

**Montgomery County Board
Long Agenda**

For Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 11th, 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, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

Members Absent:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by

Moment of silence for Gene Miles, who unexpectedly passed away April 19. Gene served on the County Board representing District #2 since 2006.

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the Appointment of Chad Rupert to the Montgomery County Board filling the vacant seat in District #2. All in favor, motion carried.

Oath of Office for Chad Rupert.

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 Rupert, Bob Sneed, Patty Whitworth and Evan Young

Members Absent:

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, Rupert, 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, April 11th, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Animal Control Report** -- Emily Gerl – Report submitted.
2. **Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Daniel Robbins – Report submitted.
3. **Coroner’s Report** – Randy Leetham – Report submitted.

4. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Report submitted. Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
5. **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** – Bane Ulrici – Report submitted.
12. **Public Defender's Report** – Erin Mattson –
13. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman – Report submitted.
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 –

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the _____ 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** – Miles
- **U of I** – Beck
- **WCDC** – Jones

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Doug Donaldson

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Information Services has been working on court server replacement, swapping out PCs and putting new machines in the Adult Redeploy office, which used to be the ambulance billing office. They are also proceeding with the fiber ring redundancy project.
2. **EMA Report and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update/Approval:** The next Hazard Mitigation plan meeting is scheduled for May 24. County EMA and many first responders in the County also responded to the accident on Interstate 55 on May 1.
3. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** The CEO Board is looking for a chair and vice chair.
4. **Proclamation Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month Update/Approval:**

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (if needed)**
6. **Other Business:**

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance staff continues to work throughout the courthouse complex, including putting refrigerant into several air conditioning units.
2. **Jail Generator Maintenance Update/Approval:** The Committee voted to recommend approving an estimate from Hillsboro Electric for electrical work at the jail for the new generators that were purchased. The price is \$29,999.14.

Motion by Sneed and second by _____ to approve the estimate from Hillsboro Electric for generator electrical work at the jail in the amount of \$29,999.14. All in favor, motion carried.

3. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Jeremy Conner with Hurst-Rosche engineers has established a scope and understanding with the City of Hillsboro regarding their portion of the sidewalks that will be replaced around the Historic Courthouse.
4. **Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Hillsboro for Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** The next step in the process is to have the County approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City. The County will be the lead agency and will pay for the sidewalks. The City of Hillsboro will then reimburse the County for their share of the costs. Conner presented a draft to the committee of an IGA similar to what Hurst-Rosche has used before. The committee voted to recommend approving the IGA, contingent on the approval from the State's Attorney.

Motion by Sneed and second by _____ to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Hillsboro for sidewalk repair and replacement around the Historic Courthouse, pending approval from the State's Attorney. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update/Approval:** County Clerk Leitheiser is hopeful to be allocated money from the county's DCEO Energy Grant to pay for door and security upgrades for her office. The grant would pay for the entire cost of the estimate, which is \$161,584. The Finance and Budget Committee will discuss further.
6. **Soil Testing at County Farm Update/Approval:** Soil testing has been completed, but paperwork has not been submitted yet.
7. **Bidding Out Elevator Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
8. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition/County Property Update/Approval: (if needed)**
9. **Other Business:** None.

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Mark Hughes:

1. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** MCEDC hosted their annual meeting April 27th. They are looking for a new executive director. The next meeting will be held May 25th at 6 p.m. at the Farm Bureau.
2. **Planning Commission Update/Approval:** There have been questions about the status of the County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission ordinance states the commission shall have 10 members, with three being ex-officio: Chairman of the County Board, MCEDC Executive Director and County Highway Engineer. Seven of the 10 are voting members, and three are currently vacant, with two more active members' terms set to expire at the end of June.
3. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA Report Update/Approval:** 22 total inquiries have been handled thru Assured Partners Member Advocacy Program so far, for a total savings of \$48,725.25. Also, as of March 2023, 15 eligible HRA claims have been paid for a total of \$15,521.73. 21 of the 102 enrolled employees elected the HRA plan, so HRA utilization will be much less in 2023 than in years past.
4. **County Salaries Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Chris Daniels presented the committee with information on a salary study the board commissioned years ago. She has been updating the information yearly, but she gauged the committee's interest in continuing to have it updated since doing so requires a lot of work and the board has not done much with the information gathered. The committee agreed to have Daniels update it with counties ranging from 25,000 to 35,000 in population.
5. **Animal Control Facility Update/Approval:** As of last week's committee meeting, there were 21 dogs at the facility. There was an adoption event scheduled for Saturday in Nokomis hosted by the business Cake it On. The adoption event was considered a donation to the animal control program.
6. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update/Approval:** Animal Control Warden Gerl continues to work with the City of Hillsboro to move forward with getting a signed municipal contract. Newly elected Litchfield City Council alderman Jacob Fleming also attended the committee meeting to address concerns about a lack of agreement between the County and City. Fleming said he will speak

with Mayor Steve Dougherty and get a better feel for what it would take to get them to sign the agreement.

7. **Illinois Department of Agriculture Annual License for Animal Control Update/Approval:** The County has to submit the annual application for licensure with the Department of Agriculture, which is coming up due.
8. **EPA Report Update/Approval:** An electronics recycling drive was held April 29th at the old recycling facility in Litchfield. Final numbers are not back yet, but EPA Administrator Chris Daniels is hopeful to have those for the next committee meeting.
9. **Approve Contract for Supervisor of Assessments Update/Approval:** Kendra Niehaus was appointed Supervisor of Assessments and is currently serving in the position, but the employment agreement was not able to be approved until last week's committee meeting.

Motion by Hughes and second by _____ to approve the contract for the Supervisor of Assessments. All in favor, motion carried.

10. **Approve Signing the FY 2023 Agreement between Montgomery County and the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service Update/Approval:** This signed agreement is in regards to the annual levy distribution. RHAAS returned their agreement signed.

Motion by Hughes and second by _____ to approve signing the FY 2023 Agreement between Montgomery County and the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.

11. **Nextlink Broadband Internet Update/Approval:** The County stands eligible to receive up to \$7.2 million for broadband to rural areas. A representative from Nextlink wants to address the committee, and they will be invited to speak at the next committee meeting. Donaldson plans on meeting with the representative, as well as those from other internet providers in the County to see about what they plan on doing to address high speed internet in rural areas.
12. **Statewide Siting of Wind & Solar Facilities – Public Act 102-1123 Update/Approval:** State's Attorney Affrunti is reviewing the ordinances to make sure they are in compliance with the revisions from the state.
13. **Solar Provider Group - Permit Application and Setback Waiver Update/Approval:** The applicant for the solar provider needs to submit a waiver signed by two property owners, but does not have those yet. The group would like to hold a public hearing, but that won't happen until the waivers have been signed. A hearing could tentatively be scheduled before the next Coordinating Committee meeting, which is scheduled for May 25.
14. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (if needed)**
15. **Other Business:** None.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Andy Ritchie:

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus presented her monthly report to the committee. They have been conducting interviews to hire a field assessor.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The April coal royalty check, which will show up during the June report, was only \$35,000. The reason for the larger checks recently was because of stockpiled amounts. The mine will be in full mode in June and the amounts will likely increase, but the county will see smaller checks for a couple months until then.
3. **IMRF Update:** The County received the tentative preliminary rates for 2024. The regular employees' rate increased from 6.69 percent to 7.87, which will make the county's cost higher. The SLEP rates will decrease from 7.65 to 6.87, and the ECO will decrease from 0.91 to 0.90 percent.
4. **Approve Signing Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with ETSB for Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the amended Intergovernmental Agreement with ETSB for Centralized Emergency Dispatch Center. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **County Website – Approve Annual Fee for Website Update/Approval:** Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins received a court grant that will pay for the cost of redoing the website, as well as the first year of maintenance. Information Services manager Curt Watkins told the Finance and Budget Committee the annual maintenance cost is around \$560, and will come out of his budget starting in FY 2024. Robbins reached out to 15 companies, and three responded. The company chosen is based out of Carlyle.
6. **Resolution/Ordinance to Transfer Revolving Loan Funds Update/Approval:** The board previously agreed to dissolve the Revolving Loan Fund and now needs to approve a resolution dissolving said fund and returning the money to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Resolution Accepting the Elimination of the Montgomery County Revolving Loan Fund. All in favor, motion carried.

7. **Assistant State's Attorney Position and Salary Update/Approval:** The State's Attorney's office is down an assistant and needs to fill the position in order to catch up on work that has fallen behind. The Board will have to approve a resolution and ordinance during the next meeting to amend the budget as an emergency in order for the county to provide the appropriate resources for the office to perform its duties.
8. **Approve Allocation of Funds for Phase II Application/Projects for DCEO Transition Community Grant Update/Approval:** The Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee made a recommendation to the Finance and Budget Committee to approve the allocation of energy grant funds as follows: \$102,000 for Hillsboro Area Public Library; \$625,000 for Lincoln Land Community College; \$100,000 for Montgomery County Senior Social Services; \$125,000 for Montgomery County Community Mental Health; \$50,000 for East Fork Road District; \$50,000 for East Fork Township; and \$50,000 for MTA Grisham-Walshville-East Fork. An estimated \$2,000 would be used to pay for the grant writing fees for Phase II of the application, as \$455 has already been paid for Phase I. The remaining balance of \$1,162,879 was allocated for County use; and the Finance and Budget Committee is recommending allocating those funds as follows: \$408,000 for natural gas and electrical distribution to the City of Litchfield's Interstate 55 commerce center;

\$250,000 for the City of Hillsboro’s multi-use trails; \$161,584 for the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder’s Office’s Security and ADA upgrades; \$60,360 for Crossover Ministries for salaries and recovery programs; and \$282,935 for broadband to rural areas of the county.

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the allocation of energy grant funds as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

9. Contracts and Intergovernmental Agreements for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:

- A. **Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Nokomis for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:** The City of Nokomis sent a check for their warning siren, but they have not returned the signed IGA yet. Therefore, Treasurer Lohman has been instructed to send the check back to the city with a note requesting the signed agreement be sent back first.
- B. **Intergovernmental Agreement with Fillmore Police Department for ARPA Distribution Update/Approval:** The Village of Fillmore returned their signed IGA.

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve signing the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Fillmore for ARPA Distribution. All in favor, motion carried.

10. Ordinances Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds for Non-County Distributions Update/Approval:

- A. **Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase a Warning Siren for the City of Nokomis Update/Approval:** Nothing additional to report.
- B. **Ordinance Authorizing the Use of ARPA Funds to Purchase a Police Squad Car for the Fillmore Police Department Update/Approval:**

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve adopting the Ordinance authorizing the use of ARPA funds to purchase a police squad car for the Village of Fillmore in the amount not to exceed \$27,600. All in favor, motion carried.

11. Approve Updated Preapproved Vendor List Update/Approval:

Motion by Ritchie and second by _____ to approve the Preapproved Vendor List as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

12. Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Update/Approval: (if needed)

13. Other Business: None.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Evan Young:

1. Sale of used Etnyre Chipspreader Update/Approval:

Motion by Young and second by _____ to approve the sale of the used chipspreader to in the amount of _____. All in favor, motion carried.

2. **Illinois House Bill 2781 Increase of TBP Funds Update/Approval:** This house bill would increase the amount of Township Bridge funds each county receives.

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to approve the Resolution of support for House Bill 2781 – Increasing Township Bridge Program Funds. All in favor, motion carried.

3. **Illinois House Bill 2505 and Senate Bill 2278 Update/Approval:** The County Engineer’s Association is currently watching Senate Bill 2278 and House Bill 2505. The senate bill basically says the county would not have to build a new road to accommodate overweight vehicles. The house bill is similar, but goes into more detail with regards to weight, height and length of roads.
4. **Permits issued to Navigator Heartland Greenway Update/Approval:** Laura Johnson and James Goudreau from Navigator were present during the committee meeting to answer questions about permits from townships and the County to use roadways for the CO2 Carbon Sequestration project. Highway Engineer Greenwood will work on hiring an outside attorney to draft a Road Use Agreement for this project.
5. **Upcoming Road Use Agreements Update/Approval:** This item ties into the previous discussion. The committee agreed the developer should cover the cost of the Road Use Agreements.
6. **Section 15-00138-00-BR – Whitetown Bridge Update/Approval:** There is a 95-working day contract and we are waiting for that executed contract to come back from IDOT. Almost all the trees have been cleared out from the Right of Way that was purchased. The project will require a complete road closure, which will likely go into the school season. There are 70 working days from June 1st until the start of school.
7. **Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd/7 Sisters Ave Update/Approval:** We are waiting on project compliance. IDOT takes a look at the Right of Way acquisitions and makes sure everything is good. There was a hang-up with the Stroup property, but it is fixed now. Greenwood does not want to close the road during the fall harvest, so this project could be shelved until summer 2024.
8. **Other Items:** None.

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:

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to appoint Roger Clymer to the Nokomis Area Fire Protection District Board for a three-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by _____ and second by _____ to appoint Breanna Wasson to the Coffeen Fire Protection District Board for a two-year term. 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.

ADJOURN:

The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13th, 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.