

**Montgomery County Board
Long Agenda**

For Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

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

Roll call was taken - members present, 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:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by

Chairman Donaldson Recognizes Veterans

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the Mileage and Per Diem.

ROLL CALL VOTE Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Ruppert, Sneed, Whitworth and Young **All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Animal Control Report** -- Emily Gerl –
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. **Enterprise Zone Report** – Christine Daniels – Report submitted.
6. **Environmental Protection Agency Report** – Christine Daniels – Report submitted.
7. **Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee – Report submitted.
8. **Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood – Report submitted.
9. **Information Services Report** – Curt Watkins – Report submitted.
10. **Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst – Report submitted.
11. **Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici –
12. **Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson —
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman –
14. **Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins – Report submitted.
15. **SOA Report** – Kendra Niehaus – Report submitted.
16. **State’s Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti – Report submitted.

17. **Treasurer’s Report** – Nikki Lohman – Report submitted.

18. **V.A.C. Report** – Cassandra Hampton – Report submitted.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the 15 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** -- Murzynski
- **CEFS Board** -- Beason
- **911 Board** – Bergen
- **Health Department** -- Whitworth
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen
- **MCEDC** -- Hughes
- **Planning Commission** -- Ritchie
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Folkerts
- **UCCI** – Ruppert
- **U of I** – Beck
- **WCDC** – Jones

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Doug Donaldson

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Watkins submitted his monthly department report to the committee. He said his department continues to work on the body camera project for the Sheriff’s Department which should be ready to implement next week with Motorola. Watkins also reminded everyone that the new County Website changes need submitted by December 15th before it switches over to the new website. Watkins said they will help with training on the new website.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval:** Schott said the next Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting is scheduled for January 24th, 2023 in the County Board Room where a draft of the final report will be reviewed. Schott reported the Emergency Grant was submitted and accepted. There are certain things they don’t fund. The state authorized a reimbursement of \$19,000.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said the board will meet in a couple of weeks.
4. **CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said that he would like to set a tentative date for the CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Monday, December 18th, 2023.

5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (not needed)**
6. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson stated that the board packet information will not be put on the screen and asked that board members start bringing their chrome books in January to review packet information. There will be hard copies for everyone at the December meeting.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Superintendent Ernst presented his monthly report to the committee. A lengthy discussion took place on the lack of response from Schindler Elevator regarding the elevator in the Historic Courthouse that has been down since October 3rd, 2023. Employees have been taking care of customers who can't use the stairs at their car. Chairman Donaldson reported he and Sheriff Robbins have been calling and emailing Schindler but have not received any responses. The last we heard, the elevator was going to be down until the middle of December. Phil Ernst reported the Generator at the Jail has been installed and is operating. They fixed the furnace at the Annex Building for the ROE office and the compressor for the chiller is being shipped on December 28th, 2023. Discussion took place regarding postponing the painting of the fire escape and band around the Historic Courthouse and was approved by the committee.
2. **Contract for Cleaning Services from National Maintenance and Cleaning Inc. Update/Approval:**
Sneed reported he spoke with the owner of National Maintenance & Cleaning regarding the cleaning issues at the New Courthouse and a different cleaning person will start in January. The new person will be the same one that currently cleans at Litchfield City Hall.

Motion by Sneed and second by _____ to recommend the contract with National Maintenance and Cleaning Inc. to clean the New Courthouse for \$22.50 per hour. All in favor, motion carried.

3. **Elevator at the Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported he has emailed Schindler regarding the elevator being down and that he reported the issue to the State Fire Marshall's Office. States Attorney Affrunti has requested a copy of the maintenance contract with Schindler to review it. Donaldson said that he will call Katie Wilson at the Farm Bureau to see if we can use their conference room for the December full board meeting.
4. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** Clerk Leitheiser reported we are still waiting on the DCEO Energy Transition Grant Funding for this project. Leitheiser stated that she and Coordinator Daniels were on a conference call with our DCEO Grant Administrator to get a timeline of when we could expect the grant award agreement and there was no date given yet.
5. **Repair/Replace Roof of Block Building at Highway Department Update/Approval:** Sneed reported that Engineer Cody Greenwood is drawing up the bid specs.
6. **Bids for County Board Room Audiovisual Upgrades Update/Approval:** No bids have been received yet. Daniel Robbins reported he has completed a grant for the County Board Room Audiovisual Upgrades since this room is designated as a backup location to hold court since the former backup location, the old Witt School is now privately owned.

7. **Ameresco - New Courthouse Renovation Project Update/Approval:** Sneed reported they had a pre-construction meeting last week with Ameresco for the New Courthouse renovation project which will safety and ADA issues. Daniel Robins reported that remodel work started yesterday and the large Courtroom #3 is currently shut down. Local union labor is being utilized on this project.
8. **Old Highway Department Property Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the bid submitted last month for the old highway department property on Seymour Avenue. Some committee members voiced their concern with the low bid and felt the committee should look into what would be a good price for the 14 lots. The county bid it out with the stipulation that the bidder give a development plan and that we would possibly use the building for storage for the next couple of years. Sneed will contact the Hillsboro Township Assessor to see what an average assessment is for empty lots in Hillsboro and bring the figures to next month's meeting.
9. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval:**
10. **Other Business:** Health Department Director Satterlee said they don't have a use for the white block building down at the Highway Department and that EMA Kevin Schott needs office space and a climate controlled environment for storage of their equipment. Satterlee suggested revamping the brown building at the highway department for EMA. The white block building doesn't have a ceiling anymore so there is no climate control. The highway department received about \$50,000 for the roof from insurance however it may cost about \$100,000 to fix that roof. Sneed says he feels they should fix the roof on the white block building and fix it.

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chad Ruppert:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the monthly HRA report prepared by Treasurer Lohman.
2. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery reported they met at the SCI Center in Litchfield and toured the new trade's school facility. Montgomery also reported Illini Web Services was hired to update the MCEDC Website. Montgomery stated that he met with Nokomis Mayor in regards to help finding a food retailer.
3. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** Intake for November was 8 cats and there are currently 13 cats and 12 dogs at the facility. Bob Sneed went and measured windows at the facility to see if they can install a drive up type window so people can go to the window and not in the facility. Gerl reported she has had to deal with disgruntle customers and wants some safety measures. Jones suggested a buzzer that people would ring to get access in the door. Discussion also took place on a free event scheduled for Sunday to bring pets and family to the facility to take pictures with Santa from 9:30 am to Noon.
4. **Animal Control Policy Update/Approval:** Jones reported he has worked on the animal control policy and Ruppert would like to go over the draft he shared.
5. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** Committee discussed the BEAD grant webinar scheduled for next week that is being offered by DCEO. There will be webinar materials posted on the DCEO website after the webinar.

6. **Enterprise Zone Update/Approval:** Coordinator Daniels reported she gave States Attorney Affrunti the new legislation regarding the criteria for the maximum square miles allowed in an Enterprise Zone. Affrunti confirmed that the legislation pertains to Montgomery County and we can now have 20 square miles instead of 15 because we have more than four units of Government in our Zone. The legislation states that any Zone with four or more Counties or Units of Government can go up to 20 square miles. Chairman Donaldson stated he would like to schedule a Mayor’s meeting after the first of the year to inform the Enterprise Zone Mayors of the new change.

7. **Wind and Solar Legislation SB 1699 Update/Approval:** UKA North America LLC, Community Relations Specialist Maggie Poteau and her Supervisor Charles Wright introduced themselves to the Committee and reported on their 150 Megawatt Wind Project called Grand Prairie that will construct 17 to 23 turbines in Montgomery and Sangamon Counties. This project can power 50,000 to 90,000 Illinois homes. They are hoping to submit their application in January 2024 and complete the project in November 2025. They also gave information on two other projects in the area. Virden, a 100 megawatt with 14 to 17 wind turbines and possible solar arrays in Sangamon and Macoupin Counties. This project should be completed in May 2026. Their third project is Pawnee, a 100 megawatt project with 14 to 17 wind turbines and possible solar arrays in Montgomery and Sangamon Counties. They hope to complete this project by the fall of 2027. Maggie Poteau shared information she received from the Illinois Farm Bureau Director regarding legislation SB 1699 regarding wind and solar that is on the Governor’s desk for signature. This information has been sent over the States Attorney Affrunti for review and advice.

8. **Personnel Manual Amendments Update/Approval:** Sheriff Robbins asked that the committee review the FMLA policy in the Personnel Manual so the timeclock over laps with other time off the employee has to take.

9. **Union Negotiations with Local 1084 (Correctional Officers and Telecommunicators) Update/Approval:**

10. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval:**

11. **Approving Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 (Correctional Officers) Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ruppert and second by _____ to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Local 1084, Correctional Officers pending review of the States Attorney. All in favor, motion carried.

12. **Approving Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 (Telecommunicators) Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ruppert and second by _____ to approve the collective bargaining agreement with Local 1084, Telecommunicators pending review of the States Attorney. All in favor, motion carried.

13. **Other Business:**

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus shared her monthly report with the committee and stated she has two Multi Township Contracts that the board needs to approve this month. She has Intergovernmental Agreements for County Board consideration for the District of Butler Grove-Irving-Rountree Townships and the District of Audubon-Nokomis Townships. Niehaus said she sent out reminder notices to some townships that need to pay for the assessment work. SOA Niehaus also gave an explanation as to why the tax bills increased. Notices went out to tax payers and many are complaining. This was a quad year where the State gives adjusted figures based on the Sales of property that increase the fair market value. According to the State of Illinois, Montgomery County property was under assessed. The positive township factors also increased the tax bills. Chairman Donaldson requested that Niehaus attend the full board meeting next week to give an explanation.

2. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Audubon-Nokomis Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Audubon-Nokomis. All in favor, motion carried.

3. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Butler Grove-Irving-Rountree Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Montgomery County and the Multi-Township Assessment District of Butler Grove-Irving-Rountree. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed Treasurer Lohman capital improvement fund reports.

5. **ARPA Ordinance for the Second Payment to Bellwether in the amount of \$6,000 for the FY 2024 Budget Process Work Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the Ordinance prepared by Treasurer Lohman to pay Bellwether for the second installment of the work they performed on the FY 2024 Budget Process.

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the ARPA Ordinance for the Second Payment to Bellwether in the amount of \$6,000 for the FY 2024 Budget Process Work. All in favor, motion carried.

6. **Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of ARPA Funds to the General Fund #100 for the FY 2023 Budget Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of ARPA Funds to the General Fund #100 for the FY 2023 Budget Update/Approval:

7. **Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer for ARPA Funds to the Animal Control Fund #365 for the FY 2023 Budget Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer for ARPA Funds to the Animal Control Fund #365 for the FY 2023 Budget Update/Approval:

8. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update./Approval: Not needed.**
9. **Other Business:**

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Public Comments:** None.
2. **Section 15-00138-00-BR Red Ball Trail Bridge Update/Approval:** Greenwood reported the Red Ball Trail Bridge was officially opened last week and they will perform a final punch list. Greenwood said they will do some grass seeding and a final punch list next springs and close out the project.
3. **Section 23-18119-00-BR, East 22nd Road, Witt Township Bridge Replacement Engineering Services Update/Approval:** Greenwood said he received an engineering agreement from Hurst-Rosche Engineers for the bridge in Witt Township on East 22nd Road in the amount of \$40,000.

Motion by Murzynski and second by _____ to approve the Engineering Services Agreement from Hurst-Rosche Engineers for the Witt Township Bridge Replacement in the amount of \$40,000. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Resolution 2024-01, 2024 County MFT Resolution Update/Approval:** Greenwood gave a copy of the MFT Resolution to committee members for review and said it is the same as last year at \$1.2 million to approve spending the MFT funds.

Motion by Murzynski and second by _____ to approve Resolution 2024-01, the 2024 County MFT Resolution in the amount of \$1.2 million. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **Resolution #2024-02 to Appropriate Funds from the County Aid to Bridge Fund 235 with Witt Township Road District 50% / 50% split Update/Approval:** Greenwood shared a resolution #2024-02 to appropriate funds from eh County Aid to Bridge Fund 235 with Road District for a 50% / 50% split. This is a 36" pipe replacement on East 21st Road in Witt Township and the Counties portion is \$4,500. This item will be put on the full board agenda for Tuesday.

Motion by Murzynski and second by _____ to approve Resolution #2024-02 to Appropriate Funds from the County Aid to Bridge Fund 235 with Witt Township Road District for a 50% / 50% split, and Montgomery County's share is \$4,500.

6. **Other Items:** Greenwood said there were two semi-truck loads of tires collected from the townships and municipalities that the State contractor picked up.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CO2 Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Monday, December 18th, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse.

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to Reappoint Ed Huber and Mandy Sebeschak to the ETSB Board for a three year term to expire 1/1/27. Motion by _____ second by _____ All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Reappoint Larry Ziegler for a three year term for the Zanesville #3, County Zone #15 Drainage District ending November 2026. Motion by _____ second by _____ All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Reappoint Randal Riemann for a three year term, for the Pitman-Zanesville #2, County Zone #33 Drainage District ending November 2026. Motion by _____ second by _____ All in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried. (ROLL CALL VOTE)

ADJOURN:

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois.

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at _____pm. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.