

## Montgomery County Board Minutes

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**For Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Evan Young at 5:35 PM.

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

**Members Present:** Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Tim Fogle, Jim Havera, Mark Hughes, Sandra Johnson, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Bev McCoy, Gene Miles, Andy Ritchie, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Patty Whitworth, Donna Yeske and Evan Young.

**Members Absent:** Megan Beeler, Ronald Deabenderfer and Earlene Robinson

**Pledge of Allegiance to the flag** was led by County Board member Mark Hughes.

**Mileage and Per Diem Approval:** Motion by Miles and second by Johnson to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Voting YES: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Donaldson, Fogle, Havera, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Loucks, McCoy, Miles, Ritchie, Sneed, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young. Absent: Beeler, Deabenderfer, Robinson. All in favor, motion carried.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **Ambulance Billing Report** - Mona Lewis – No report was submitted.
2. **Animal Control Report** - Amanda Daniels – Report was submitted.
3. **Circuit Clerk's Report** - Daniel Robbins was present for questions.
4. **Coroner's Report** - Randy Leetham – Report was submitted.
5. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** - Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
6. **Health & TB Department Report** - Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
7. **Highway Department Report** - Cody Greenwood – Report was submitted.
8. **Probation Office Report** - Bane Ulrici – Report was submitted.
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 was present for questions.
12. **SOA Report** ---Ray Durston – Report was submitted.
13. **State's Attorney Report** –Andrew Affrunti was present for questions.
14. **Treasurer's Report** ---Nikki Lohman – Report was submitted.
15. **V.A.C. Report** ---Dave Strowmatt was present for questions.

**APPROVAL OF 13 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Fogle to approve the 13 items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **708 Board** – Robinson was absent so no report was given.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle reported their rescheduled meeting will be held Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- **911 Board** – Bergen stated there was nothing new to report.
- **Health Department** – Sandra Johnson stated there was nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** – Bergen stated there was nothing new to report.
- **MCEDC** – Yeske stated she will give this report during the Development Committee presentation.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie stated their meeting was moved to February 16, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. so interested Planning Commission members could attend the Grain Belt Express meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Deabenderfer was absent so no report was given.
- **UCCI** – Miles stated their February meeting was canceled.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they did not meet.
- **WCDC** – Wendel reported new CEO Matt Jones started Monday, February 7, 2022. He also said they still have not received any new applicants for the open CFO position.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

1. **Central Illinois Public Transit – CIPT Ordinance #2022-03 and Intergovernmental Agreement Approval:** CIPT Mobility Manager Nathan Nichols called into the meeting to give his annual report. He stated some counties are in need of drivers, but Montgomery County has four drivers at this time. He also stated a lot of seniors are very active and really enjoy trips with CIPT, and they are hopeful these trips can be resumed soon. **Motion by Beason and second by Whitworth to approve the Central Illinois Public Transit Ordinance #2022-03. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Ritchie, second by Beck, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Central Illinois Public Transit. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 20-22).**
2. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young reported Information Services Manager Curt Watkins received the modems for the Sheriff's squad cars. Sheriff Rick Robbins stated the modems have not yet been installed in the cars.
3. **EMA Report Update:** Young called on EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott, who reported newly hired part time EMA Coordinator Joe Gasparich will be doing public relations and releasing a few documents. Schott stated one document will be to spread the word about what EMA is and what they do. He said the other document will be about training and the need for volunteers. Schott also reported EMA would like to be invited to the next Mayors' meeting to ask for more involvement from communities by establishing Memorandums of Understanding agreements. Gasparich said they had a lot of volunteers before Covid hit, but they haven't bounced back as strong since the pandemic began. Gasparich also reported there will be a Local Responder class in Nokomis on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Nokomis Fire House in Nokomis from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.
4. **Committee Structure Discussion Update:** Young reported he has not had a chance to meet with the rules committee about this topic yet.
5. **Grain Belt Express Transmission Project Update:** Young reported Grain Belt Express has scheduled a public meeting on February 9, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Event Center in Hillsboro. He said the topic of the meeting will be the proposed transmission project expected to travel through the northern part of Montgomery County. Young reported the State of Illinois ICC has awarded Grain Belt utility status, which means they have the power to acquire whatever property they need through eminent domain. He said the meeting is expected to be informal and set up in an open house style. Jeremy Jones stated the proposed

route is scheduled to go through his County Board District, and he doesn't think the project will be a good thing for county citizens who will be affected.

6. **VISTRA Solar Panel/Battery Storage Project at Coffeen site Update:** Young reported VISTRA Energy announced a plan to install 44 megawatts of solar panels and 4 megawatts of lithium battery storage at the location of the old Coffeen Power Plant. He also stated the Planning Commission is working on an ordinance for battery storage to present to the County Board.
7. **Other Business:** Young reported new mileage per diem sheets for board members are available in the top drawers of their respective desks.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bob Sneed:

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported the maintenance staff continues to make repairs in various county buildings. He also reported they were busy with snow removal during last week's winter weather.
2. **Building Security Audit Report for Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported the committee will review the Historic Courthouse's building security audit at their next meeting.
3. **New locks for Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported they are continuing to work on new locks for the Historic Courthouse. He stated they are planning to use an electronic key fob system and may utilize it on the north door in addition to the proposed handicap entrance, as long as it is cost effective.
4. **New Fire Alarms for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Update:** Sneed reported the committee voted to replace the fire alarms at the sheriff's office since the current ones are now obsolete.
5. **Boiler Replacement for County Buildings Update:** Sneed reported the committee will continue to have discussions on boiler replacement at next month's meeting.
6. **Other Business:** Sneed reported Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins is working on a proposal to remodel Courtroom 2 in the Courthouse Complex to provide more updated technology. Robbins stated he is waiting on prices before he can report back to the committee. Sheriff Robbins stated he would also like the topic of concrete sidewalks discussed again, and Sneed agreed this topic will be placed on future committee agendas.

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

1. **MCEDC Update:** Yeske reported MCEDC Executive Director Valerie Belusko attended the committee meeting yesterday, and the main takeaway from her presentation is she reported Montgomery County is getting a lot of buzz around the state- specifically about fiber internet and how we acquired it. She said she is still working to see if Wisper Internet will be bringing more internet services to the rural areas of the county.
2. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:** State's Attorney Affrunti reported he is looking into whether or not the County Board has legal authority to loan Revolving Loan funds to local communities. Yeske thanked him for his research.
3. **Tourism Update:** Yeske reported the committee approved the amended tourism application. She said applications are due by March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and they will hopefully consider them at the April 12, 2022 Full Board meeting. Yeske also stated if anyone knows of any events coming up this year to send the information to Belusko at [valerieb@illinois.edu](mailto:valerieb@illinois.edu) so those events can be added to the publicity provided by *Rivers and Routes*.

4. **Planning Commission Update:** Ritchie reported they hope to have the county's comprehensive plan updated soon.
5. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Yeske stated there was nothing additional to report.
6. **Waggoner Bike Trail Clean-up Update:** State's Attorney Affrunti reported he sent a letter by certified mail regarding the clean-up issue, so hopefully the party(ies) responsible for putting the debris on the trail will get the letter soon and act on it. He said if there is no change after 60 days, the County will be able to remove it. Jones said the person responsible has been ill with Covid for the past few months, and he was told they hope to have the cleanup done soon. Jones also stated there have been problems with snow mobiles, jeeps and four wheelers traveling on the Bike Trail despite temporary barricades the County has placed there. Yeske said it is a struggle to keep barricades in place, and Jones suggested the County may need to consider permanent barricade posts if the problem continues.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Russell Beason:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Beason reported VISTRA has accepted a counter proposal from the County on the property tax's valuation of the former Coffeen Power Plant now owned by that company.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
3. **Elected Officials Salaries Update:** Beason reported the County has to authorize salary increases for three elected officials of Sheriff, Treasurer and County Clerk 180 days before they take office. He said they are still collecting input and will work on this further next month.
4. **Amended Travel Ordinance #2022-04 Approval:** Beason reported the approved hotel rate on the County Travel Ordinance has been \$70, and the Finance Committee recommends increasing it to \$125 or, if higher, the State government-approved rate. Beason said the County will reimburse up to \$125, and the State is currently lower than that amount so they probably are not going to catch up to us for a while. **Motion by Beason and second by Donaldson to approve the amended Travel Ordinance #2022-04 increasing the hotel/motel rate either up to \$125.00 per night or the State of Illinois rate. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 23-25).**
5. **IMRF Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
6. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
7. **Bellwether & America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA funding) Update:** Beason reported Bellwether is not the reason for the holdup with ARPA funds. He stated the committee is working on an expedited system for applications throughout the county.
8. **County ARPA Standard Allowance Decision by April 1 Deadline Update:** Beason reported the County has until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to decide whether or not to elect to utilize the standard allowance for ARPA funds.
9. **Municipalities' ARPA Allocation Update:** Beason said we will deal with this issue in March when we have additional information. He also said the committee is considering giving each ambulance district a new ambulance using ARPA funds.
10. **FEMA Grant Update:** Beason reported Treasurer Lohman has been working with FEMA.
11. **FY 2021 Auditor Question Regarding the \$50,000 loan on the Books to 911 Update:** Young reported 911 applied for a loan 10 years ago for about \$170,000. He stated all but \$50,000 of the loan has been paid off, and the board has to decide whether or not to forgive

this remaining balance. Beason stated the committee's consensus is to forgive it. Young said the money came from coal funds, so it was not taxpayer money.

- 12. Other Business:** Beason reported the Village of Panama has decided not to sign the intergovernmental agreement for law enforcement services with the County. Sheriff Robbins said Panama was paying the Sheriff's office for their law enforcement services, which also included their village territory in Bond County. Robbins stated now they will only be responding to calls in Panama within Montgomery County. Robbins stated this was Panama's choice and the letter he received did not disclose a reason for the rejection. He reported Panama was the only intergovernmental agreement for law enforcement services the County had.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Bill Bergen:

- 1. Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Bergen reported insurance representative Amanda Mast stated Health Alliance is reporting a high loss. He said nine catastrophic claims were over \$30,000 each and represent 72% of all claims. Bergen said this won't change the insurance costs to the County this year, but it's going to hit us hard next year.
- 2. Illinois Department of Labor Vaccine/Mask Policy Mandate Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- 3. Other Business:** Sheriff Rick Robbins stated as of today, his office is fully staffed.

**SAFETY & ELECTIONS:** Given by Committee Vice Chairman Bill Bergen:

- 1. Ambulance Billing Office Update:** Bergen reported the committee had a long discussion with representatives from the Hillsboro, Raymond-Harvel and Farmersville-Waggoner Ambulance Districts about what to do with the billing office. He stated the three districts expressed a desire to keep the billing office, and the districts would like to have an additional full-time employee hired to help current employee Mona Lewis. He reported the committee voted to advertise the open position, which is underway.
- 2. FY 2022 Ambulance Billing Agreements Update:** Bergen stated the County needs to get the agreements sent out, as they were supposed to be out in November, 2021.
- 3. Nokomis Ambulance Billing Update:** Bergen stated there was nothing new to report.
- 4. ETSB/911 Update:** Bergen reported ETSB/911 finances are stable.
- 5. EMA Update:** Bergen stated there was nothing new to report.
- 6. Elections Update:** Leitheiser reported staff training for the new election equipment begins February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She also said the filing period for county elected official candidates begins March 7, 2022, at 8 a.m. and ends March 14, 2022, at 5 p.m. in the County Clerk/Recorder's office.
- 7. EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Chris Daniels reported they still need to get to the landfill and will probably visit the bike trail when they do and report back any issues.
- 8. Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Bergen stated there have been complaints about animal control services.
- 9. Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update:** Bergen said the committee debated whether or not to meet with the mayors of the county before finalizing municipal contracts. Young stated Coordinator Daniels will gather financial information to present at the next meeting. Bergen also reported Chairman Young stated county residents have told him their tax dollars pay for Animal Control services, but he said tax dollars do not fund animal control. Instead, it is only funded by fees, fines and the Vanek Estate fund.

**ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Given by Committee Chairman Gene Miles:

1. **Village of Walshville Street Issues Update:** Miles reported the committee did not meet due to inclement weather.
2. **Small Equipment Purchase Update:** Miles reported the committee has not acted on this item.
3. **Other Business:** Miles reported the gas pump problem still has not been resolved as they are waiting for a part to be delivered so the pump can be used. Sheriff Robbins said the gas pump issue isn't the Highway Department's fault because many parts are being held up now, but let members know his department's fuel expenses will be higher since his forces must go to area gas stations and use the office credit card to fill up their tanks at a more expensive cost. He also stated the credit card payment system is challenging as well. Beck stated it is difficult for employees who don't have a credit card to pay for fuel at local gas stations because they have to use their own money and wait to be reimbursed.

**APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:**

**Motion by Sneed and second by Fogle to approve the seven committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Young announced Grain Belt Express will hold a public meeting tomorrow evening (Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022) from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Event Center of Montgomery County.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Motion by Whitworth and second by Yeske to appoint Robert Hamm to the Montgomery County Board of Health, effective February 8, 2022, through June 30, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to appoint Theresa Rapp to the Montgomery County Board of Health, effective February 8, 2022, through June 30, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

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

**ADJOURN:** The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Wendel and second by Ritchie to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.