

## Montgomery County Board Minutes

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For Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 5:30 PM

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The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

**Roll call was taken** – 16 members present, 5 members absent.

**Members Present:** Connie Beck, Ronald Deabenderfer, Doug Donaldson, Tim Fogle, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Sandra Johnson, David Loucks, Gene Miles, Andy Ritchie, Earlene Robinson, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Patty Whitworth, Donna Yeske and Evan Young

**Members Absent:** Russell Beason, Megan Beeler, Bill Bergen, Jeremy Jones and Ethan Murzynski.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Richard Wendel.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Motion by Yeske and second by Donaldson to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beck, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Folkerts, Hughes, Johnson, Loucks, Miles, Ritchie, Robinson, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting:** Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Folkerts to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Ambulance Billing Report** -- Mona Lewis – No report was submitted.
- 2. Animal Control Report** -- Emily Gerl – No report was submitted. Gerl was present for questions.
- 3. Circuit Clerk's Report** – Daniel Robbins – Report was submitted. Robbins was present for questions.
- 4. Coroner's Report** – Randy Leetham – Report was submitted. Leetham was present for questions.
- 5. County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Report submitted. Leitheiser was present for questions.
- 6. Health & TB Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee – Report was submitted. Satterlee was present for questions.
- 7. Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood – Report was submitted. Greenwood was present for questions.
- 8. Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici – No report was submitted. Ulrici was present later in the meeting for questions. She updated members regarding grants and recognition the office recently received.
- 9. Public Defender's Report** – Erin Mattson — No report was submitted.
- 10. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** -- Julie Wollerman – Report was submitted.
- 11. Sheriff's Report** – Rick Robbins – Report was submitted. Robbins was present for questions.
- 12. SOA Report** – Ray Durston – Report was submitted.

**13. State's Attorney Report** – Andrew Affrunti – Report was submitted. Affrunti was present for questions.

**14. Treasurer's Report** – Nikki Lohman – Report was submitted. Lohman was present for questions.

**15. V.A.C. Report** – Dave Strowmatt – Report was submitted. Strowmatt was present for questions.

**APPROVAL OF 11 REPORTS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Donaldson and second by Johnson to approve the 11 reports on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Robinson reported they will be notifying 708 funding recipients about their awards this week.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle reported CEFS in Litchfield is looking for drivers for Meals on Wheels and stated the CEFS LiHeap program is still open and ready for those interested.
- **911 Board** – Bergen was absent and nothing new was reported.
- **Health Department** -- Johnson stated there was nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen and Beeler were absent and nothing new was reported.
- **MCEDC** -- Yeske stated there was nothing new to report.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie stated there was nothing new to report and there are no meetings scheduled.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Deabenderfer stated there is nothing new to report.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported there was a meeting held Monday, November 14, primarily focused on newly elected individuals.
- **U of I** – Beck reported their next meeting is in December, 2022.
- **WCDC** – Wendel reported there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young stated IS employee Mat Marietta is leaving the county Information Services office at the end of this month, and manager Curt Watkins will be looking for a replacement soon.
2. **EMA Report Update:** EMA Coordinator Schott reported they responded to a structure fire in Litchfield over the weekend.
3. **Committee Structure Update:** Young stated there is nothing new to report.
4. **Carbon Capture and Storage Update:** Young stated he is meeting with Heartland Greenway project representative Jim Prescott on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regarding this project. Young stated the Development and Personnel Committee voted to begin negotiating a development agreement with this company for carbon sequestration in the county.
5. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Chris Daniels reported the Spring Electronics recycling drive will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, in Litchfield; and the Fall event

will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Hillsboro. She also reported her office has scheduled open dump EPA inspections for various sites throughout the county.

6. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Young reported their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
7. **County Board Reorganization Meeting Date Update:** Young reported he is working with State's Attorney Affrunti to finalize a date for the County Board reorganization meeting. He stated it will not be held on December 1st as was previously discussed.

**DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairwoman Donna Yeske:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Yeske said there is nothing new to report.
2. **Tourism Update:** Yeske said there is nothing new to report.
3. **Ambulance Billing Office and Employees Approval:** Yeske stated the ambulance billing office will be closing due to the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service pulling out of county billing services last month. **Motion by Yeske and second by Donaldson to close the county ambulance billing office effective November 30, 2022.** Whitworth asked about the remainder of bills coming in after the office is closed and who would take care of them. Young stated there shouldn't be a large amount of bills lagging behind because all of the other ambulance services have already begun using a private company to handle their billing, but Coordinated Services assistant David Jenkins will take care of services needed after the office closure. **15 members voted yes, and 1 member (Deabenderfer) voted no. Motion carried.**
4. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Yeske reported open enrollment was held recently and it went well.
5. **Discuss Addendum to agreement with the Central Labors Pension Update:** Yeske said there is nothing new to report.
6. **Supervisor of Assessments Position Update:** Yeske said there is nothing new to report.
7. **Public Hearing for Proposed Solar Farms/Projects for Anacott Solar, LLC, Bluestar Solar, LLC, and Horseshoe Solar, LLC Update:** Yeske deferred to Cultivate Power representative Kiera Gavin who gave a presentation on the three solar projects for which they are seeking permits in Montgomery County. She stated Cultivate Power is the overseeing developer of the project and the three smaller companies are Anacott Solar, Bluestar Solar, and Horseshoe Solar. When asked why there were three separate companies, Gavin said this was done because a single company is only allowed to have a maximum of 5 megawatts of solar each. Citizen Ron Snoddy was present and said he owns the property next door to where one of the proposed projects is, but nobody approached him about it. He said these solar panels are an eyesore and the company should have approached him before proceeding. Gavin said the owner of the property where the solar panels will be located still plans to farm between the panels and Snoddy's property. County Board members and various citizens discussed several aspects of these solar farm projects. **Motion by Yeske and second by Whitworth to table any decision on the Solar Farm Project Permits until the December 13, 2022, full board meeting at 5:30 pm. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Heartland Greenway Carbon Sequestration Project and Development Agreement Update:** Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.

9. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Approval:** Motion by Yeske and second by Fogle to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Personnel, Litigation, Property Acquisition and union contracts. All in favor, motion carried. Board entered into executive session at 6:37 p.m. at 6:50 p.m., motion by Robinson and second by Whitworth to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried.
10. **Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 (Supervisor of Assessments) Approval:** Motion by Yeske and second by Fogle to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 for the Supervisor of Assessments office. All in favor, motion carried.
11. **Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 (Highway Department) Approval:** Motion by Yeske and second by Donaldson to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1084 for the Highway Department. All in favor, motion carried.

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Vice-Chairman David Loucks:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Loucks stated Supervisor of Assessments Durston informed the Finance Committee the Board of Review has received 25 complaints at this time. Loucks also reported SOA employee Kendra Niehaus is down to her last qualifying test and also has to complete the state exam to be qualified for the SOA position.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Loucks reported the county received another check in October from the Deer Run Coal mine.
3. **IMRF Update:** Loucks stated there are no new updates at this time.
4. **Add United Health Care Services Inc. to the Pre-Approved Vendor List Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Yeske to approve adding United Health Care Services Inc. to the Pre-Approved Vendor List and deleting Health Alliance from the Pre-Approved Vendor List. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 198-199).
5. **Convey deed for Parcel ID 08-23-114-013 in Nokomis Township to John Beach Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Johnson to approve conveying deed for Parcel ID 08-23-114-013 in Nokomis Township to John Beach. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 200-201).
6. **Approve Treasurer signing Technology Grant for Circuit Clerk's Office Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Miles to approve the Treasurer signing the technology grant for the Circuit Clerk's office. All in favor, motion carried.
7. **Approve Salary Increase for Interim Supervisor of Assessments Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Fogle to approve a salary for Temporary Supervisor of Assessments Cindy Laurent in the amount of \$13,057.70 across the five pay periods she will serve in the position. All in favor, motion carried.
8. **Approve FY 2023 Change Sheet Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Donaldson to approve the FY 2023 Budget Change Sheet as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 202-203).
9. **Approve FY 2023 Budget Approval:** Motion by Loucks and second by Wendel to approve the FY 2023 Budget as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

- 10. Adopt the FY 2023 Aggregate Levy Approval: Motion by Loucks and second by Donaldson to adopt the FY 2023 Aggregate Levy in the amount of \$4,181,075 for a 2.2218 percent increase. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, page 213).**
- 11. Approve FY 2023 Budget Appropriations, Levies and Resolutions Approval:**
- A. Motion by Loucks and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 22-19 to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Appropriation Ordinance in the amount of \$36,584,901. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - B. Motion by Folkerts and second by Johnson to approve Resolution 22-20 to pass the General Corporate Fund levy for the current taxable year in the amount of \$1,020,600. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - C. Motion by Donaldson and second by Yeske to approve Resolution 22-21 to pass the County Health Department levy in the amount of \$655,200. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - D. Motion by Wendel and second by Ritchie to approve Resolution 22-22 to pass the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund levy in the amount of \$600,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - E. Motion by Robinson and second by Beck to approve Resolution 22-23 to pass the Social Security Fund levy in the amount of \$650,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - F. Motion by Miles and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 22-24 to pass the levy to pay the costs of Insurance Premiums in the amount of \$400,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - G. Motion by Donaldson and second by Wendel to approve Resolution 22-25 to pass the County Highway Fund levy in the amount of \$504,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - H. Motion by Whitworth and second by Loucks to approve Resolution 22-26 to pass the County Highway Federal Aid Matching levy in the amount of \$252,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - I. Motion by Loucks and second by Johnson to approve Resolution 22-27 to pass the Special Aid to County Bridge Fund levy in the amount of \$252,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - J. Motion by Sneed and second by Wendel to approve Resolution 22-28 to pass the levy for Veterans Assistance in the amount of \$52,400. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - K. Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Beck to approve Resolution 22-29 to pass the levy for Senior Citizen Social Services in the amount of \$109,000. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - L. Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to approve Resolution 22-30 to pass the levy for the County Extension Service in the amount of \$150,425. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - M. Motion by Donaldson and second by Deabenderfer to approve Resolution 22-31 to pass the Community Mental Health Board Tax levy in the amount of \$675,186.**  
Robinson said this amount is less than what the board just passed in the budget. Lohman stated this was a question they had been asking for months. Affrunti said he has always maintained Special Service Districts should levy based on the full amount approved by the voters, which would be 0.15 percent in this case. Lohman said if the 708 board levies for the full amount, it would be an increase of more than 5 percent and a truth in taxation

hearing should have been held. Folkerts stated his understanding is a truth in taxation hearing would be needed also when an increase of 5% or more is requested. Affrunti said if the board approves the levy at this meeting for the higher amount to match the budget, they could be subject to possible litigation. **14 members voted yes, and 2 voted no. Yeske and Robinson vote no. Motion carried.**

**N. Motion by Sneed and second by Miles to approve Resolution 22-32 to pass the levy for the Farmersville/Waggoner Special Service Area in the amount of \$78,700. All in favor, motion carried.**

**O. Motion by Donaldson and second by Beck to approve Resolution 22-33 to pass the levy for the Raymond/Harvel Special Service Area in the amount of \$80,483. All in favor, motion carried.**

**P. Motion by Johnson and second by Miles to approve Resolution 22-34 to pass the levy for the Nokomis/Witt Special Service Area in the amount of \$303,968. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Q. Motion by Whitworth and second by Deabenderfer to approve Resolution 22-35 to pass the levy for the Hillsboro Special Service Area in the amount of \$109,000. All in favor, motion carried.**

**R. Motion by Ritchie and second by Beck to approve Resolution 22-36 to pass the levy for the Litchfield Special Service Area in the amount of \$680,407. All in favor, motion carried.**

**S. Motion by Hughes and second by Fogle to approve Resolution 22-37 to set Salaries for the following Department Heads: Supervisor of Assessments for an amount not to exceed \$70,577; Probation Officer for an amount not to exceed \$103,732; and the Assistant Probation Officers for an amount not to exceed \$255,929. All in favor, motion carried.**

**T. Motion by Wendel and second by Folkerts to approve Resolution 22-38 to Authorize State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor and to appropriate the sum of \$15,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For Copies of all Resolutions and Levies, see Resolution Book 19, pages 204-234).**

**12. Notification of Non-County ARPA Project Recipients Update:** Loucks reported the Finance committee is going to have the Bellwether representatives at their February meeting.

**13. DCEO Energy Community Reinvestment Act Grant and Vistra Energy Update:** Loucks stated the committee talked about the county needing a Zoning Board and they will refer this need to the Development and Personnel Committee.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Gene Miles and Committee member Bob Sneed:

**1. Walshville Bypass Road Intergovernmental Agreement Update:** Miles stated Walshville village board President Joy McDonald is invited to a committee meeting and this is on hold until she can attend. He said she had questions about the agreement and the matter is tabled until she attends the meeting.

**2. Resolution 2022-19 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., Irving Twp. Approval:** Miles said the total cost of the project is \$18,000, with the County's share being \$9,000. **Motion by Miles and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 2022-19 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on North**

14<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 235-236).

3. **Resolution 2022-20 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2023 Approval:** Miles said the board approved a six-year agreement earlier this year saying they would agree to pay at least 100% of IDOT's recommended highway engineer salary, and the recommended salary is \$117,300. **Motion by Miles and second by Loucks to approve Resolution 2022-20 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2023 in the amount of \$117,300. Yeske abstained. All others in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 237-238).**
4. **Resolution 2022-21 appropriating additional RBI funds for the construction of Section 15-00138-00-BR – White Town Bridge on Red Ball Trail Approval:** Miles said the amount being appropriated is \$140,000. **Motion by Miles and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 2022-21 appropriating additional RBI funds for the construction of Section 15-00138-00-BR – White Town Bridge on Red Ball Trail. ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting YES: Beck, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Folkerts, Hughes, Johnson, Loucks, Miles, Ritchie, Robinson, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young. Voting NO: None. ABSENT: Beason, Beeler, Bergen, Jones and Murzynski. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, page 239).**
5. **Emergency Standby Generator Update:** Miles reported the Finance Committee gave Engineer Greenwood permission to order an emergency standby generator. It will be on order for 38 weeks due to parts shortages and the cost is \$43,935. Greenwood said it is a 60 KW generator.
6. **White Truck Shed auction results Approval:** Miles reported the winning bid for the White Truck Shed at the old Highway Department was by Deanne Cole of Girard in the amount of \$17,200. **Motion by Miles and second by Sneed to accept the bid from Deanne Cole of Girard in the amount of \$17,200 for the White Truck Shed at the old Highway Department. All in favor, motion carried.** Miles stated Cole has 120 days to remove the shed from the property. **Motion by Miles and second by Loucks to have the Highway Department keep all funds from the sale of buildings and items on the old Highway Department property. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported Maintenance tech Phil Ernst gave a report on work completed around the complex. He said Ernst also requested a salary increase for the maintenance department. Sneed said the committee took it under advisement but didn't take any action.
8. **Request for Proposal for Performance Contract for ADA Updates to New Courthouse Approval:** **Motion by Sneed and second by Hughes to put out a request for Proposal for a Performance Contract for ADA updates to the New Courthouse. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **New Locks at Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported this will be addressed after the first of the year.
10. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse and Jail Update:** Sneed reported this will be addressed after the first of the year.
11. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update:** Sneed reported this will be addressed after the first of the year.

12. **Bidding out the County Farm Update:** Sneed said the committee discussed the county farm lease, which is ending soon and will need to be bid out. He said we can bid out this lease in a month or two before it terminates.
13. **EMA Storage Shed Update:** Sneed said there is nothing new to report.
14. **Elections Update:** Leitheiser reported turnout for the November 8<sup>th</sup> election was 67.44 percent county-wide and she thanked the voters, Election Judges, and her staff for making it a success.
15. **Approve Hire/Appointment of Animal Control Warden and Facility Manager Approval:** Motion by Miles and second by Fogle to approve the hire of Emily Gerl as the Animal Control Warden and Facility Manager. All in favor, motion carried.
16. **Approve Salary for Animal Control Warden and Facility Manager Approval:** Motion by Miles and second by Yeske to keep the salary of the animal control warden and facility manager the same as it is now and then increase it to \$40,602 on December 1, 2022. Deabenderfer asked if the salary should have been set by the Finance Committee. Jenkins stated the \$40,602 figure was the amount for the position after factoring in the board-approved increase of \$1.75 per hour for non-union county officials. All in favor, motion carried.
17. **Animal Control Facility Update:** Miles said there is nothing new to report.
18. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update:** Miles reported Gerl received a few more municipal contracts.

**APPROVAL OF 4 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:**

**Motion by Johnson and second by Robinson to approve the four committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Christian County resident and Montgomery County native Nicole (Weitekamp) Lanham stated the carbon sequestration project being considered in Montgomery County is unprecedented in scale. She said Heartland Greenway representatives have often referenced the ADM project in Decatur as an example of success, but the size of this project is three percent of this proposed one. She also said there is no guarantee the CO2 pumped into the ground will stay there. Audubon Township resident Greg Archibald said he wishes the county would slow down a little with this project and said he would like to know the route of the pipeline before an agreement is considered. Citizen Bill Schroeder said he would also like to see the county slow down. Citizen Karyl Dressen stated she would like the board to listen to both sides of the issue before making any decisions to proceed with the agreement.

**PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Robinson to pay all approved bills and Payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** Until the County Board Reorganization Meeting on a date to be determined in December, 2022, prior to the next regular full board meeting. The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Folkerts and second by Fogle to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.