

**Montgomery County Board
Minutes**

For Tuesday, August 12th, 2008 – 8:30 AM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 12th, 2008 in the County Board Chambers of the Historic Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Mike Plunkett at 8:30 AM.

Roll call was taken. 19 members present, 2 members absent.

Members Present: Mary Bathurst, Connie Beck, George Blankenship, Terry Bone, Bonnie Branum, Ronald Deabenderfer, Toby Dean, John Downs, Robert Durbin, Ed Helgen, Dennis Jagodzinski, Frank Komor, Sharon Kuchar, Joyce Matthews, Gene Miles, Roger Myers, Dale Ogden, Mike Plunkett, Richard Wendel.

Members Absent: Nelson Aumann and Bill Sielschott.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given. Chairman Plunkett introduced Lt. Ryan Petroski of Litchfield and son of County Board member Mary Bathurst to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Plunkett announced that Lt. Petroski is leaving soon for active duty overseas.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval:

Motion by Miles, second by Bathurst to approve the mileage and per diem. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:

Motion by Dean, second by Kuchar to approve the Minutes of the Previously Adjourned County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, July 8th, 2008. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Circuit Clerk's Report** – submitted.
2. **County Treasurer's Report** – Ron Jenkins was present for questions.
3. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions and distributed a handout of important election dates for the April, 2009 Consolidated Election.
4. **Sheriff's Report** – Jim Vazzi was present for questions.
5. **Health Department Report** – submitted.
6. **T.B. Department Report** – Sally Adams was present for questions.
7. **Public Defender's Report** – submitted.
8. **Probation Office Report** – submitted.
9. **911 Report** – submitted.
10. **S.O.A.** – submitted.
11. **G.I.S.** – submitted.

APPROVAL OF 11 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Branum, second by Downs to approve the 11 office reports on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Mike Plunkett reported that all discussion in the Coordinating Committee meeting would be included in the other Committee reports.

ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Vice Chairman George Blankenship as follows:

1. **Approval -Resolution #11-08:** A Resolution to appropriate an amount of \$20,000 for 1060 B-CA, N 23rd Avenue, Rountree Road District, 50% County Project; Montgomery County's Share = .05 (\$10,000.00). **Motion by Miles, second by Matthews to approve \$10,000 to replace the bridge in Rountree Township. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 8, pages 173-174).**

2. **Approval -Consultant Bridge Inspections:** The State of Illinois now requires that County Bridges be inspected on a regular basis, with no state funds available to pay for this service. Engineer Boehler stated that two proposals were received to inspect 200 bridges this year: Hurst-Rosche proposed to inspect the bridges for \$275.00 each and McDonough Whitlow gave a proposal for \$190.00 per bridge inspection. By staggering the inspection schedule, approximately 100 bridges will need to be inspected each year. **Motion by Blankenship, second by Bone to hire McDonough Whitlow to inspect approximately 200 bridges at \$190.00 per bridge. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Update -Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, 2008 to Discuss Budget Issues:** There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, 2008 at 8:30 AM at the Highway Department. Highway Engineer Boehler will advise the committee on Highway Budget issues. Boehler has some ideas for cost savings and to help generate some revenue to alleviate the rising costs of fuel and other Highway Department expenses.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Vice Chairman John Downs as follows:

1. **Update -Landfill and Golf Course Assessments:** Vice Chairman Downs reported that all county golf course assessments are complete and an agreement was reached with Envotech Illinois, LLC regarding the assessment for the landfill for 2006, 2007 and 2008. The committee reviewed the assessments that were reevaluated for Hillsboro and Litchfield Country Clubs and Indian Springs Golf Course. Per Chief Assessment Officer Ray Durston, the assessment changes will take place for the 2008 payable 2009 tax year.
2. **Update -Ameren Assessment Agreement:** State's Attorney Chris Matoush and Assistant State's Attorney Betsy Wilson met with Chairman Plunkett to review changes to the Ameren Assessment Agreement. The only things that were changed were a couple of typographical errors and one word. The final agreement should be ready for signatures soon.
3. **Update -County Real Estate Tax Cycle:** Downs reported that discussion took place on whether to use the State multiplier or the Township factor for the upcoming 2007-2008 Real Estate Tax Cycle. The committee decided that it would be best to use the State multiplier in order to expedite the tax bill process. The goal will be to have tax bills mailed out by the end of September, with the first installment being due by the end of October and the second installment due by the end of November.
4. **Update -Payments by Credit Card Public Hearing – Sept. 8th, 2008 on 2nd Floor:** There will be a Public Hearing on Monday, September 8th, 2008 in the County Board Room at 8:30 AM regarding payments by credit card. There is no charge to the County to institute this payment service.
5. **Update -Resolution to Accept Payment by Credit Card:** The board will look at passing the Resolution for the Credit Card payment at the September Full Board Meeting.
6. **Update -FY09 Budget and Levy Discussion:** The committee discussed a comparison report from budgets prepared by the Treasurer's Office for Fiscal Year 2006 thru Fiscal Year 2009. Chairman Plunkett spoke with the Hillsboro Senior Club Treasurer regarding questions about the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request, and he stated that they told him they have enough money to operate next year. The committee decided that the \$3,200 will remain in the budget. A draft of the Real Estate Tax Levy Extension Summary in the amount of 4.9994% was reviewed and discussed so the Truth In Taxation level will be under the 5% Statutory requirement. The Levy will be approved by the Full Board at the September Full Board meeting. County Clerk Leitheiser shared a spreadsheet with a summary of the sales tax revenues for Montgomery County for the past year.
7. **Update -Trustee Property Village of Farmersville Opera House Property:** The last day for the owner of the opera house property to pay taxes to redeem the property is August 14th, 2008.
8. **Update -GIS:** A proposed GIS Data Fee Schedule was prepared based on a comparison with other County GIS fees. The Full Board will approve the GIS Data Fee Schedule at their next meeting.

HWE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Bob Durbin as follows:

1. **Approval -Animal Control Facility:** Nancy Richardson, Chairperson for the P.A.W.S. C.A.R.E. Volunteer Group, gave an update to the board on their volunteer efforts and urged the County Board to start the animal control facility. Richardson stated that if the facility is built, volunteer groups would help find foster homes for adoptable dogs and cats, get donations and grants, man phones and help educate the public. She stated that state law mandates that each county be responsible for animal control in the rural unincorporated areas of the county, and the P.A.W.S. C.A.R.E. group would be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Board to help with the Animal Control Facility in any way they can. Member Bathurst stated that the role of the county is to keep citizens safe, which includes responsible pet owners; however, it is the ones who do not take care of their animals that is the problem, and said that she does not feel it is the county's responsibility to run a benevolent animal shelter. Bathurst stated that the county should consider privatizing the shelter with county support, and discussion among members included inquiring about operating costs and alternative vet care. Plunkett explained operating costs of the program with or without a facility, and referred members to the "Summary of Revenues and Expenses for Animal Control" handout (See Resolution Book 8, page 175). Water and septic will cost approximately \$27,000, and the Animal Control building will cost \$274,000.00 for a total cost of \$301,000. Plunkett stated that operating costs after the facility has been built will be about the same as the county's current contracting with local veterinarian Ben Brohammer. Jagodzinski inquired if the vet has to be located in Montgomery County to do county Animal Control services. Plunkett stated that no other county veterinarian wants to help with animal control, and the county had a contract with Brohammer, but it has since expired. Durbin stated that an effort is made to obtain in-county veterinarian services. Bathurst inquired if the county had thought about enhancing the current privately owned pound. Durbin stated that the vets were never asked to extend their facilities, and Plunkett stated that the County probably could not build anything on a privately owned property. There is currently \$100,000 in the budget that can be spent on the Animal Control Facility this fiscal year and \$174,000 has been put in the budget for 2009 for a grand total of \$274,000.00. **Motion by Durbin, second by Helgen to approve \$274,000.00 for the purpose of building an Animal Control Facility. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 11, Nays – 6, Present – 2, Absent – 2. Voting Yes: Beck, Bone, Deabenderfer, Dean, Durbin, Helgen, Komor, Miles, Ogden, Plunkett and Wendel. Voting No: Blankenship, Downs, Jagodzinski, Kuchar, Matthews, and Myers. Voting Present: Bathurst, Branum. Absent: Aumann, Sielschott. Motion carried.**
2. **Update- Animal Control Program:** Durbin reported that Under-Sheriff Rick Robbins addressed the committee regarding dispatching of Animal Control calls. Currently the Sheriff's dispatchers, who are on staff 7 days a week and 24 hours per day, will take an animal control complaint and dispatch that information to the County Animal Control Officer. The Sheriff's department would like for the calls to go directly to Animal Control and to educate the public on a phone number to call that goes directly to Animal Control. Coordinator Daniels explained the problems of not having a dedicated land line at the Historic Courthouse for the purpose of animal control. The Sheriff's dispatchers will take the complaint call and refer the caller to the animal control cell phone number. If a facility is built, a phone messaging system can be used to give callers' information regarding animal control hours and to call the Animal Control Officer on the cell phone only if there is an emergency.
3. **Update- Litchfield Recycling Facility:** Durbin reported that demolition and rebuilding of the Litchfield Recycling Facility will begin soon. Rovey Landscaping is doing the clean up of the warehouse floor and drop off area of the material that was destroyed in the fire.
4. **Update- UCCI:** Durbin reported that there will be a UCCI Seminar in Carrollton, Illinois on Monday, August 18, 2008 between 5:30 and 8:30 PM and encouraged members to sign up.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman John Downs as follows:

1. **Update- Local 773 Montgomery County Sheriff's Department Contract:** Chairman Downs stated that he will contact John Taylor from Local 773 to set up a meeting to start Union Contract Negotiations with the Jailers and Dispatchers.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Terry Bone as follows:

1. **Update- Gutter Installation and Basement Wall repairs:** The guttering on the Historic Courthouse should be installed soon and the basement walls on the northwest corner can then be fixed.
2. **Update- Air Conditioning System for Courthouse Complex:** Chairman Bone reported on the air conditioning problems that started on July 3rd, 2008. Two compressors failed within a few days of each other and replacement compressors were installed in the next couple of weeks. The first compressor that was replaced blew a rod and another unit was installed on Wednesday after 5:30 P.M. On Monday, August 4th, 2008, the air conditioning system in the Courthouse Complex went completely down. Lloyd Meyer had reported that it was a bad sensor and Johnson Controls needed to over-ride the system. The new sensor was installed on Tuesday, August 5th, but on Thursday morning August 7th, 2008, the committee learned that the Freon in the system was completely drained and by noon another compressor went down on the system. The compressors each weigh over 20 tons and are built when ordered; companies do not have these in stock. Luther of Johnson Controls called on Monday, August 11, 2008 and stated that they discovered the problem with the compressor was due to a manufacturing fault. The last compressor will be put in this Saturday, but the system is working properly. Bone stated that there will be a meeting with Johnson Controls, Chris Daniels, Lloyd Meyer, Roy Wilson, Mike Plunkett, and the Sheriff on August 28th or 29th, some time after 2:45 P.M.
3. **Maintenance Issues:** Due to some maintenance issues, Maintenance Superintendent Lloyd Meyer will complete reports and have them turned in to Coordinator Daniels. Meyer will turn in daily log sheets and work order requests are to be completed by each department and faxed to the Coordinating Office. Communications of existing and potential problems are to be reported to Coordinator Daniels. Routine maintenance check off lists will be completed and turned in on a weekly basis and the mechanical systems will be checked on Sundays in extreme weather or when problems exist.
4. **Phone System – Historic Courthouse:** Bone reported that the Historic Courthouse's phone system was having some problems. Wednesday, July 27th the phone system went down and came back throughout the day, and Lloyd Meyer had to reset the system several different times. A service call was placed with Americall Communications on Thursday, July 28th, and their phone technician reset the system, which did not recover. A new computer card was ordered and sent overnight for Friday, but that card did not fix the problem. Another card was ordered for first thing on Monday morning, and the part arrived at 9:00 A.M. and the technician reported that the wrong card was sent and a new one would be sent overnight for Tuesday, August 5th. The 2nd card came in on Tuesday and it was also the wrong card. Wednesday the phone system was still down, partially because of storms the night before. By Thursday afternoon, the phone system was back up and working again. By Friday morning the phone system was down again. The company servicing the phone system has been on site working to fix the system. The Historic Courthouse has a capacity of 60 phone lines and all 60 lines are in use. GIS needs a fax line and Animal Control needs a digital line with voice mail capability. During the committee meeting on Friday, Bill Purcell gave a brief history of when the current phone system was purchased and installed. Purcell discussed putting in a Voice-Over IP system, which is a computerized phone system that can be operated on the current computer network system. Bone stated that his committee thinks the phone system should be evaluated by another company. Consolidated will be called to see if they can evaluate the current system. Americall Communications System can also update the county's phone system. As of today's board meeting, the system is back up and working again.
5. **Building Needs Assessment:** Bone stated that his committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the needs assessment for the Historic Courthouse. Different options were discussed regarding purchasing an existing building for the Regional Office of Education and remodeling the Historic Courthouse or building a new building.

6. **Special Meeting:** There will be a special Building and Grounds Committee meeting held on Thursday, August 14th, 2008 at 6:00 PM in the County Board Room to discuss and review a nearby property that is for sale.

EMA/AMBULANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Dennis Jagodzinski as follows:

1. **Ambulance Call Reports:** A summary of monthly operations for **June 2008** is as follows: **Total calls:** 374, **Total amounts billed:** \$195,687.00 **Total amounts collected:** \$39,703.68. A summary of monthly operations for **July 2008** will be given out at next month's board meeting.
2. **Director Holmes Report:**
 - **Fast EMC Training:** Jagodzinski stated that Cathy Ulrici went to training on Fast EMC. Ulrici shared examples of Medicare Reports for Litchfield Ambulance Billing with the committee.
 - **Triage Kits:** Jagodzinski stated that triage kits have been delivered to all 5 Area Ambulance Services, and each ambulance received the following kits: Hillsboro received 3 kits, Litchfield received 3 kits, Nokomis received 3 kits, Raymond/Harvel received 2 kits, and Farmersville/Waggoner received 2 kits. All the equipment received for the county came at no cost and were paid for by MABAS.
 - **Tri-Pod Lights and Generator:** Jagodzinski reported that the Community of Hamburg returned the generator and tri-pod lights that they had borrowed during the flooding on the Mississippi.
 - **IEMA – Grant Funding:** An application has been sent to IEMA for grant funding for a new Emergency Operations Center, which would house a Communications Center, GIS Office and Information Systems Management Office.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Chairman Ron Deabenderfer as follows:

1. **Update- Ordinance Regulating the Siting of Wind Energy:** Deabenderfer stated that the committee reviewed a sample Wind Ordinance and discussed a few suggested changes. State's Attorney Chris Matoush will review the first draft and a copy will also be given to the Farm Bureau to review and submit feedback. The Full Board will be asked to approve an ordinance in the next few months. The draft has been modified from other counties' current ordinances to fit Montgomery County's needs. Deabenderfer reported that there was a Wind Farm tour organized by the Farm Bureau on Tuesday, August 5th, 2008, and many County Board members attended.
2. **Approval- Abandoned Rail Line Property Time Extension:** Deabenderfer reported that clear title was not obtained from current owner Mr. Kee for the abandoned rail line property, and Mr. Kee had until May 31st, 2008 to produce a clear title. Mr. Kee has now hired an attorney to research and obtain a clear title and is asking for an extension. The Coordinating Committee wanted the deadline to be as of the last meeting, which was held on July 26th, 2008. Retired Judge Mark Joy attended the Coordinating Committee meeting and explained that there is a reasonable chance that Mr. Kee has a clear title, and the only concern is getting title insurance for the property. Mr. Kee's attorney, Jack Evans, is researching the deeds with the help of Mark Joy. Evans told members that ownership of the Abandoned Rail Line Property went from the railroad to the Fair Board then to Mr. Kee, and he is hopeful to resolve the issue and obtain title insurance on the property. Discussion took place on obtaining the rail line property in order to get a sewer line to the Village of Butler so that they would have the potential for Economic Development. Deabenderfer stated that Mayor Boliard of Butler now has easements from farmers and does not need the rail line for that purpose, however, it would help the Village with the project to have the rail line available. **Motion by Deabenderfer, second by Matthews to approve a 60 day extension of the deadline to obtain clear title to the rail line property. Roll call vote: Ayes – 13, Nays - 6. Voting yes: Bathurst, Beck, Blankenship, Bone, Deabenderfer, Jagodzinski, Komor, Kuchar, Matthews, Miles, Ogden, Plunkett, Wendel. Voting no: Branum, Dean, Downs, Durbin, Helgen, Myers. Absent were: Aumann, Sielschott.**

APPROVAL OF 8 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Kuchar, second by Beck to approve the 8 committee reports. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plunkett reported that there will be a Public Hearing on Monday, September 8th, 2008 at 8:30 AM in the County Board Room in regard to accepting credit card payments.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 17th, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the K.C. Hall regarding Hillsboro Energy, L.L.C. Deer Run Mine.

The Hillsboro Rehab and Health Care Center in cooperation with "Family Night" will present an evening with State and County Officials on Thursday, September 4th, 2008 at 5:30 PM. Appearing will be Senator Deanna Demuzio, Representative Gary Hannig, Macoupin Board Chairman Andy Manar, Montgomery County Board Chairman Mike Plunkett, Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Plunkett stated that there will be a special Road & Bridge Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, at 8:30 AM in the Highway Department to discuss budget issues.

Plunkett stated that there will be a special Building and Grounds Committee meeting on Thursday, August 14th, at 6:00 PM in the County Board room to discuss the Building Needs Assessment.

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion by Helgen, second by Myers to approve the appointment of Robbin Huffman to the Job Center Board. Ms. Huffman's term will begin immediately and expire on April 14th, 2010. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Bone, second by Deabenderfer to approve the appointment of Beverly Whalen to the Coffeen Fire Protection District. Ms. Whalen will complete the unexpired term of Merrill Micenheimer, until April 30th, 2009. All in favor, motion carried

Motion by Myers, second by Beck to approve the appointment of Deanne Jones as commissioner to the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board. Mr. Jones will fill the unexpired term of Dorothy Austin, which will expire June 30th, 2012. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Blankenship, second by Beck to approve the re-appointment of Gene Mitchell to the Litchfield Airport Authority Board. Mr. Mitchell's term will begin immediately and expire on June 30th, 2013. All in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by Jagodzinski, second by Downs to pay all approved bills. All in favor, motion carried. For itemized listing of bills paid, refer to Accounts Payable Book for FY 2008.

ADJOURN: Until the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 9th, 2008 at 8:30 AM in the County Board Room, Historic Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted and recorded by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.