

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

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, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young.

Members Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Sheriff Rick Robbins in honor of National Correctional Officers Week held from May 5th to May 11th, 2024.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval:

Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Beck and second by Sneed to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee was present for questions and discussed the future format of his monthly report.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.

11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted. Ulrici was present and stated four individuals graduated from Drug Court last week, and her office is awaiting final certification for Mental Health Court.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, no report submitted.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted. Affrunti was present and added his office obtained a conviction in a recent homicide trial, and he thanked the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted. Lohman was present and added property tax bills will be mailed by the end of the month.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board had met on Monday, May 13th, 2024, and deferred to Chairman Dan Hough who noted the application period for 708 funding opened on May 1st, 2024, and continues through June 30th, 2024. Hough also asked residents to watch for and participate in an upcoming needs assessment survey soon.
- **CEFS Board** – Beason reported the fiscal agent for CIPT may change from Shelby County.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported the board meets Thursday, May 16th, 2024.
- **Health Department** – Whitworth reported the Health Department is preparing to open their new Litchfield site.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen reported he will be at a meeting in Springfield on May 15th, 2024.
- **MCEDC** – Hughes reported the board met on April 18th, 2024, and set the annual meeting date for Tuesday, June 18th, 2024, at the SCI Center in Litchfield.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie had nothing new to report.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Folkerts offered condolences to the family of Chairman Gene Knisley who passed on May 10th, 2024.
- **UCCI** – Ruppert said the next meeting is May 20th, 2024.
- **U of I** – Beck said the next meeting is June 20th, 2024.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the committee has several decisions to make at its upcoming May 16th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen Dionne Manzer presented each board member with a map of the proposed North Sun solar project and its proximity to her and her husband’s residence. She expressed concerns about the project timeline and the county’s loss of local control. Manzer encouraged board members to review the application process and asked the County Board to research options to slow the process down.

Raymond Village President Dennis Held asked board members to reconsider expending ARPA funds for a previously requested village mapping system.

Citizen Phil Hampton thanked the board for agreeing to include the Waggoner ball field project with ADA-compliant restrooms in its DCEO Energy Transition Grant and asked the board to remain committed to funding.

Taylor Springs Village Trustee Sheri Reynolds was present with Village President Harry Jackson and asked the board to reconsider expending ARPA funds for back-up generators. She relayed generators not only power warming centers when needed, but also supply back-up power for village lift stations. Reynolds warned without generators, when power is out and lift stations fail, there is flooding and potential environmental issues.

Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty requested the board reconsider ARPA funding to replace a 20-year-old lake boat. He introduced Lake Superintendent Heather Bell, who shared she had to use a private boat for several lake rescues during the past week.

Citizen Bill Schroeder asked the board to consider capping the number of total county acres used to provide wind and solar power. He also requested the board to look into the Grain Belt Transmission Corridor which could place high-voltage transmission lines across Montgomery County. He referenced a comment period concerning the Grain Belt Transmission Corridor extending through June 24th, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **National Correctional Officers Week May 5-11 Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson noted the first full week of May has been recognized as National Correctional Officers Week since 1984. He said this is an important opportunity to give thanks and acknowledge the courage and heroism it takes to work as a Correctional Officer. Chairman Donaldson also noted National Telecommunicators Week was April 14th-20th, and thanked them for their service as well. The board and audience applauded the efforts of both.
2. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported work on the redundant fiber ring continues, and he stated this work will require short internet outages during the process. He said cameras funded by the recent court grant are currently being installed, and the Information Systems office is also working on annual PC replacement and reviewing recent election and 911 cyber-security assessments.
3. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA Director Kevin Schott pointed out the deadline for Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant pre-applications is May 17th, 2024. EMA Assistant Dan Hough reported about a weather radio tower discussion with the National Weather Service at a conference last month. He said the National Weather Service is reviewing two potential tower sites scheduled to serve Montgomery, Bond, and Fayette counties. Hough also said he recently spoke with coal mine officials on May 13th, 2024, and they indicated they have hired a seismic team who will analyze Illinois Route 185 in the coming week, develop a remediation plan, and provide the plan to the Illinois Department of Transportation.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reviewed a report about high unemployment in Montgomery County which referenced our increased aging population not working and a shrinking younger population within our county.

5. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the committee was satisfied with the new report format, but the 708 Board would like to continue to see mental health statistics. Administrator Hugh Satterlee said he will report whatever information the board finds useful, and Chairman Donaldson directed Satterlee and Hough to work together on the new report format.
6. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has been following pending pipeline legislation, SB3930 and HB5814. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss both at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024.
7. **EZ Mayors Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson will meet with county mayors at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, to review proposed contracts for Animal Control along with other potential agenda items.
8. **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. **Motion by Sneed and second by Whitworth to designate the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried.** Donaldson presented the signed proclamation to members of Cross Over Ministries, paused for a group photo, and all applauded the group's work. Sheriff Robbins reported the Montgomery County Health Department Board of Directors has recently approved funding for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to hire a new deputy with mental health training to better accommodate those with mental health issues. **(For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 137).**

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted HRA usage was \$7,000 for the month of April for a total of \$35,858 spent for the first five months of the fiscal year.
2. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert said warmer weather has resulted in more dog bite cases in the last two weeks, and a Giardia outbreak has killed three dogs in the past two weeks. Ruppert reported the committee reviewed a proposed municipal contract for \$2.50 per capita during business hours and \$250 per call after hours, and spells out the names and positions of those whom municipalities would allow to authorize Animal Control calls. Eight municipalities have signed our current contract, which will be in effect for them through November 2025. Ruppert stated if approved, Chairman Donaldson will present the proposed contract to mayors at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th. Donaldson said at the last mayors' meeting, the discussion had centered on a \$2 per capita charge. Board Member Whitworth asked about the total difference in revenue between the two amounts, and Ruppert responded about \$15,000 per year. He added the actual cost to run Animal Control is about \$5 per capita, and added if the proposed municipal contracts are signed; the increased revenue would cover adding the cost of an employee. Whitworth pointed out Animal Control is a tax-funded county service not intended for self-supporting status, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti added the proposed municipal contracts cover services not normally provided by county government. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the**

revised Municipal Contract for Animal Control Services. Voice Vote was held. Motion carried, Donaldson voted no.

3. **Bushue Update/Approval:** Ruppert said during a “fact-finding” meeting with Travis Bushue on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, the HR consultant was familiarized with county procedures and was presented with a copy of union contracts and the county personnel manual. He said a regular monthly meeting will be established and emergency contact information will be furnished to department heads.
4. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported UKA has been talking to individuals who identified concerns with specific turbine locations at the recent hearings held on April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st, 2024. He said the recessed hearing will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th, 2024.
5. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Solar Applications Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee recommended proposals from Hurst-Rosche to review solar permit applications from North Sun LLC and Plains Solar LLC for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 each. The public hearing for the North Sun project has been set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse, and the public hearing for the Plains Solar project has been set for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 1st, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the North Sun LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 138). Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the Plains Solar LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 139).**
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted sub-recipient Lincoln Land Community College requested an extension for expending grant funds. The request was forwarded to DCEO and will be reviewed closer to the June 2025 grant deadline. Sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries are ready for approval. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 140-143).**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported recent requests for grant applications. Information about the grant will also be provided at the mayors’ meeting on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024.

Ruppert acknowledged Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who invited board members to a “Let’s Talk Tourism” event hosted by MCEDC and Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at The Abbey on Board in Hillsboro.

Chairman Donaldson reminded members three public hearings remain scheduled: the Virden Wind project public hearing has been recessed until 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28th, 2024; the North Sun 22c solar project public hearing has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024; and the Plains Solar project public hearing has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 1st, 2024.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reminded members a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse is scheduled to be installed on May 20th, 2024. He said the committee accepted a proposal from Altorfer to upgrade the maintenance agreement on a D60GC generator to “Platinum” level for an extra \$550 for five years.
2. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed and discussed an incentive from Schindler Elevator to renew the county’s current elevator service contract and voted to reject the proposal.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee has heard nothing further from the Hillsboro School District regarding lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro for a potential future building trades site.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed noted Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society attended the committee meeting and reported the University of Illinois has agreed to pay the entire estimated \$4,800 cost for a coal historical marker on the Historic Courthouse lawn. He said the text for the marker must be submitted by mid-June, and Dunn anticipates a Spring 2025 dedication ceremony with receptions before and after the event.
5. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Sneed said since the contractor did a good job tuck-pointing the north wall on the Annex Building, paint for a proposed mural can now be applied directly to the brick. He said the new mortar should be given plenty of time to cure, and Sneed anticipates artists will begin work in Spring 2025.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Engineer Greenwood had checked references for the apparent low bidder, Central Roofing of Mattoon, after the bid opening last month for a new roof on the block building at the Highway Department. He said the contractor was highly recommended and the bid appears to be fair. **Motion by Sneed and second by Murzinski to award the low base bid of \$110,604 to Central Roofing LLC of Mattoon for replacing the block building roof at the Highway Department. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said he met with County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Ameresco representatives, and other county employees for a pre-construction meeting on Monday, May 13th, 2024. He said work in the County Clerk’s office should begin in July and be completed well before early voting begins.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins reported equipment has been ordered and another walk-through has been re-scheduled for 3 p.m. May 23rd, 2024.
9. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the committee discussed the disposition of a replaced generator at the Montgomery County Jail, according to Sneed. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to declare generator model number 30DLG L33658E as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.** Sneed said the surplus generator will be sold by bid.

- 10. Courthouse Complex Roof Replacement Bid Spec Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed bid specs to replace the roof at the Courthouse Complex and the funds have been appropriated in the FY 2024 budget. He said advertising for bids began on Thursday, May 10th, a pre-bid meeting is set for 11 a.m. Friday, May 17th, the bid due date is 4 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, and bid opening will be on Tuesday, June 4th, at next month's committee meeting.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported engineers are still working on the bypass, so county forces may blade mix and seal coat through town while working on Elevator Road.
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said a draft road use agreement prepared by UKA has been submitted to an outside legal consultant. The UKA road use agreement will set a precedent for those who follow.
3. **Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** After research by Engineer Greenwood, Murzynski said every variance request should be decided case by case; and the county could then approve, disapprove, or modify individual requests.
4. **White Block Building Roof Update/Approval:** At the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the County Board awarded the low bid earlier in the meeting.
5. **Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% County scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the resolution to rip rap. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Bergen to approve Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% county scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Trail for an estimated \$20,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 144-145).**
6. **Section 18-13123-00-BR – Raymond Twp – Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the committee had reviewed and discussed two bids on the bid tab sheet. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to award the bid for Section 18-13123-00-BR Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement in Raymond Township to Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon for \$269,443.21. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Highway Maintainer position vacancy Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Ethan Beeler has been hired to fill the Maintainer vacancy.
8. **Purchase of Used Equipment Update/Approval:** Mason County is selling a 2017 Mack tandem truck with 33,000 miles (the oldest truck in their fleet) by sealed bid. Murzynski said State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti affirmed the process.

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

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed the report. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus added the county's final multiplier for 2023-2024 is 1.0000; all structures 200 square feet and larger will be assessed for the 2024

payable in 2025 tax year, and she has been researching how rural wind and solar farms will impact drainage district's property tax revenue.

2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Based on reports provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported the County received a March coal royalty payment of \$68,230.41 and year-to-date interest in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$142,115.39. Ritchie said the Capital Improvement Fund balance as of March 31st was \$1,447,071.44.
3. **ACH Accounts Payable Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Nikki Lohman is proceeding with Automated Clearing House (ACH) checkless payments instead of issuing paper checks for benefit expenses.
4. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed a bid tabulation sheet prepared by the County Board Administration office with two bids for electric rates. Ritchie noted the apparent low bid rate represents a 44% increase from the current rate. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to award a 12-month low bid of 0.06535 from Option One for electric rates. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said due to what he called "errors in process," he was asking for approval of an agenda item not recommended by committee due to a 3-3 tie vote. First, he said discussion was halted but according to Roberts Rules of Order, it should not have been. Secondly, Roberts Rules of Order allow ex-officio members of a committee to vote, which would have resolved the tie. Ritchie then invited Board Member Patty Whitworth to explain the correct procedure, which includes in full board meetings, any member may call for the question, but the motion requires a second and approval of two-thirds of the members present.

Whitworth explained a call for the question motion is never allowed at the committee level. Whitworth also explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, ex-officio members of a committee do not count toward a quorum but are able to vote.

Ritchie explained in July, 2023, the Finance & Budget Committee recommended and the County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. He said the grant was ultimately received, but without specifically naming the Waggoner project, which has subsequently begun. Ritchie said the committee debated either re-allocating unspent ARPA funds for the project or using interest earned on ARPA funds. Motions to recommend both were considered by the committee, and both motions resulted in a tie. State's Attorney Affrunti advised board members that committee recommendations are not required; the County Board has the "final say." **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to re-allocate \$38,000 in ARPA funds for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no were Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **10 members voted yes, 4 members voted no. Motion carried.**
6. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the County Coordinated Services office researched the possibility of available state funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up and found none. He reported there is an easement to the cemetery, Audubon Township is providing a culvert for it, and local contractor Hamlin-Jones is installing the culvert. Ritchie stated this hopefully will resolve the cemetery access issue.

7. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins informed the committee by email an audit extension is needed due to a new form. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to grant an extension for the annual Circuit Clerk audit until Nov. 30th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 146).**
8. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed two spreadsheets prepared by the Coordinated Services Office, one with historical County union and non-union wage increases, and the other comparing the salaries of County positions to the state average, national average, and UCCI county average. He said a motion to tie next year's raises to the Consumer Price Index for the Midwest was tabled until next month. Ritchie added changes in overtime requirements for salaried employees could also have an impact.
9. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** Ritchie told the board the sheriff and 911 Committee learned the lock had been cut at the Cress Hill Tower gate. He said although there was no evidence of theft or vandalism, Sheriff Rick Robbins recommended a security camera installed with the \$9,000 estimated cost split with the ETSB. Fiber has already been extended to the tower using ARPA funds. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to re-allocate \$4,500 in ARPA funds for 50% of the cost to install a security camera at the Cress Hill Tower. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Previously Unfunded ARPA Requests Update/Approval:** Ritchie described a list of six previously unfunded ARPA requests, which together with the \$4,500 for half of the Cress Hill Tower security camera, total just over \$135,000. The original funded ARPA list included \$180,000 for an ambulance which is no longer requested, several funded ARPA projects were completed well-under budget, and the ARPA Fund has earned over \$132,000 in interest. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to re-allocate ARPA funds for generators for Taylor Springs for \$50,160.60, repeaters for the Witt Volunteer Fire Department for \$8,680, a police SUV for Litchfield for \$26,100, water maps for Raymond for \$9,600, a culvert for the Health Department for \$1,800, and a patrol boat for Litchfield for \$36,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. **Re-appointment of William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to re-appoint William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term from March 2024 to March 2027. All in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

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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, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young.

Members Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Sheriff Rick Robbins in honor of National Correctional Officers Week held from May 5th to May 11th, 2024.

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Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

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- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported the board meets Thursday, May 16th, 2024.
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- **IL Association of County Officials** — Bergen reported he will be at a meeting in Springfield on May 15th, 2024.
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5. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the committee was satisfied with the new report format, but the 708 Board would like to continue to see mental health statistics. Administrator Hugh Satterlee said he will report whatever information the board finds useful, and Chairman Donaldson directed Satterlee and Hough to work together on the new report format.
6. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has been following pending pipeline legislation, SB3930 and HB5814. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss both at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024.
7. **EZ Mayors Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson will meet with county mayors at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, to review proposed contracts for Animal Control along with other potential agenda items.
8. **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. **Motion by Sneed and second by Whitworth to designate the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried.** Donaldson presented the signed proclamation to members of Cross Over Ministries, paused for a group photo, and all applauded the group's work. Sheriff Robbins reported the Montgomery County Health Department Board of Directors has recently approved funding for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to hire a new deputy with mental health training to better accommodate those with mental health issues. **(For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 137).**

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted HRA usage was \$7,000 for the month of April for a total of \$35,858 spent for the first five months of the fiscal year.
2. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert said warmer weather has resulted in more dog bite cases in the last two weeks, and a Giardia outbreak has killed three dogs in the past two weeks. Ruppert reported the committee reviewed a proposed municipal contract for \$2.50 per capita during business hours and \$250 per call after hours, and spells out the names and positions of those whom municipalities would allow to authorize Animal Control calls. Eight municipalities have signed our current contract, which will be in effect for them through November 2025. Ruppert stated if approved, Chairman Donaldson will present the proposed contract to mayors at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th. Donaldson said at the last mayors' meeting, the discussion had centered on a \$2 per capita charge. Board Member Whitworth asked about the total difference in revenue between the two amounts, and Ruppert responded about \$15,000 per year. He added the actual cost to run Animal Control is about \$5 per capita, and added if the proposed municipal contracts are signed; the increased revenue would cover adding the cost of an employee. Whitworth pointed out Animal Control is a tax-funded county service not intended for self-supporting status, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti added the proposed municipal contracts cover services not normally provided by county government. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the**

revised Municipal Contract for Animal Control Services. Voice Vote was held. Motion carried, Donaldson voted no.

3. **Bushue Update/Approval:** Ruppert said during a “fact-finding” meeting with Travis Bushue on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, the HR consultant was familiarized with county procedures and was presented with a copy of union contracts and the county personnel manual. He said a regular monthly meeting will be established and emergency contact information will be furnished to department heads.
4. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported UKA has been talking to individuals who identified concerns with specific turbine locations at the recent hearings held on April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st, 2024. He said the recessed hearing will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th, 2024.
5. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Solar Applications Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee recommended proposals from Hurst-Rosche to review solar permit applications from North Sun LLC and Plains Solar LLC for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 each. The public hearing for the North Sun project has been set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse, and the public hearing for the Plains Solar project has been set for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 1st, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the North Sun LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 138). Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the Plains Solar LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 139).**
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted sub-recipient Lincoln Land Community College requested an extension for expending grant funds. The request was forwarded to DCEO and will be reviewed closer to the June 2025 grant deadline. Sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries are ready for approval. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 140-143).**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported recent requests for grant applications. Information about the grant will also be provided at the mayors’ meeting on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024.

Ruppert acknowledged Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who invited board members to a “Let’s Talk Tourism” event hosted by MCEDC and Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at The Abbey on Board in Hillsboro.

Chairman Donaldson reminded members three public hearings remain scheduled: the Virden Wind project public hearing has been recessed until 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28th, 2024; the North Sun 22c solar project public hearing has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024; and the Plains Solar project public hearing has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 1st, 2024.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reminded members a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse is scheduled to be installed on May 20th, 2024. He said the committee accepted a proposal from Altorfer to upgrade the maintenance agreement on a D60GC generator to “Platinum” level for an extra \$550 for five years.
2. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed and discussed an incentive from Schindler Elevator to renew the county’s current elevator service contract and voted to reject the proposal.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee has heard nothing further from the Hillsboro School District regarding lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro for a potential future building trades site.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed noted Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society attended the committee meeting and reported the University of Illinois has agreed to pay the entire estimated \$4,800 cost for a coal historical marker on the Historic Courthouse lawn. He said the text for the marker must be submitted by mid-June, and Dunn anticipates a Spring 2025 dedication ceremony with receptions before and after the event.
5. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Sneed said since the contractor did a good job tuck-pointing the north wall on the Annex Building, paint for a proposed mural can now be applied directly to the brick. He said the new mortar should be given plenty of time to cure, and Sneed anticipates artists will begin work in Spring 2025.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Engineer Greenwood had checked references for the apparent low bidder, Central Roofing of Mattoon, after the bid opening last month for a new roof on the block building at the Highway Department. He said the contractor was highly recommended and the bid appears to be fair. **Motion by Sneed and second by Murzinski to award the low base bid of \$110,604 to Central Roofing LLC of Mattoon for replacing the block building roof at the Highway Department. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said he met with County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Ameresco representatives, and other county employees for a pre-construction meeting on Monday, May 13th, 2024. He said work in the County Clerk’s office should begin in July and be completed well before early voting begins.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins reported equipment has been ordered and another walk-through has been re-scheduled for 3 p.m. May 23rd, 2024.
9. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the committee discussed the disposition of a replaced generator at the Montgomery County Jail, according to Sneed. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to declare generator model number 30DLG L33658E as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.** Sneed said the surplus generator will be sold by bid.

- 10. Courthouse Complex Roof Replacement Bid Spec Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed bid specs to replace the roof at the Courthouse Complex and the funds have been appropriated in the FY 2024 budget. He said advertising for bids began on Thursday, May 10th, a pre-bid meeting is set for 11 a.m. Friday, May 17th, the bid due date is 4 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, and bid opening will be on Tuesday, June 4th, at next month's committee meeting.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported engineers are still working on the bypass, so county forces may blade mix and seal coat through town while working on Elevator Road.
2. **UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said a draft road use agreement prepared by UKA has been submitted to an outside legal consultant. The UKA road use agreement will set a precedent for those who follow.
3. **Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** After research by Engineer Greenwood, Murzynski said every variance request should be decided case by case; and the county could then approve, disapprove, or modify individual requests.
4. **White Block Building Roof Update/Approval:** At the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the County Board awarded the low bid earlier in the meeting.
5. **Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% County scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the resolution to rip rap. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Bergen to approve Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% county scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Trail for an estimated \$20,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 144-145).**
6. **Section 18-13123-00-BR – Raymond Twp – Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the committee had reviewed and discussed two bids on the bid tab sheet. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to award the bid for Section 18-13123-00-BR Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement in Raymond Township to Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon for \$269,443.21. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Highway Maintainer position vacancy Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Ethan Beeler has been hired to fill the Maintainer vacancy.
8. **Purchase of Used Equipment Update/Approval:** Mason County is selling a 2017 Mack tandem truck with 33,000 miles (the oldest truck in their fleet) by sealed bid. Murzynski said State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti affirmed the process.

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

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed the report. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus added the county's final multiplier for 2023-2024 is 1.0000; all structures 200 square feet and larger will be assessed for the 2024

payable in 2025 tax year, and she has been researching how rural wind and solar farms will impact drainage district's property tax revenue.

2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Based on reports provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported the County received a March coal royalty payment of \$68,230.41 and year-to-date interest in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$142,115.39. Ritchie said the Capital Improvement Fund balance as of March 31st was \$1,447,071.44.
3. **ACH Accounts Payable Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Nikki Lohman is proceeding with Automated Clearing House (ACH) checkless payments instead of issuing paper checks for benefit expenses.
4. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed a bid tabulation sheet prepared by the County Board Administration office with two bids for electric rates. Ritchie noted the apparent low bid rate represents a 44% increase from the current rate. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to award a 12-month low bid of 0.06535 from Option One for electric rates. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said due to what he called "errors in process," he was asking for approval of an agenda item not recommended by committee due to a 3-3 tie vote. First, he said discussion was halted but according to Roberts Rules of Order, it should not have been. Secondly, Roberts Rules of Order allow ex-officio members of a committee to vote, which would have resolved the tie. Ritchie then invited Board Member Patty Whitworth to explain the correct procedure, which includes in full board meetings, any member may call for the question, but the motion requires a second and approval of two-thirds of the members present.

Whitworth explained a call for the question motion is never allowed at the committee level. Whitworth also explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, ex-officio members of a committee do not count toward a quorum but are able to vote.

Ritchie explained in July, 2023, the Finance & Budget Committee recommended and the County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. He said the grant was ultimately received, but without specifically naming the Waggoner project, which has subsequently begun. Ritchie said the committee debated either re-allocating unspent ARPA funds for the project or using interest earned on ARPA funds. Motions to recommend both were considered by the committee, and both motions resulted in a tie. State's Attorney Affrunti advised board members that committee recommendations are not required; the County Board has the "final say." **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to re-allocate \$38,000 in ARPA funds for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no were Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **10 members voted yes, 4 members voted no. Motion carried.**
6. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the County Coordinated Services office researched the possibility of available state funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up and found none. He reported there is an easement to the cemetery, Audubon Township is providing a culvert for it, and local contractor Hamlin-Jones is installing the culvert. Ritchie stated this hopefully will resolve the cemetery access issue.

7. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins informed the committee by email an audit extension is needed due to a new form. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to grant an extension for the annual Circuit Clerk audit until Nov. 30th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 146).**
8. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed two spreadsheets prepared by the Coordinated Services Office, one with historical County union and non-union wage increases, and the other comparing the salaries of County positions to the state average, national average, and UCCI county average. He said a motion to tie next year's raises to the Consumer Price Index for the Midwest was tabled until next month. Ritchie added changes in overtime requirements for salaried employees could also have an impact.
9. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** Ritchie told the board the sheriff and 911 Committee learned the lock had been cut at the Cress Hill Tower gate. He said although there was no evidence of theft or vandalism, Sheriff Rick Robbins recommended a security camera installed with the \$9,000 estimated cost split with the ETSB. Fiber has already been extended to the tower using ARPA funds. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to re-allocate \$4,500 in ARPA funds for 50% of the cost to install a security camera at the Cress Hill Tower. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Previously Unfunded ARPA Requests Update/Approval:** Ritchie described a list of six previously unfunded ARPA requests, which together with the \$4,500 for half of the Cress Hill Tower security camera, total just over \$135,000. The original funded ARPA list included \$180,000 for an ambulance which is no longer requested, several funded ARPA projects were completed well-under budget, and the ARPA Fund has earned over \$132,000 in interest. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to re-allocate ARPA funds for generators for Taylor Springs for \$50,160.60, repeaters for the Witt Volunteer Fire Department for \$8,680, a police SUV for Litchfield for \$26,100, water maps for Raymond for \$9,600, a culvert for the Health Department for \$1,800, and a patrol boat for Litchfield for \$36,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. **Re-appointment of William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to re-appoint William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term from March 2024 to March 2027. All in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

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, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young.

Members Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Sheriff Rick Robbins in honor of National Correctional Officers Week held from May 5th to May 11th, 2024.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval:

Motion by Young and second by Ritchie to approve the mileage and per diem. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Beck and second by Sneed to approve the minutes of the previous regular county board meeting held on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Animal Control Report** – Emily Gerl, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 2. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 3. Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham, report submitted.
- 4. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Sandy Leitheiser, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 5. Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 6. Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels, report submitted, was present for questions.
- 7. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee was present for questions and discussed the future format of his monthly report.
- 8. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood, report submitted.
- 9. Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins, no report submitted.
- 10. Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst, report submitted.

11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici, report submitted. Ulrici was present and stated four individuals graduated from Drug Court last week, and her office is awaiting final certification for Mental Health Court.
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson, no report submitted.
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman, report submitted.
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins, report submitted, was present for questions.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus, report submitted, was present for questions.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti, report submitted. Affrunti was present and added his office obtained a conviction in a recent homicide trial, and he thanked the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance.
17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman, report submitted. Lohman was present and added property tax bills will be mailed by the end of the month.
18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton, report submitted.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Hughes and second by Jones to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board had met on Monday, May 13th, 2024, and deferred to Chairman Dan Hough who noted the application period for 708 funding opened on May 1st, 2024, and continues through June 30th, 2024. Hough also asked residents to watch for and participate in an upcoming needs assessment survey soon.
- **CEFS Board** – Beason reported the fiscal agent for CIPT may change from Shelby County.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – Bergen reported the board meets Thursday, May 16th, 2024.
- **Health Department** – Whitworth reported the Health Department is preparing to open their new Litchfield site.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen reported he will be at a meeting in Springfield on May 15th, 2024.
- **MCEDC** – Hughes reported the board met on April 18th, 2024, and set the annual meeting date for Tuesday, June 18th, 2024, at the SCI Center in Litchfield.
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- 4. West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reviewed a report about high unemployment in Montgomery County which referenced our increased aging population not working and a shrinking younger population within our county.

5. **Montgomery County Health Department Monthly Report Changes Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the committee was satisfied with the new report format, but the 708 Board would like to continue to see mental health statistics. Administrator Hugh Satterlee said he will report whatever information the board finds useful, and Chairman Donaldson directed Satterlee and Hough to work together on the new report format.
6. **CO2 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has been following pending pipeline legislation, SB3930 and HB5814. He stated the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss both at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024.
7. **EZ Mayors Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson will meet with county mayors at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, to review proposed contracts for Animal Control along with other potential agenda items.
8. **Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. **Motion by Sneed and second by Whitworth to designate the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Montgomery County. All in favor, motion carried.** Donaldson presented the signed proclamation to members of Cross Over Ministries, paused for a group photo, and all applauded the group's work. Sheriff Robbins reported the Montgomery County Health Department Board of Directors has recently approved funding for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to hire a new deputy with mental health training to better accommodate those with mental health issues. **(For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 137).**

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted HRA usage was \$7,000 for the month of April for a total of \$35,858 spent for the first five months of the fiscal year.
2. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Ruppert said warmer weather has resulted in more dog bite cases in the last two weeks, and a Giardia outbreak has killed three dogs in the past two weeks. Ruppert reported the committee reviewed a proposed municipal contract for \$2.50 per capita during business hours and \$250 per call after hours, and spells out the names and positions of those whom municipalities would allow to authorize Animal Control calls. Eight municipalities have signed our current contract, which will be in effect for them through November 2025. Ruppert stated if approved, Chairman Donaldson will present the proposed contract to mayors at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 29th. Donaldson said at the last mayors' meeting, the discussion had centered on a \$2 per capita charge. Board Member Whitworth asked about the total difference in revenue between the two amounts, and Ruppert responded about \$15,000 per year. He added the actual cost to run Animal Control is about \$5 per capita, and added if the proposed municipal contracts are signed; the increased revenue would cover adding the cost of an employee. Whitworth pointed out Animal Control is a tax-funded county service not intended for self-supporting status, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti added the proposed municipal contracts cover services not normally provided by county government. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hughes to approve the**

revised Municipal Contract for Animal Control Services. Voice Vote was held. Motion carried, Donaldson voted no.

3. **Bushue Update/Approval:** Ruppert said during a “fact-finding” meeting with Travis Bushue on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, the HR consultant was familiarized with county procedures and was presented with a copy of union contracts and the county personnel manual. He said a regular monthly meeting will be established and emergency contact information will be furnished to department heads.
4. **UKA Virden Wind Project Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported UKA has been talking to individuals who identified concerns with specific turbine locations at the recent hearings held on April 29th, April 30th, and May 1st, 2024. He said the recessed hearing will reconvene at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28th, 2024.
5. **Hurst-Rosche Proposal to Review Solar Applications Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee recommended proposals from Hurst-Rosche to review solar permit applications from North Sun LLC and Plains Solar LLC for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500 each. The public hearing for the North Sun project has been set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse, and the public hearing for the Plains Solar project has been set for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 1st, 2024, at the Historic Courthouse. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Beason to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the North Sun LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 138). Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche to review the Plains Solar LLC solar application for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 139).**
6. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted sub-recipient Lincoln Land Community College requested an extension for expending grant funds. The request was forwarded to DCEO and will be reviewed closer to the June 2025 grant deadline. Sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries are ready for approval. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to approve sub-recipient agreements with the City of Litchfield and Cross Over Ministries. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 21, pages 140-143).**
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Small Business Start-Up Incentive Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported recent requests for grant applications. Information about the grant will also be provided at the mayors’ meeting on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024.

Ruppert acknowledged Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Montgomery, who invited board members to a “Let’s Talk Tourism” event hosted by MCEDC and Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 at The Abbey on Board in Hillsboro.

Chairman Donaldson reminded members three public hearings remain scheduled: the Virden Wind project public hearing has been recessed until 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28th, 2024; the North Sun 22c solar project public hearing has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, 2024; and the Plains Solar project public hearing has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 1st, 2024.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reminded members a chimney liner at the Historic Courthouse is scheduled to be installed on May 20th, 2024. He said the committee accepted a proposal from Altorfer to upgrade the maintenance agreement on a D60GC generator to “Platinum” level for an extra \$550 for five years.
2. **Schindler Elevator Contract Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed and discussed an incentive from Schindler Elevator to renew the county’s current elevator service contract and voted to reject the proposal.
3. **Former Highway Department Lots (East Side Of University) Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the committee has heard nothing further from the Hillsboro School District regarding lots on the east side of University Street in Hillsboro for a potential future building trades site.
4. **Coal Historical Marker Update/Approval:** Sneed noted Jeff Dunn of the Illinois State Historical Society attended the committee meeting and reported the University of Illinois has agreed to pay the entire estimated \$4,800 cost for a coal historical marker on the Historic Courthouse lawn. He said the text for the marker must be submitted by mid-June, and Dunn anticipates a Spring 2025 dedication ceremony with receptions before and after the event.
5. **Annex Building Mural Update/Approval:** Sneed said since the contractor did a good job tuck-pointing the north wall on the Annex Building, paint for a proposed mural can now be applied directly to the brick. He said the new mortar should be given plenty of time to cure, and Sneed anticipates artists will begin work in Spring 2025.
6. **Highway Department Roof Bid Opening/Award Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Engineer Greenwood had checked references for the apparent low bidder, Central Roofing of Mattoon, after the bid opening last month for a new roof on the block building at the Highway Department. He said the contractor was highly recommended and the bid appears to be fair. **Motion by Sneed and second by Murzinski to award the low base bid of \$110,604 to Central Roofing LLC of Mattoon for replacing the block building roof at the Highway Department. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed said he met with County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Ameresco representatives, and other county employees for a pre-construction meeting on Monday, May 13th, 2024. He said work in the County Clerk’s office should begin in July and be completed well before early voting begins.
8. **County Board Room Tech Grant Update/Approval:** Sneed said Circuit Clerk Dan Robbins reported equipment has been ordered and another walk-through has been re-scheduled for 3 p.m. May 23rd, 2024.
9. **Surplus Property Resolution for Old Jail Generator Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the committee discussed the disposition of a replaced generator at the Montgomery County Jail, according to Sneed. **Motion by Sneed and second by Beason to declare generator model number 30DLG L33658E as surplus property. All in favor, motion carried.** Sneed said the surplus generator will be sold by bid.

- 10. Courthouse Complex Roof Replacement Bid Spec Update/Approval:** Sneed said the committee reviewed bid specs to replace the roof at the Courthouse Complex and the funds have been appropriated in the FY 2024 budget. He said advertising for bids began on Thursday, May 10th, a pre-bid meeting is set for 11 a.m. Friday, May 17th, the bid due date is 4 p.m. Monday, June 3rd, and bid opening will be on Tuesday, June 4th, at next month's committee meeting.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

- 1. Walshville Bypass Road Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported engineers are still working on the bypass, so county forces may blade mix and seal coat through town while working on Elevator Road.
- 2. UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said a draft road use agreement prepared by UKA has been submitted to an outside legal consultant. The UKA road use agreement will set a precedent for those who follow.
- 3. Drainage Tile across/along County Highways Update/Approval:** After research by Engineer Greenwood, Murzynski said every variance request should be decided case by case; and the county could then approve, disapprove, or modify individual requests.
- 4. White Block Building Roof Update/Approval:** At the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the County Board awarded the low bid earlier in the meeting.
- 5. Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% County scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Tr. Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the committee reviewed and discussed the resolution to rip rap. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Bergen to approve Resolution 2024-08 to appropriate funds for 100% county scour mitigation project for SN: 068-3010 on Fillmore Trail for an estimated \$20,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, pages 144-145).**
- 6. Section 18-13123-00-BR – Raymond Twp – Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement Letting Results Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported the committee had reviewed and discussed two bids on the bid tab sheet. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Jones to award the bid for Section 18-13123-00-BR Phillips Trail Bridge Replacement in Raymond Township to Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon for \$269,443.21. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. **All in favor, motion carried.**
- 7. Highway Maintainer position vacancy Update/Approval:** Murzynski reported Ethan Beeler has been hired to fill the Maintainer vacancy.
- 8. Purchase of Used Equipment Update/Approval:** Mason County is selling a 2017 Mack tandem truck with 33,000 miles (the oldest truck in their fleet) by sealed bid. Murzynski said State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti affirmed the process.

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

- 1. SOA Report Update/Approval:** Ritchie stated the committee reviewed the report. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus added the county's final multiplier for 2023-2024 is 1.0000; all structures 200 square feet and larger will be assessed for the 2024

payable in 2025 tax year, and she has been researching how rural wind and solar farms will impact drainage district's property tax revenue.

2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Based on reports provided by Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Ritchie reported the County received a March coal royalty payment of \$68,230.41 and year-to-date interest in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$142,115.39. Ritchie said the Capital Improvement Fund balance as of March 31st was \$1,447,071.44.
3. **ACH Accounts Payable Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Treasurer Nikki Lohman is proceeding with Automated Clearing House (ACH) checkless payments instead of issuing paper checks for benefit expenses.
4. **Electric Rate Bids Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed a bid tabulation sheet prepared by the County Board Administration office with two bids for electric rates. Ritchie noted the apparent low bid rate represents a 44% increase from the current rate. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to award a 12-month low bid of 0.06535 from Option One for electric rates. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. **DCEO Grant/Waggoner Ball Field Update/Approval:** Ritchie said due to what he called "errors in process," he was asking for approval of an agenda item not recommended by committee due to a 3-3 tie vote. First, he said discussion was halted but according to Roberts Rules of Order, it should not have been. Secondly, Roberts Rules of Order allow ex-officio members of a committee to vote, which would have resolved the tie. Ritchie then invited Board Member Patty Whitworth to explain the correct procedure, which includes in full board meetings, any member may call for the question, but the motion requires a second and approval of two-thirds of the members present.
Whitworth explained a call for the question motion is never allowed at the committee level. Whitworth also explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order, ex-officio members of a committee do not count toward a quorum but are able to vote.
Ritchie explained in July, 2023, the Finance & Budget Committee recommended and the County Board unanimously approved allocating \$38,000 for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan contingent upon receiving the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. He said the grant was ultimately received, but without specifically naming the Waggoner project, which has subsequently begun. Ritchie said the committee debated either re-allocating unspent ARPA funds for the project or using interest earned on ARPA funds. Motions to recommend both were considered by the committee, and both motions resulted in a tie. State's Attorney Affrunti advised board members that committee recommendations are not required; the County Board has the "final say." **Motion by Ritchie and second by Jones to re-allocate \$38,000 in ARPA funds for the Waggoner Baseball and Soccer Field Revitalization Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ritchie, Sneed, and Whitworth. Voting no were Folkerts, Loucks, Ruppert, and Young. **10 members voted yes, 4 members voted no. Motion carried.**
6. **Neece Cemetery Access and Clean-Up Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the County Coordinated Services office researched the possibility of available state funds for abandoned cemetery clean-up and found none. He reported there is an easement to the cemetery, Audubon Township is providing a culvert for it, and local contractor Hamlin-Jones is installing the culvert. Ritchie stated this hopefully will resolve the cemetery access issue.

7. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Ritchie said Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins informed the committee by email an audit extension is needed due to a new form. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Whitworth to grant an extension for the annual Circuit Clerk audit until Nov. 30th, 2024. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 21, page 146).**
8. **Non-Union Salary Increases for FY 2025 Update/Approval:** Ritchie said the committee reviewed and discussed two spreadsheets prepared by the Coordinated Services Office, one with historical County union and non-union wage increases, and the other comparing the salaries of County positions to the state average, national average, and UCCI county average. He said a motion to tie next year's raises to the Consumer Price Index for the Midwest was tabled until next month. Ritchie added changes in overtime requirements for salaried employees could also have an impact.
9. **Cress Hill Tower Camera Proposal to ETSB – Cost Share Request Update/Approval:** Ritchie told the board the sheriff and 911 Committee learned the lock had been cut at the Cress Hill Tower gate. He said although there was no evidence of theft or vandalism, Sheriff Rick Robbins recommended a security camera installed with the \$9,000 estimated cost split with the ETSB. Fiber has already been extended to the tower using ARPA funds. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to re-allocate \$4,500 in ARPA funds for 50% of the cost to install a security camera at the Cress Hill Tower. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Previously Unfunded ARPA Requests Update/Approval:** Ritchie described a list of six previously unfunded ARPA requests, which together with the \$4,500 for half of the Cress Hill Tower security camera, total just over \$135,000. The original funded ARPA list included \$180,000 for an ambulance which is no longer requested, several funded ARPA projects were completed well-under budget, and the ARPA Fund has earned over \$132,000 in interest. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Bergen to re-allocate ARPA funds for generators for Taylor Springs for \$50,160.60, repeaters for the Witt Volunteer Fire Department for \$8,680, a police SUV for Litchfield for \$26,100, water maps for Raymond for \$9,600, a culvert for the Health Department for \$1,800, and a patrol boat for Litchfield for \$36,000. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes were Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to approve the five committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. **Re-appointment of William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to re-appoint William Beeler as Trustee to the Raymond Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term from March 2024 to March 2027. All in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young. No one voted no. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:31 pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.