditors had, and the audit should be finished on schedule.
6. **Intergovernmental Agreement for Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center Approval:** Ritchie reported this agreement is between the County and 911/ETSB. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Resolution Implementing Recording Fee Increase Due to State of Illinois Rental Housing Surcharge Program (RHSP) Fund Increase Approval:** Leitheiser reported this is a state mandate and her office must collect the fee. The said the fee for standard documents will increase from \$79 to \$88 and the fee for non-standard documents will increase from \$90 to \$99. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve the Resolution Implementing Recording Fees Increase due to the State of Illinois Rental Housing Surcharge Program Fund increase. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Resolution, see Resolution Book 19, page 274).**
8. **Approve Purchase of EMA Building Update:** Ritchie reported the committee voted to table this item for one month in order to research all potential options.
9. **Contracts and Intergovernmental Agreements for Non-County ARPA Distribution Update:** Ritchie reported the contracts and Intergovernmental Agreements for ARPA funds for non-county projects have been sent out to the various entities.
10. **Ordinances Authorizing the Distribution of ARPA Funds for Non-County ARPA Projects Update:** Ritchie reported these ordinances will not be acted upon until we receive the signed contracts and IGAs.
11. **Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase Communications System for 911 ETSB Update:** Ritchie reported the board previously passed Ordinance 2022-18 authorizing the use of ARPA funds not to exceed \$345,000 to purchase a simulcast system. Bergen stated he objects to the second part because the ordinance does not say simulcast system, but rather communications system. Ritchie said the ordinance was passed with a quote attached to it from GTSI for \$345,000. Affrunti stated if the 911 board does not want to move forward with the simulcast project attached to the initial ordinance, they will need to reapply for the changed project so they are treated like other

bodies/entities/offices. Loucks stated the Finance and Budget Committee discussed letting the ETSB have the \$90,000 requested for the revised project and the county receiving the leftover money to put back into the pot. Donaldson asked if the Finance and Budget Committee made a recommendation at their meeting. Ritchie said they did not. Loucks said they did. Ritchie said they did not because the agenda for the Finance and Budget Committee specifically listed simulcast system, and the new project is not a simulcast system. Bergen stated the 911 board voted 5-2 to not move forward with the simulcast system. He also said he does not consider the GTSI document attached to Ordinance 2022-18 as a quote. He said the 911 board asked GTSI multiple times for additional information and when they did not receive it, the board voted the project down. Ritchie said the Finance and Budget Committee will need to discuss the policy for resubmitting project requests for ARPA funding at their next meeting.

12. **Ordinance 2023-09 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase Fiber Project for 911 ETSB Approval:** Ritchie reported this is for a budgeted project using ARPA money and is not related to the previous agenda item. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Murzynski to approve Ordinance 2023-09 authorizing the use of ARPA Funds to purchase a fiber project for 911/ETSB for an amount not to exceed \$40,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 275-276).**
13. **Ordinance 2023-10 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase vehicles for Sheriff's Office Approval:** Ritchie reported the vendor agreed to distribute vehicles to the sheriff's office before the purchase was complete. There are three vehicles at a total cost of \$127,000. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve Ordinance 2023-10 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to purchase vehicles for the Sheriff's Office for an amount not to exceed \$127,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 277-280).**
14. **Ordinance 2023-11 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase Equipment for Sheriff's Office Approval:** Ritchie reported this is for equipment for the newly purchased sheriff's vehicles. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Hughes to approve Ordinance 2023-11 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to purchase vehicle equipment for the Sheriff's Office for an amount not to exceed \$8,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, page 281).**
15. **Ordinance 2023-12 Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase Radios/Communications Equipment for Montgomery County EMA Approval:** Ritchie reported this is the second of two ordinances to purchase radios and communications equipment for EMA and was budgeted for ARPA funds. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to approve the Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to purchase radios and communications equipment for the Montgomery County EMA for an amount not to exceed \$16,133.15. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 282-286).**
16. **DCEO Energy Community Reinvestment Act Grant and Vistra Energy Update:** Ritchie reported the County's application for the DCEO Energy Community Transition Grant is eligible for \$2,267,334, which will be divided among all the entities included in our application. He stated the Energy Grant Ad Hoc committee will meet next on March 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board room to work with grant writer Dan Rogers on writing Phase II of the grant.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Gene Miles:

1. **Walshville Bypass Road Intergovernmental Agreement Update:** Miles reported this item is on hold until the Walshville Village Board meets again.
2. **Wind Farm – UKA North America – Ben Orcutt Update:** Miles reported UKA North America Wind Project Developer Ben Orcutt gave a presentation during the Roads and Bridges Committee meeting. He stated Orcutt informed them the first project will be located in Bois D’Arc, Pitman and Harvel Townships. Miles also said there will be a total of 16 windmills in Project One, and the primary access roads for the park will be Mine Avenue and Black Diamond Trail.
3. **2023 Township MFT Oil Letting Update:** Miles reported this and the other two lettings on the agenda will all take place on April 4, 2023; and the committee will discuss the lettings at their following meeting.
4. **2023 County MFT Oil Letting Update:** Miles stated there is nothing additional to report.
5. **2023 Pipe Culvert Letting Update:** Miles stated there is nothing additional to report.
6. **Old Highway Department Building Update:** Miles stated the board already discussed the cost of the asbestos abatement at the old Highway Department building. He also reported approximately 80 percent of the steel has been removed from the white truck shed at the old property.
7. **Section 15-00138-00-BR – Whitetown Bridge Update:** Miles reported this project is on the State Letting schedule and the estimated construction cost is \$2.53 million. Greenwood said once construction begins, the project must be completed within 95 working days. Greenwood also reported C-Hill Civil Contractors Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$2,084,483.75. He stated C-Hill recently bought out Depue and Owen, with whom the County has worked before.
8. **Section 09-00133-00-BR – Walshville Trail Bridge Update:** Miles reported this project was slated for 2024, and we have been allotted \$1.442 million dollars to work on the project.
9. **Nokomis Township Road Vacation – Portion of N. 22nd Ave Update:** Miles reported Greenwood held a hearing Monday at the Nokomis Township Shed regarding some local property owners’ appeal to the vacating of approximately 4000 feet of North 22nd Avenue just south of the rock quarry allowed by Nokomis Township. He said Greenwood has five days to make a recommendation.
10. **Other Business:** Miles reported the committee will put the Nokomis Road project between Nokomis and Fillmore back on their radar as a future project.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Young and second by Folkerts to approve the six committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Beck and second by Jones to appoint Michael Broaddus to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District Board to finish a vacated term expiring in May 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Board member Dave Schweizer began the public comment portion of the meeting. He stated he had questions he would like to have answered with regards to ambulance billing and the ARPA funding. He asked who came up with the idea of a 40-60 split with regards to non-ARPA matching funds and why that idea was approved. He also asked if the County had errors and omissions insurance on the Ambulance Billing office, because former County Ambulance Billing office employee Mona Lewis declared herself the administrator for Medicare almost a year after the NWAAS had removed themselves from county billing.

County resident Chad Compton addressed the board next about a cannabis campground site that recently located near his residence. He distributed handouts showing a Beacon map of the campground's location and Airbnb information on the campground, which has been named "Best Buds 420." He said the campground is located on a five-acre parcel owned by a Florida resident, but the individual managing the site will be overseeing the campground. Compton stated the campground is very near their yard and home, and he is worried about potential unlawful trespassing onto his and the surrounding residents' properties, among other concerns. Compton stated while they are not considering selling their property right now, he did not believe they could sell it even if they wanted to because of the location of the campground. He said he is asking for the board's help because the business is supposed to open on April 19th, and they could be grandfathered in if any laws or ordinances are approved at a later time.

Other members of the public in attendance spoke about the carbon sequestration project proposed for Montgomery County. Audubon Township landowner Kurt Johnson stated they have a group fighting hard against the project, and they believe it is dying a slow death. He urged the County Board to sign a petition to intervene with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), much like Sangamon and McDonough counties have already done. He said another step the board can take to prevent this project from taking place is to pass a moratorium. He stated he has heard the County cannot do anything to stop the project, but he said there is a means by which the moratorium can be imposed.

Audubon Township landowner Trevor Braye stated the pipeline is set to run within 50 feet of his house. He said he read the proposed lease and it is very one-sided. He said the County is being offered \$250,000 per injection well per year over a 30-year period while some landowners are being offered \$3,000 per year. He stated there is no way this area is prepared in case of an event like a pipeline eruption similar to the event in Mississippi. He said the money being offered to the county is a bribe, and they should decline it like other counties have done.

Nokomis landowner Theresa Stevens stated her grandparents came here from Italy with nothing, and farming in the area now under consideration has been their family's livelihood. She asked county board members if they can look at the people in the audience at tonight's meeting and say their opinions don't matter. She stated lives are more important than the almighty dollar.

Audubon Township landowner Sabrina Jones stated she spoke with a large majority of township leaders in the county, and she has not spoken to any township yet who supports the CO2 project. She questioned State's Attorney Affrunti about his use of his cell phone during the meeting, and Affrunti responded he was using it to be in contact with a Sangamon County representative about the issue.

Nokomis landowner Cynthia Crowe asked if the CO2 Ad Hoc Committee meetings will be open to the public. Donaldson replied affirmatively.

Rural Hillsboro landowner Bill Schroeder asked if there would be agendas posted for those meetings. Donaldson stated meetings have not been scheduled yet, but agendas will be posted when they have been scheduled.

Nokomis and Witt Township landowner Andrew Bertolino stated Navigator has never built a CO2 pipeline before, and asked County Board members if they would want this site near them.

Audubon Township resident Greg Archibald stated they have a map of those in the Audubon Township area who have signed leases and those who have refused to sign leases, and they understand 84% haven't signed leases, and 16% have signed leases. Archibald said of those 16% who have signed leases, most of them want out of their contracts.

Fillmore Consolidated Township resident Karyl Dressen asked board members to contact state legislators to support proposed bills which could stop carbon sequestration projects and help protect landowners against eminent domain concerns and provide proper setback limitations within future projects.

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

ADJOURN: The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Whitworth and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.