

Montgomery County Board

Minutes

For Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 – 8:30 AM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 in the County Board Room, 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Vice Chairman Mary Bathurst at 8:30 AM.

Roll call was taken - 18 members present, 3 members absent.

Members Present: Mary Bathurst, Connie Beck, Megan Beeler, Bill Bergen, Nikki Bishop, Ronald Deabenderfer, Joe Gasparich, Chuck Graden, Tim Hopper, Jay Martin, Gene Miles, Jim Moore, Mike Plunkett, Earlene Robinson, Glenn Savage, Bob Sneed, Mike Webb, Evan Young

Members Absent: Roy Hertel, Heather Hampton+Knodle and Richard Wendel

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Tobin Ott. Vice-Chairman Bathurst thanked Ott for all his hard work and she extended the board's best wishes as Ott and his wife relocate to Florida. Ott expressed his appreciation and stated that it was an honor to serve on the County Planning Commission and he had fun covering the County Board meetings for the past 12 years.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Bishop and second by Young to approve the mileage and per diem. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Gasparich and second by Hopper to approve the Minutes of the Previous County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 10th, 2015. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Chief Assessment Officer's Report** ---- Ray Durston was present for questions.
2. **Circuit Clerk's Report** ---- Holly Lemons – report was submitted.
3. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** ---- Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
4. **County Treasurer's Report** ---- Ron Jenkins – report was submitted.
5. **Health Department Report** ---- Hugh Satterlee – report was submitted.
6. **Probation Office Report** ---- Banee Ulrici – report was submitted.
7. **Public Defender's Report** ---- Erin Mattson – report was submitted.
8. **Sheriff's Report** ---- Jim Vazzi - report was submitted, Undersheriff Robbins was present for questions.
9. **T.B. Department Report** – Becky Durbin was present for questions.
10. **V.A.C. Report** ---- Dave Strowmatt- was present for questions.

APPROVAL OF 10 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Young and second by Savage to approve the 10 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **911 Board** – Webb stated that no meeting was held.
- **CEFS Board** - Robinson stated that on March 23rd, 2015 CEFS will be celebrating 50 years as a service organization and that she attended their board meeting on March 4th where they learned about SB 274, which would appropriate \$15 million of LIHEAP (Low Income Housing Assistance Program) funds to the state general fund. Robinson said that money comes from surcharges from the utility companies and that our representatives sent a letter opposing this Senate Bill. She said that over 900 households in our county would be affected by this bill. Robinson would like the County Board Chairman to write a letter opposing the bill. Bathurst stated that we need to review this issue over the next month and put on the Board Agenda for next month.

- **CIEDA** – Hampton+Knodle was absent.
- **Health Dept.** – Martin stated that there is nothing to report this month.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Plunkett stated that he and Bergen attended IACO meeting held recently and two big topics were discussed, the LGDF fund and the County’s portion of the income tax plus the 911 surcharge. Plunkett reported that there are a lot of proposals out there and one proposal would allow the State to take half which would equate to about a \$370,000 loss for Montgomery County. Plunkett reported that legislators Sullivan, McCann and Meyer expressed opposition to this bill and stated that legislators were not hopeful that the counties will ever be funded back to the 10%. Regarding the 911 surcharge issue, Plunkett stated that they learned that some counties are getting rich over the cell phone surcharge and that Senator Sullivan favored a re-apportionment of the surcharge. In Montgomery County, we are running a deficit with our \$2 surcharge and our legislators are seeing the problems and are trying to fix it. Bergen stated that this was his first IACO meeting and that it was very informative. He reported that they also discussed workers compensation laws and the property tax laws and so far there are no solutions for the problems. Bergen also said that some Senators said the Illinois State Pension fund has been unfunded since 1919 and comments were made that they didn’t realize that income tax law loss affected the counties.
- **MCEDC** – Heather Hampton+Knodle was absent.
- **MCWC** – Deabenderfer stated that meeting was canceled due to weather.
- **Planning Commission** – Beeler stated that they did not have a meeting.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Bishop reported that they are waiting on better weather to work on the parking lot.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported that he attended the UCCI meeting where the special guest speaker was Senator Manar.
- **U of I** –Evan Young deferred to U of I rep Amanda Cole who will report later.
- **VAC** – Sneed had nothing to report.
- **WCDC** – Wendel was absent.
- **Wellness Committee** – Bathurst reported that the Wellness Committee is coming up on their one year anniversary and that the Wellness Committee will meet tomorrow. She also stated that the Wellness Committee revised some rules that were introduced in the last pay check.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Vice Chairman Mary Bathurst as follows:

1. **Water Line Connection Update:** Bathurst stated that Chairman Hertel is still working on this issue.
2. **Jury Costs – SB 59 Approval:** Bathurst stated that SB 59 deals with legislation that would increase Jury Costs and that a copy of the synopsis of the bill and the budget line item that will be affected is in the packets for review. Bathurst suggested that the Board send a letter to our legislators concerning SB 59. **Motion by Beeler and second by Young for the Chairman to send a letter concerning SB 59. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **State Income Tax – HB 365 Approval:** Bathurst stated that HB 365 is in regards to legislation that would increase the County’s portion of the state income tax in 2019. If this legislation isn’t changed the counties could lose one half of their revenue and Bathurst explained that our current revenue of \$750,000 would be cut in half. She said that UCCI sent out a template for the County Boards to pass a Resolution calling for the Governor and General Assembly to Protect Necessary Funding for County Government. Bathurst explained how she revised the last sentence of the Resolution to reflect what Montgomery County would like to see happen and Assistant State’s Attorney Wilson has also reviewed the Resolution and approved it.

Motion by Beck and second by Gasparich to approve Resolution #03-15 Calling for the Governor and General Assembly to Protect Necessary Funding for County Government. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Resolution, see Resolution Book 14, page 200.)

4. **Other Business Update:** None at this time.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Bob Sneed as follows:

1. **Elevator Maintenance Agreement Proposal Update:** Sneed stated that there are currently two elevator companies that have maintenance contracts for our elevators and that we are trying to use only one company. He stated that a letter was sent to Schindler elevator to advise them that we were not going to renew the annual contract but they had a 90 day renewal clause and we were one month late. He said that letters will be sent out to both elevator companies to let them know that we are not going to automatically renew and will bid out the maintenance service next year.
2. **Waggoner Depot Update:** Sneed reported that Durston is working with Assistant State's Attorney Wilson on the legal description for the parcel split in order to deed the Waggoner Depot over to the Village of Waggoner.
3. **Tuck-pointing Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported that he has been in contact with Western Waterproofing and they are working on the stone at this time because it was deteriorating more than the brick. He said they are working on a test spot right now as weather permits. Sneed also reported that the committee is working towards putting the remainder of the building out for bids as money allows and that this will be our big project for the year.
4. **Communications Tower Update:** Sneed reported that Assistant State's Attorney Wilson has sent a letter to attorney Glenn and we are waiting for a response. Assistant State's Attorney Wilson stated that Attorney Glenn advised her that there is an issue on the title search and she will continue to work with him to resolve the issue.
5. **Storage on Third Floor-Proposal from Hurst-Rosche Engineering Update:** Sneed reported that we are running out of room for the Treasurer books going back to the 1800's and that Treasurer Jenkins wanted to put some upstairs on the 3rd floor but it is not structurally sound to put that weight up there. He said there will be a problem with the storage of books from here on out and one member talked about digitizing them like some of the other offices do which will come at a cost.
6. **Other Business Update:** Sneed stated that we have so many signs on the county buildings that it is overwhelming but we need to condense some signage and put it on one big board so people know to go to the right office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Vice-Chairman Megan Beeler as follows:

1. **MCEDC Approval:** Beeler stated that the MCEDC is currently without an Executive Director and they are working with the U of I Extension to revamp the position to make it more attractive to applicants. She stated that Grant writer Steve Bryant was present at the committee meeting and gave an update on the grants that the MCEDC is working on. Beeler said that the committee discussed and approved nominating Tim Hopper to the MCEDC Board. **Motion by Beeler and second by Bishop to appoint Tim Hopper to the Economic Development Corporation Board. All in favor, motion carried. Hopper Abstains. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Revolving Loan Fund Report Update:** Beeler stated that there was not a report due to the absence of the MCEDC Executive Director however loan payments are being made.
3. **Planning Commission Update:** Beeler stated that the Planning Commission met on January 21st and that Vice Chairman Rueben Boehler will serve as the Chairman with the resignation of the current chairman Tobin Ott who is relocating to Florida. She said that the committee is seeking a replacement of Ott's position and thanked Ott for being helpful and easy to work with and stated that he played a vital part of the community and we will miss him and his contribution to economic development.
4. **Structural Notification Forms Update:** Beeler stated that this issue continues to be in discussion and she is working with the Supervisor of Assessments to put a system in place.
5. **Dakota Access Pipeline Update:** Beeler stated that the Dakota Access Crude Oil has changed their route and shifted it to south of Walshville to avoid Coffeen Lake and Cline Resources Property, and said that Highway Engineer Smith has a map to share to those interested after the meeting which shows the changes.

6. **Clean Line Energy on Grain Belt Transmission Project Update:** Beeler stated that she attended a meeting last week and she has a map to share of the proposed route which shows the project coming into the County by Thomasville in Bois D' Arc Township and going east to Harvel into Christian County. She said this route would impact 20-21 miles in Montgomery County, and their last map would have affected about 30 miles. Beeler stated that their goal is to submit their paperwork to the ICC by May 1st and she added that they might tweak some more and can do so even after they go to the ICC. Gasparich asked if the County Board will re-submit our objection to eminent domain once they submit their project to the ICC. Beeler replied that this is the time period to file complaints to the ICC and that they have been getting a lot of opposition. Gasparich stated that the ICC has 255 days to give a decision.
7. **Eagle Zinc Cleanup Project Update:** Beeler reported that cleanup efforts are progressing and that we need to send a letter supporting Phase II clean up.
8. **Economic Development Fund/Developing Guidelines for Long-Term Improvement Fund Update:**
 - CEO Program: Beeler reported that about 50 businesses are supporting the program and there are five applicants for the facilitator's position which should be filled by April 1st. 2015. She said the deadline for student applications was yesterday. Beeler also stated that the CEO board has been very active and the web site is ready to go live and the CEO Facebook page is up and running.
9. **Priorities/Input for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Update:** Beeler stated that the committee has compiled the list and will work on cleaning up duplicates.
10. **Enterprise Zone and Mayors Meeting Update:** Beeler reported EZ Administrator Chris Daniels shared a lot of information regarding the new application process with county mayors and representatives at this meeting. She said that all the Enterprise Zones in the State have to re-apply in the next four years. Beeler explained that this is an opportunity to clean up our zone, our legal descriptions and incentives. She said the first step is to identify what is in the zone right now and what could be deleted. GIS Technician Younker provided an EZ parcel listing and maps to the mayors at the meeting which they will review for the next meeting.
11. **CIPT – CEFS Update:** Beeler reported that board member Robinson attended the Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss the CEFS ridership numbers. Robinson talked with CEFS Director Paul White who is willing to meet with Hampton+Knodle regarding her questions and concerns. Robinson stated that she doesn't understand the push for the higher ridership and that this will not affect the service to Montgomery County or our grant funds. ROE Supt. Kassebaum, who was in attendance at the meeting and also on the CEFS Board, stated that this is just a personal goal for CEFS.
12. **Other Business Update:** None at this time.

E.M.A./AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Glenn Savage as follows:

Ambulance Call Reports:

1. Collections: Savage reported that ambulance collections are being collected in a routine fashion and that Holmes had completed the testing of the panic alarms.
2. Tornado Season: Savage reminded everyone to use precautions as tornado season is here and he encouraged motorists to take a different route if there are dangers of flooding.

EMA:

1. **Mitigation Planning Meeting Update:** Savage reported that the county is continuing the process to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan and he urged members to help get some of their towns signed up and on board. Savage stated that the price is a few minutes of their time to go to a meeting will make federal funds more available to us if we need them. He said this is the cheapest insurance we'll ever get in case of a disaster. Savage concluded his report by stating that EMA is still looking for truck counters to sit for an hour to record the placards and write down what they are carrying and informed members there will be four locations to count the trucks with final information to be given to the consultant that is preparing the Mitigation Plan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Megan Beeler as follows:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Beeler reported that Supervisor of Assessments Durston's office has begun balancing the final abstract and reviewing changes so that it can be submitted to the Department of Revenue for their calculation of the final state multiplier which should be 1.00. Beeler stated that 2015 is a quad year and they hope to have the books to the Assessors by April 15th. Beeler also reported that the Board of Review has completed their hearings and the Supervisor of Assessments is finishing up on late divisions. She said that the SOA office has received about 900 senior renewals and 200 Disabled Veterans/Persons exemptions at this time. Beeler stated that there has also been some training with Pictometry and Durston attended a Mayor's meeting with GIS Technician Cassidy Younker where EZ maps were distributed to the mayors. Beeler stated that Pictometry has completed about 80% to 85% of our county's aerial photography, and they will resume the flyover weather permitting and will notify Durston when complete.
2. **Zobrio Accounting Software Implementation Update:** Beeler reported that IT Representative Purcell is turning our old accounting Harris Software data to a read only file so it can be retained for historical purposes. Beeler stated that the Finance Committee has asked the Personnel committee to continue to look at the Zobrio Human Resources and timekeeping modules which will be discussed at their next meeting.
3. **Collection of all County Contracts/Agreements Update:** Beeler reported that the County Board Coordinator is still collecting agreements and contracts from the county offices and 88 contracts have been collected so far. She said that a procedure has been put in place for Assistant State's Attorney Wilson to review all current and future agreements/contracts and she thanked Wilson for her work to review the documents and also thanked Coordinator Daniels' office for doing the administrative work.
4. **Nokomis/Witt Ambulance Levy Increase Proposal Update:** Beeler reported that the committee received a legal notice from the Nokomis/Witt Ambulance District in regards to increasing their levy from .30 to .45 per \$100. She said that they reported that they have had deficit spending for a few years now and they will come to the next Finance committee meeting to discuss the procedure to use to increase their maximum rate.
5. **Structural Permitting & Collection Process Update:** Beeler reported that Gonet had some questions about handing out the Structural Improvement Permit and he hadn't been told by the board how to handle. Gonet photographs new structures and then gives them to the SOA office. Gonet was then told to take the permit and give it to the contractor or landowner and he didn't know which one should receive them. The committee decided to have them go back to having Gonet just take the photographs and give them to the SOA so they could deal with the landowner.
6. **U of I Extension Agreement & Levy Approval:** Beeler introduced U of I Extension District 18 Director Amanda Cole who distributed their annual report and told board members that the annual tax levy will remain the same at \$154,910. Cole added that she hopes that the levy will be the same amount next year. Nikki Bishop stated that the new U of I Extension nutritionist is awesome and enthusiastic. Cole replied that Nutritionist Lisa Peterson started June 16 last year and she completes three to four programs per week. Beeler thanked Cole for the amount of work they do and said she appreciates her responsible management.
Motion by Beeler and second by Bishop to recommend the approval of the U of I extension Agreement and levy for FY 2016 in the amount of \$154,910. Gasparich abstains. All others in favor, motion carried.
7. **Add Bloome Water to the Prepaid Vendor List Approval:** Beeler stated that the committee discussed adding Bloome Water to the Prepaid Vendor List because they deliver every three weeks and it becomes an accounting issue on the county's end to avoid late payment fees. **Motion by Beeler and second by Webb to approve that Bloome Water is added to the Prepaid Vendor list. Discussion:** Moore stated that he doesn't know why we are buying water when you can turn on the tap and the water is just fine and that when he got on the board there were no water purchases. Deabenderfer left the meeting prior to this vote. **Roll call vote 10-7. Voting Yes = Bathurst, Beck, Beeler, Bishop, Gasparich, Hopper, Martin, Plunkett, Robinson and Webb. Voting No = Bergen, Graden, Miles, Moore, Savage, Sneed and Young. Motion carried.** Beeler then stated that the committee recommended deleting Tech Electronics and Francotyp-Postalia Mailing Solutions from the Prepaid vendor list. **Motion by Beeler and second by Martin to delete Tech Electronics**

and Francotyp-Postalia Mailing Solutions from the Prepaid vendor list. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Prepaid Vendor List, see Resolution Book 14, page 201.)

8. **FY 2016 Budget Hearing Dates Update:** Beeler stated that the budget hearings are scheduled for Monday July 20th, Tuesday July 21st, and Thursday, July 23rd.
9. **Real Estate Tax Bills Update:** Beeler stated that a constituent has asked that the time frame between real estate tax payments be increased to a 60 day window instead of the normal 30 day window, and said the committee will discuss this further next month.
10. **Other Business Update/Approval:** None at this time.
11. **ROE quarterly report Approval:** Beeler reported that Marchelle Kassebaum submitted the ROE quarterly report for approval. **Motion by Beeler and second by Miles to the ROE quarterly report. All in favor, motion carried.**

H.W.E. COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Connie Beck as follows:

1. **Elections Update:** Beck stated that the Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7th. County Clerk Leitheiser stated that no excuse absentee voting is currently underway and things are going smoothly so far. Leitheiser also stated that there have been about 58 voters so far and that the average voter turnout for a Consolidated Election in our county is about 26%. Leitheiser also asked everyone to spread the word to encourage voters to vote so that there would be a higher turnout. Gasparich asked if election judges will help voters since there are so many write in candidates and Leitheiser replied that the election judges have been trained to help if voters need it. She said that the write in votes will have to be manually counted by the Election Judges and Gasparich stated that votes will only count for write in candidates who have officially filed with the County Clerk's Office. Bishop asked why there are so many write in candidates this time and Leitheiser explained that there may have been some confusion with school board candidates because they now have to file their petitions with the County Clerk's Office and not their respective school unit offices, plus others may have missed the filing period deadlines with their local clerks.
2. **EPA Report Update:** Beck reported that the State grant has been received to fund the EPA Office.
3. **Recycling Program and Events Update:** Beck reported that Recycling Representative Bishop has scheduled an Electronic recycling drive with BLH in Springfield for Saturday, April 25th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Hillsboro facility. She said that BLH will have a 15 man crew who will come down with their trucks and will collect the \$20 fee for television sets. Beck stated that we have a grant to help put information in the newspapers.
4. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Beck reported that things are going well and that the old Astro Van was sold. She said that the new van is here and staff has already made a trip to Champaign in it to transport five dogs to rescue. Beck thanked board member Hopper for taking care of an animal abuse case where animal control staff was called in to assist the City of Hillsboro.
5. **Other Business Update/Approval:** None at this time.

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Vice Chairman Earlene Robinson as follows:

1. **2015 MFT Oil Letting Update:** Robinson reported that the committee will review the MFT Oil Letting bids on Wednesday April 29th, 2015 at 9:30 am at the Highway Department.
2. **Above Ground Fuel Tanks Update:** Robinson reported that Engineer Smith received some information regarding the two 1,000 above ground fuel tanks and he learned that the cost would not be as much as he first reported a few months ago. Smith also looked at a better inventory/security system for the various departments to get fuel at the new pumps by purchasing a keypad system that would allow for 120 users to enter a four digit number to access the fuel even when the Highway Department is closed. Smith stated that he will talk more with the committee and asked if we want to continue with the bidding process or do we just ask some companies to give a price and then pick the cheapest solution.
3. **Pipeline Permit/Road Use Agreement Update:** Robinson reminded everyone that Engineer Smith has the map for the Dakota Pipeline route for board members to look at after the meeting.

4. Other Business Update:

- Robinson reported that Chairman Hertel asked that the Highway Department Mechanic take a look at the older Recycling box truck that has some issues. She said that the mechanic has looked at the truck and has reported her findings to HWE Chairperson Beck.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Vice Chairman Jay Martin:

1. **Request for Qualification on Employee Health Insurance Update:** Martin reported that the committee received and reviewed qualification information from five insurance companies and chose two local companies to submit comparisons for a fully funded employee insurance program for their March 26th meeting.
2. **Zobrio Human Resource Module Update:** Martin reported that the committee continues to look at the Zobrio Human Resource and Time Keeping modules.
3. **Wellness Program Update:** Martin deferred to Bathurst who reported that the one year contracts will be up at the end of March and the revised “Rules” document will be dispersed in the employee’s pay checks.
4. **Executive Session for the purpose of Discussing Litigation and Union Contracts Approval:**
Motion by Martin and second by Young to go into Executive Session. TIME: 9:58 am.
Motion by Gasparich and second by Moore to come out of Executive Session. TIME: 10:34 am
5. **Union Contract with Laborers Local 773, Correctional Officers in the Sheriff’s Department Approval.** Motion by Martin and second by Bergen to approve the contract with Laborers Local 773 Correctional Officers at the Sheriff’s Department. All in favor, motion carried.
6. **Other Business Update/Approval:** None at this time.

APPROVAL OF 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES: Motion by Webb and second by Hopper to approve the 8 Committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice Chairman Bathurst announced the following:

Bathurst again announced that this is Tobin Ott’s last board meeting and thanked him for his service. Bathurst also stated that she had asked newly appointed Illinois House Representative Avery Bourne to attend this board meeting, but her schedule must not have allowed it. Bathurst also read a thank you note from Farm Bureau President Brian Niemann for the breakfast they shared with County Board members before last month’s meeting.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PAY BILLS:

1. **Approval to Pay Any Invoices to Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to Point of Light Awards:** Motion by Webb and second by Graden to pay any invoices for Adams, PC or Books & Moore and to Point of Light Awards. Voice Vote: In favor – 16, Against – 0, Absent – 3, Abstain -2 (Moore, Beck). Motion carried.
2. Motion by Bishop and second by Robinson to pay all other approved bills. All in favor, motion carried. For itemized listing of bills paid, refer to Accounts Payable Book for FY 2015.

ADJOURN: Until the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Robinson and second by Martin to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM. Minutes respectfully submitted and recorded by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.