

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, June 14th, 2022 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Evan Young at 5:34 PM.

Roll call was taken - 16 members present, 5 members absent.

Members Present: Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Ronald Deabenderfer, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, David Loucks, Bev McCoy, Gene Miles, Andy Ritchie, Earlene Robinson, Bob Sneed, Richard Wendel, Patty Whitworth, Donna Yeske and Evan Young.

Members Absent: Megan Beeler, Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson, Tim Fogle and Sandra Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Montgomery County Highway Engineer Cody Greenwood.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Folkerts and second by Beason to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Deabenderfer, Folkerts, Hughes, Jones, Loucks, McCoy, 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 Yeske to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 10th, 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 was present for questions
8. **Probation Office Report** ---Banee 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 was present for questions
15. **V.A.C. Report** --- Dave Strowmatt was present for questions. He informed the board of some changes in laws related to the VAC. He stated many of the changes involved cleaned up archaic language, but one change of note was about property tax relief for spouses of deceased veterans. Strowmatt said the change will take effect in tax year 2023, and it states “where the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected and who is certified by the USDVA as a recipient of dependency and indemnity compensation under federal law, is exempt from property taxation.”

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

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson reported applications for 708 funds are due June 30, 2022.
- **CEFS Board** -- Fogle was absent, so no report was given.
- **911 Board** – Bergen was absent, so no report was given.
- **Health Department** -- Sandra Johnson was absent, so no report was given.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Bergen and Beeler were absent, so no reports were given.
- **MCEDC** -- Yeske stated she will give the report during the Development Committee briefing.
- **Planning Commission** --Deabenderfer stated the commission is presenting the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) ordinance to the board today for a 30-day review.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Deabenderfer stated there have not been any meetings.
- **UCCI** – Miles stated they have not met for a few months, but the annual conference will be held in July in Galena.
- **U of I** – Beck stated they will be meeting this Thursday, June 16, 2022.
- **WCDC** –Wendel reported the WCDC job training program funding was cut by 9.6%, and they have a meeting this week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Young reported Information Services staff has been changing over the county emails from montgomeryco.com to montgomerycountyil.gov. He said the County Board member addresses will be switched over on June 15, 2022.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** Young reported Kevin Schott will have a booth at the county fair to help recruit volunteers for the various first responding entities.
3. **Committee Structure Discussion Update/Approval:** Young deferred to Rules Committee member Deabenderfer, who reported the Rules Committee met multiple times and came to an agreement on a proposed plan for a new committee structure. He stated no one on the committee got everything he or she wanted, but they believe this is the best plan they could come up with. Deabenderfer said the plan is to have a Coordinating Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, an Infrastructure Committee and a Development and Personnel Committee. He said they would like the board to review the proposed committee structure for 30 days and vote on it at the July meeting. If it passes, the plan is to have it implemented in August. Treasurer Lohman asked if this meant there would be a completely new Finance committee for budget hearings. Young said that committee could stay the same. Miles asked when each committee would meet. Young said this would be worked out if the board passed the changes. Young asked State's Attorney Affrunti what he would advice what the size of each committee should be in order to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Affrunti responded as long as the

committees are smaller than the size of a quorum of the Full Board, they should be ok. He said the “majority of a quorum” factor isn’t a big issue as long as the committees are advertising their meetings as committee meetings and are not acting on behalf of the full board.

4. **Rules Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Deabenderfer said the Rules Committee also made a few changes to the 2020-2022 Board Rules of Order to be adopted. One rule added states “Any non-committee member who attends a committee meeting in which they are not a voting or ex-officio member must sit in the gallery and not at a board member’s desk in order to remain in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.” The other states “In the matter of Electing a County Board Chairman or Vice Chairman if there is a tie, a coin flip shall be used to determine the winner with the highest vote-getter from the general election between the candidates nominated calling heads or tails.”
5. **Adopt the 2020-2022 County Board Rules of Order Update/Approval: Motion by Deabenderfer and second by Ritchie to adopt the 2020-2022 Montgomery County Board Rules of Order as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 77-80).**
6. **Carbon Capture and Storage Update/Approval:** Young stated Yeske will present this information during the Development Committee briefing.

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

1. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the north door of the Historic Courthouse has been painted and the windows will be painted next. He stated he also spoke with Maintenance Technician Phil Ernst about mowing at animal control, but Ernst said animal control has staff who can do that and the maintenance staff doesn’t have time.
2. **New locks for Historic Courthouse Update/Approval:** Sneed reported the new electronic locks with key fobs are being installed at the Historic Courthouse.
3. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse and Jail Update/Approval:** Sneed stated the contract with Hurst-Rosche to do the survey work has been signed so we can get bids for the project.
4. **Jail Generator Replacement Update/Approval:** Sneed reported this project is on hold.
5. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk’s Office Update/Approval:** Sneed reported this project is on hold until they receive a quote from the contractor. He said safety is an issue in the County clerk’s office and clerk Leitheiser would like increased security.
6. **New Courthouse ADA Issues to Address Update/Approval:** Sneed reported Circuit Clerk Robbins has been looking into bringing the new courthouse into compliance with the ADA, and they will probably have to use ARPA money on the project.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Donna Yeske:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Yeske reported MCEDC Executive Director Valerie Belusko informed the committee of the good turnout for the “Reversing the Exodus” event recently held at the Coop in Hillsboro.
2. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:** Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.
3. **Tourism Grant Approval:** Yeske reported the committee reviewed three applications for the latest round of Tourism Grant Awards. **Motion by Yeske and second by Whitworth**

to award Tourism Grants to the following applicants for the designated amounts: Dedication of Route 66 Prairie in the amount of \$750, Fall into Taylor Springs in the amount of \$750, and the Witt Labor Day Celebration in the amount of \$1000. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Planning Commission Update:**

- **Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan Update:** Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.
- **Battery Storage Ordinance Update/Approval:** Yeske said the final draft of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) ordinance has been completed and given to County Board members for review. She said the board will vote to approve it at the July meeting.

5. **Economic Development Strategies for Montgomery County Update:** Yeske reported MCEDC Board President and Atlas 46 Representative Jonathan Weyer attended the last committee meeting to share economic development strategies with board members. She stated Weyer wants to see the county come up with an idea for attracting new businesses.

6. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Yeske stated there was nothing additional to report.

7. **EZ Spring Conference and Training Report Update:** Enterprise Zone Administrator Chris Daniels reported she and assistant David Jenkins attended a conference in Springfield on May 12th and 13th. She said the State is encouraging local EZ administrators to remind businesses to complete their reporting to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

8. **County Bike Trail Update:** Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.

9. **Other Business:** Young reported on a meeting held in the County Board room earlier that day with Brad Watson from VISTRA on upcoming plans for their Solar Storage Initiative at the power plant. He said the project should be completed in June 2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Russell Beason:

1. **County Department Heads/Administrators' ARPA Fund Proposals Update:** Beason reported discussions been held and he stated they are pretty sure they are going to fund County Projects submitted by Department Heads first.

2. **ARPA Meeting for Representatives in Montgomery County Update:** Beason said a meeting was held May 25th with representatives from various government agencies, businesses and community organizations. Beason stated he feels sure they can come up with an equitable way to fund projects that are not county projects. He stated he promised the local government representatives who attended the last ARPA meeting they will receive a letter with an application and said there will be less money than originally intended for them.

3. **EMA Office Request – Storage Update:** Beason reported EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott told the Finance Committee time to meet is critical for storage needs for his office. Beason said the County is in the process of selling one of the buildings at the old Highway Department where he currently has trailers and PPE inventory stored. He said the PPE inventory and perishable items need to be stored in a climate-controlled area, and the white building the county is selling is not good for that purpose anyway. Beason said they told Schott to move the perishable items to a climate-controlled area.

4. **Sheriff's Office FY 2022 Budget Update:** Sheriff Robbins reported his department's radio project is coming to an end and every police agency in Montgomery County (other than the State Police), is able to communicate with each other.
5. **Ordinance #2022-15 to Authorize ARPA Funds to Purchase EMA Vehicle Approval:** Beason reported Schott told the Finance Committee his office is in need of a new vehicle, and he would like an SUV. He said Sheriff Robbins contacted Victory Lane Ford about a vehicle for his department as well, and the dealer had ordered seven Dodge Durangos and is currently holding two of them for the county if they approve the emergency purchase of them. He stated the total cost of both vehicles with title and registration and interior equipment is estimated at around \$87,000. **Motion by Beason and second by Yeske to approve Ordinance #2022-15 to Authorize ARPA Funds to Purchase a new vehicle for EMA in the amount of \$42,761.00. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Ordinance, see Resolution Book 19, page 81).**
6. **Ordinance #2022-16 to Authorize ARPA Funds to Purchase Sheriff's Vehicle Approval:** Beason said Robbins told the committee purchasing this vehicle will help his department limp through October when he is supposed to be able to get more. **Motion by Beason and second by Folkerts to approve the Ordinance to Authorize ARPA Funds to Purchase a new vehicle for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$46,761.00. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy of Ordinance, see Resolution Book 19, page 82).**
7. **FY 2023 Budget Update:** Beason reported the budget hearings have been scheduled for August 18th and 19th, 2022.
8. **State's Attorney's and Public Defender's Salary PTAX-451 Approval:** **Motion by Beason and second by Ritchie to approve PTAX-451 for the Public Defender.** Treasurer Lohman stated she received the COLA information Friday afternoon and the PTAX form today with the salary and the reimbursements from the State. She said in order for her to get the reimbursement for the Public Defender, she has to submit the signed PTAX form along with the minutes of the County Board meeting. She said if we don't sign off, we will not be reimbursed. Affrunti said the county can pay what they want to the State's Attorney and Public Defender even though the State is reimbursing at a lower level due to the decrease in the census. **All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 83-85).**
9. **Resolution to Convey Deed for Parcel ID #13-06-452-010 in Witt Township to Steven Brent Approval:** **Motion by Beason and second by Miles to convey deed for Parcel ID #13-06-452-010 in Witt Township to Steven Brent. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 86-87).**
10. **SOA Report Update:** Beason reported the SOA office received the final multiplier on May 12th and it remained the same as the tentative multiplier of 1.0177.
11. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beason reported Treasurer Lohman told the Finance Committee the county has received \$1,249,212.87 in coal royalties since December. She also reported her office has collected almost \$1.7 million in property taxes so far.
12. **Annual Salary Increase and Starting Pay for Non-Union County Employees Update:** Beason stated the committee discussed the annual salary increase and starting pay for non-union county employees, but decided to table the matter until the July meeting in order to gather more accurate figures regarding the number of employees affected by the raise.

13. **DCEO Energy Community Reinvestment Act Grant and Vistra Energy Update:** Beason reported there will be a conference call on June 15th, 2022 at 9 a.m. regarding available grants to counties with now closed Vistra coal-fired power plants.
14. **Monthly Coal Report and Minimum Account Reserve Balance Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
15. **IMRF Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
16. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
17. **Other Business:** Beason said Sheriff Robbins stated the Sheriff's Office received a grant to upgrade the radios and he is close to closing out the grant.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Member Donna Yeske:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Yeske reported the committee received the monthly insurance and HRA report from health insurance representative Amanda Mast. Yeske stated the upcoming insurance increases are going to be scary.
2. **Discuss Addendum to Agreement with the Central Labors Pension Update:** Yeske reported the committee discussed an addendum to the agreement, but decided to table it until a future meeting to allow further discussion. Young reported he received a call from the union rep asking why the addendum wasn't signed, and he said he told her he didn't have permission from the committee or the represented employees to do so.
3. **Start Union Negotiations with Local 148 Update:** Yeske reported the committee held a discussion with Local 148 Union Rep Jay Wright and exchanged proposals. She said they will have another meeting at 5:00 p.m. on June 29th, 2022.
4. **SOA Hire Update:** Yeske reported Supervisor of Assessments Ray Durston submitted his letter of intent to retire effective November 30, 2022. She said the committee decided to post the opening this month, hoping to have someone hired in August.

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

1. **Opening of Sealed Bids for the White Truck Shed at Old Highway Department Update:** Miles reported we did not receive any bids for the building, and only one person reached out to view it. The committee agreed to wait and request bids again in the fall.
2. **Village of Walshville Street Issues Update:** Miles reported the Highway Department received a letter from the Walshville Village Board requesting the county move forward with the bypass road recommended earlier, with the understanding the original proposed route will be moved a little further south so it would affect fewer landowners. Miles said County Engineer Greenwood is going to get clarification from the village board regarding the county repairing the village's existing roads destroyed by heavy truck traffic. He said the letter the village sent stated the agreement is "contingent on the County rebuilding the main streets through Walshville as stated in the County Road and Bridge Committee meeting," referring to the May 5, 2022 meeting. Greenwood stated he mentioned repairing the roads, but never said anything about rebuilding them completely, so he will need clarification. The committee needs to iron out some language and definitions.

3. **Resolution 2022-12 Reappointment of the Incumbent as County Engineer Approval:** Motion by Miles and second by Beason to approve Resolution 2022-12, reappointing the Incumbent, Cody Greenwood, as County Highway Engineer with a salary of 100 percent of the State's recommended salary for the first year, effective July 13, 2022, and a minimum of 100 percent of the state's recommended salary for every year after through 2028. Miles said in addition the County Highway Engineer will receive an additional week of vacation, to bring his total to four weeks of vacation per year. Yeske abstains. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 88-89).
4. **Section 20-00145-00-PV Coffeen Rd/Seven Sisters Intersection Land Acquisition Update:** Miles reported the county needs to acquire land in a similar fashion as the White Town Bridge project is being handled. The committee agreed to move forward with the proposal.
5. **Resolution 2022-13 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Red Bridge Trail, Hillsboro Twp. Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$21,000, with the County's share being \$10,500. Motion by Miles and second by Whitworth to approve Resolution 2022-13 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Red Bridge Trail in Hillsboro Township. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 90-91).
6. **Resolution 2022-14 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Oak Lane, Fillmore Twp. Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$18,000 with the County's share being \$9,000. Motion by Miles and second by Beason to approve Resolution 2022-14 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Oak Lane in Fillmore Township. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 92-93).
7. **Resolution 2022-15 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Pine Tree Trail, Witt Twp. Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$18,000 with the County's share being \$9,000. Motion by Miles and second by Wendel to approve Resolution 2022-15 to appropriate funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on Pine Tree Trail in Witt Township. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 94-95).
8. **Resolution 2022-16 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Black Diamond Trail Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$13,000. Motion by Miles and second by Folkerts to approve Resolution 2022-16 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Black Diamond Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 96-97).
9. **Resolution 2022-17 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Trail Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$21,000. Motion by Miles and second by Loucks to approve Resolution 2022-17 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Walshville Trail. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 98-99).
10. **Resolution 2022-18 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Donnellson Avenue Approval:** Miles reported the total cost of this project is \$22,000. Motion by Miles and second by Loucks to approve Resolution 2022-18 to appropriate funds for 100% County culvert replacement on Donnellson Avenue. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 100-101).

SAFETY & ELECTIONS: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Ambulance Billing Office and Oversight Update:** Hughes reported Hillsboro Ambulance representative Barb Schmedeke told the committee she would like to see Coordinated Services employee David Jenkins oversee the ambulance billing office since he has spent time working there. Hughes stated Jenkins said he could try it for a month and report back at the July meeting and see if the committee is pleased with the situation, or if they would like to move in a different direction.
2. **ETSB/911 Update:** Hughes stated there is nothing new to report.
3. **Elections Update:** Hughes deferred to County Clerk Leitheiser, who reported they have received positive feedback regarding the new election equipment. She stated approximately 350 voters have voted so far, either by voting early in person or by mail.
4. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Daniels reported State EPA reps visited a few weeks ago for an annual review of the program. She also reported she visited the bike trail a few weeks ago, and no progress has been made on the cleanup since the previous time they were there.
5. **Electronics Recycling Drive Events Update:** Hughes reported there is one Electronics Recycling Drive event left this year, and it will be held in Hillsboro on Saturday, September 17th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the new Highway Department.
6. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Hughes reported there are currently 18 cats and 12 dogs at the Animal Control facility. He also reported they are going to look into purchasing a mower for the facility so it can be mowed. McCoy stated when she worked for the city of Hillsboro, city maintenance workers mowed city-owned properties. Hughes said he spoke with Maintenance Technician Ernst about mowing and understood how busy he is right now with other jobs. Hughes said he told Ernst if there is a time when he is not as busy, they would appreciate it if they could work the Animal Control facility into his mowing schedule.
7. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Approval:** Hughes reported they made a few tweaks to the Animal Control municipal contracts, such as removing the items the county is required to address by state statute. Miles asked Hughes if he believes the municipalities will sign these contracts. Hughes replied he believes most of them will, adding some municipalities still disagree with the county's interpretation of the state statute regarding the county's jurisdictional boundaries. **Motion by Hughes and second by McCoy to approve the municipal contracts for Animal Control services as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Whitworth and second by Yeske to approve the seven committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Young announced the next Development Committee meeting is scheduled for June 27th, 2022 instead of the first week in July due to the Independence Day holiday.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None.

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Jones and second by Beck to approve the appointments of Donald Murphy, Alex Jordan and Todd Megginson to the Bois D’Arc Drainage District #4 until the first Tuesday of September, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Jones and second by Beck to approve the appointment of Richard Uhrig to the Harvel Drainage District #1 for a 3-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Beck and second by Folkerts to approve the appointment of Richard Lyons to the Harvel Drainage District #2 for a 3-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen Bill Schroeder brought some information regarding the upcoming Phase 2 of Deer Run Coal Mine permitting process which will impact many landowners and approximately 7,000 acres. He stated Montgomery County lost \$303,812 and the State of Illinois lost \$1,399,587 due to the coal mine’s recent bankruptcy and said the County board needs to make sure something is in place to protect itself if the coal mine declares bankruptcy again. He suggested the County Board request that IDNR monitor Deer Run Mine’s financial holdings to avoid future bankruptcy by that company. Chairman Young said he will look into this possibility.

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

ADJOURN: The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 12th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Wendel to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.