

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, July 12th, 2022 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, July 12th, 2022.

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

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

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

Members Absent: Megan Beeler and Bev McCoy

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by local Emergency Responder Darrin Beckman.

Board Member Resignation: Motion by Donaldson, second by Beason, to accept the resignation of Bev McCoy from the Montgomery County Board – District #6, effective July 7, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

New Board Member Appointment: Motion by Hughes, second by Yeske, to approve the appointment of Ethan Murzynski to the Montgomery County Board to fill the vacant seat in District #6. All in favor, motion carried. After Murzynski was seated, there were 20 members present, 1 member absent (Beeler).

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Miles and second by Fogle to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Bergen, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Folkerts, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Loucks, Miles, Murzynski, 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 Sneed to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Ambulance Billing Report** -- Mona Lewis was present for questions; 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 was present for questions. He referenced the new Coroner's vehicle recently purchased using ARPA funds.
- 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. He reported the fuel pumps at the Highway Department are still down. He said a new part was installed; however, other issues were uncovered and more parts were needed as a result of a recent lightning strike.
- 8. Probation Office Report** ---Banee Ulrici was present for questions. She reported there will be a workshop held Wednesday and Thursday, July 13th and 14th, at the Montgomery County Health Department to identify resources and gaps in probation services.
- 9. Public Defender's Report** ---Erin Mattson — No Report was submitted.

10. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** --Julie Wollerman – No report was submitted.
11. **Sheriff’s Report** ---Rick Robbins was present for questions. He reported the radio system recently purchased with grant money is now in place and is running smoothly. He also reported there are no vacancies in the jail right now.
12. **SOA Report** ---Ray Durston was present for questions.
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.

APPROVAL OF 12 REPORTS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Folkerts and second by Johnson to approve the 12 reports on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson stated there is nothing new to report.
- **CEFS Board** -- Fogle reported Head Start will be restarting in August.
- **911 Board** – Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- **Health Department** -- Sandra Johnson stated there is nothing new to report.
- **IL Association of County Officials** -- Beeler was absent. Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- **MCEDC** -- Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.
- **Planning Commission** --Deabenderfer stated they will be meeting on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference room on the 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL.
- **Senior Citizens Board** -- Deabenderfer stated he has heard nothing from the Senior Citizens board and there may be some lingering anxiety related to Covid preventing them from meeting.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported the annual conference will be held July 24, 25 and 26 in Galena. He also reported UCCI Executive Director Michael McCreery has retired and his son Ryan McCreery has been named as his successor.
- **U of I** – Beck stated there is nothing new to report.
- **WCDC** –Wendel stated their next meeting is scheduled for July 16th at the WCDC facility in Carlinville.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young stated there is nothing new to report.
2. **EMA Report Update:** Young deferred to EMA Coordinator Joe Gasparich who reported they had a drone fly over last weekend’s Nokomis Homecoming parade as a precautionary measure following the recent shooting at a Fourth of July Parade in Highland Park, IL. He also reported Montgomery County’s search and rescue team assisted with a case in Macoupin County where the victim was unfortunately found

deceased. He also reported the County Haz Mat team assisted Macoupin County First Responders with a vehicle accident scene that day.

- 3. Adopt New Montgomery County Board Committee Structure Approval:** Motion by Yeske, second by Loucks, to reduce the number Montgomery County Board committees to 3 standing committees and the Coordinating Committee. 18 members voted yes, 2 voted no. Motion carried. Voting YES: Beason, Beck, Bergen, Deabenderfer, Donaldson, Fogle, Folkerts, Hughes, Johnson, Jones, Loucks, Murzynski, Ritchie, Robinson, Wendel, Whitworth, Yeske and Young. VOTING NO: Miles and Sneed. Motion by Deabenderfer, second by Ritchie, to adopt the Montgomery County Board Committees as follows with the assignments as presented: Coordinating Committee, Development and Personnel Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, and Infrastructure Committee. Yeske stated the restructuring did not leave much for the Coordinating Committee to do and asked if Animal Control should be moved to the Coordinating Committee. She said Chairman Young handles a lot of animal control issues, so it could fit under the coordinating committee responsibilities. Deabenderfer stated the Coordinating Committee is not an action committee. Jones stated when the Coordinating Committee was designed, it was not intended to be an action committee. Whitworth and Deabenderfer replied the Rules Committee worked a long time on the responsibilities falling under each committee and they felt Animal Control should go under Infrastructure Committee and the responsibilities could be shifted if the presented plan does not work out. **All in favor, motion carried.** Young asked members when the board should implement this new committee structure. Whitworth stated she believed it should start in September so the plan and committee members could be announced during the August County Board meeting. Bergen stated this plan would only give the current board three months to try the plan and said he preferred to start in August. Yeske stated she thinks it should begin in August, especially to give potentially new Finance Committee members a chance to attend Budget Hearings for the first time. Other members voiced their support for beginning the new committee structure in August. Young stated he would work on the committee membership and contact members to provide them their assignments soon.

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

- 1. Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported the Maintenance Department continues to work hard to complete various jobs. He said they've done a good job repairing the air conditioning units in the Historic Courthouse.
- 2. New locks for Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported the key fobs are in and they have been distributed to employees.
- 3. Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse and Jail Update:** Sneed reported they are waiting to hear back from Hurst-Roche Engineers regarding this project.
- 4. Jail Generator Replacement Update:** Sneed reported this item is on hold and may be addressed in August.
- 5. Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update:** Sneed reported this item is also on hold. County Clerk Leitheiser stated she has a local contractor providing an estimate as requested by the committee.

6. **EMA Storage Shed Update:** Sneed reported EMA has requested storage space to help with PPE storage needs, as well as storing trailers requiring a climate-controlled environment. He said County Engineer Greenwood is working with EMA Coordinator Schott to remedy PPE storage concerns in the short term.
7. **CEFS Parking Request Update:** Sneed reported CEFS has asked to park some of their vehicles in the sheriff's parking lot because they have had multiple catalytic converters stolen off of their vehicles recently. Sheriff Robbins said he will make contact with them.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Donna Yeske:

1. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Yeske stated their committee meeting was canceled and there is nothing new to report.
2. **Revolving Loan Fund Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
3. **Tourism Update/Approval:** Nothing new to report.
4. **Planning Commission Update:**
 - **Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan Update:** Nothing new to report.
 - **Battery Storage Ordinance Approval:** Yeske reported the board was initially requested to vote on the Battery Energy Storage (BESS) Ordinance, but now needs to table the vote for further investigation. **Motion by Yeske and second by Donaldson to table voting on the BESS Ordinance until further notice. All in favor, motion carried.** Brad Watson, Senior Director of Community Affairs with Vistra Energy, addressed the board. He stated Vistra is here in Montgomery County for the long haul, and they would like to work together with the board for mutually beneficial interests. He also stated they would like work with the board to draft an ordinance together to help address concerns. Jones asked about Vistra's decommissioning process and if they were bonded by the state or another resource. Watson replied decommissioning has to be done in a safe way and they must follow federal and state regulations, but they are not bonded to anyone because no bond is required. Jones stated he would like something more concrete than a promise from Vistra for the county. Watson thanked the County Board for allowing him to speak and for their service to the county.
 - **Underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Storage Update:** Nothing new to report.
5. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Nothing new to report.
6. **Green Diamond Bike Trail Update:** Nothing new to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Russell Beason:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Nothing new to report.
3. **IMRF Update:** Beason stated things with IMRF are going well.
4. **IRS Mileage Increase to \$0.625 Approval:** Beason reported the IRS changed the mileage rate for the remainder of 2022 from 58.5 cents to 62.5 cents and the board needs to approve the changes. **Motion by Beason and second by Sneed to approve the mileage rate increase to \$0.625 per mile, effective July 13, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.**

5. **State's Attorney Salary Approval:** Beason reported the State's Attorney's salary reimbursement from the State of Illinois will be decreasing starting this month. He said the committee is recommending keeping the State's Attorney's salary at its current rate until December 1st, 2022 along with the Public Defender's salary as well since they are tied together by state statute. He said this would mean the County Board would have to absorb the \$20,000 reduction from the State. **Motion by Beason and second by Miles to leave the State's Attorney's and Public Defender's salaries alone until December 1, 2022.**
6. **Postage Machine Contracts Renewal Approval:** Beason reported the board needs to renew the agreement for the two postage machines located in the two county courthouses. He said the agreement is for 36 months at a cost of about \$250 per machine per quarter, with the total cost set at \$6,000 for the three years. **Motion by Beason and second by Fogle to approve the Postage Machine Renewal Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **FY 2023 Budget Hearings Update:** Beason reported budget hearing dates are scheduled for August 18th and 19th, 2022.
8. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
9. **America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA funding) Update:** Beason reported they held a meeting at the end of May with some community representatives to discuss how ARPA funds will be distributed. He said there is a belief among some individuals the County could use all of the ARPA money for inter-departmental needs, but he said he believes there will be some funds left over to distribute other than for county government needs. He stated the Finance Committee is only going to consider applications meeting the top two criteria of the agreed upon guidelines, which are 1) life safety deficiencies and statutory requirements, and 2) non-deferrable upgrades, maintenance and repair.
10. **Annual Salary Increase and Starting Pay for Non-Union County Employees Approval:** Beason reported the finance committee initially considered recommending a non-union employee salary increase of 70 cents per hour; however, he said he asked Treasurer Lohman to put some information together for potential increases to see if they could do better. Beason said the information presented resulted in a \$1.75 per hour increase. He said this increase will get all current county employees to at least \$15 per hour, which will be the State minimum wage beginning January 1st, 2025. **Motion by Beason and second by Donaldson to approve the annual salary increase for non-union county employees of \$1.75 per hour, starting December 1, 2022.** Jones stated he appreciates everything the employees do, and he hopes this expresses this feeling. Ritchie stated he is very moved by loyalty and believes this is a good way to reward it. **17 members voted in favor, 3 members abstained (Yeske, Robinson and Murzynski), motion carried.** Beason said they also have to set the annual starting salary for new county employees, and the committee recommends a \$14 per hour starting salary. **Motion by Beason and second by Whitworth to approve the starting salary for non-union employees at \$14.00 per hour, effective December 1, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Ordinance 2022-17 to Authorize ARPA Funds to Distribute Appreciation Pay to County Employees Approval:** Beason reported, in addition to the salary increase, the committee feels utilizing ARPA money to award bonuses to all county employees is a

good way to show appreciation. He said the committee ultimately settled on \$3,000 for full-time employees and \$1,500 for part-time employees. **Motion by Beason and second by Fogle to adopt Ordinance 2022-17 authorizing the use of ARPA Funds to distribute appreciation pay to county employees in the one-time amount of \$3,000 to current full-time employees and \$1,500 to current part-time employees, for a total amount not to exceed \$740,000.** Johnson asked how much ARPA money would be left if the two ARPA requests considered during this meeting were fulfilled. Treasurer Lohman said the County initially had \$5.5 million in ARPA money, and after the \$1.1 million in lost revenue and all of the requests received to date, the total remaining amount will be about \$3.1 million. Yeske asked if employees who were just hired should get the same bonuses or if the board should pro-rate their raises based on their tenure. Deabenderfer stated it can get tricky when you start pro-rating, and it would just be easier to give the bonuses out as presented. Bergen said the board has asked county employees to make sacrifices in the past, and now is the chance to turn it around. **Murzynski, Robinson and Yeske abstained, All others in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, page 102).**

12. **Ordinance 2022-18 to Authorize ARPA Funds to Purchase VHF Simulcast/Communications System for 911/ETSB Approval:** Beason reported representatives from 911/ETSB attended the committee meeting to submit a request for ARPA funds for a new communications system they said is needed right away. 911 Coordinator Ed Boyd stated he initially believed this would fall under the criteria as a non-deferrable upgrade, but his board corrected him and said it is actually a life safety and statutory requirement upgrade. **Motion by Beason and second by Robinson to adopt Ordinance 2022-18 authorizing the use of ARPA Funds to purchase Communications System upgrades for 911/ETSB in the amount of \$345,000. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 103-104).**
13. **DCEO Energy Community Reinvestment Act Grant and Vistra Energy Update:**
Nothing new to report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Bill Bergen:

1. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Bergen reported insurance representative Amanda Mast informed the committee the loss ratio is improving so the anticipated health insurance premium increase should not be as high as was originally stated.
2. **Bidding out Employee Health Insurance Update:** Bergen reported the committee discussed the possibility of inquiring about other options for employee health insurance.
3. **Discuss Addendum to Agreement with the Central Labors Pension Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
4. **Union Negotiations with Local 148 Update:** Bergen reported the committee has held one meeting for union negotiations with this union so far; and the next is scheduled for July 14th, 2022, at 5:00 pm.
5. **SOA Hire Update:** Bergen reported the Supervisor of Assessments position was recently advertised again with a new deadline to apply on July 28th, 2022. The salary range of \$55,000 to \$70,000 was also posted in the advertisement, and the position was emailed to the Supervisor of Assessments state website. He said we have received two applications to date.

6. **Other Business:** Sheriff Robbins reported they have two dispatchers who will be on maternity leave, and one will potentially retire in February 2023.

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

1. **Right of Way Acquisition for Section 15-00138-00-BR Whitetown Bridge Approval:** Miles reported agreements have been reached with both of the remaining property owners for the project, but only one has been signed so far. The plan is for this project to take place during the 2023 construction season. **Motion by Miles and second by Beason to approve the purchase of a portion (0.023 acres) of Parcel ID # 21-13-400-015 in East Fork Township for \$900, and a portion (2.249 acres) of Parcel ID # 21-13-300-010 in East Fork Township for \$11,100 from Brian Ricke. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Section 20-00144-00-FP – Walshville Bypass Road Update:** Miles reported Greenwood is working on language for an Intergovernmental Agreement as well as a preliminary engineering agreement with Hurst-Rosche Engineers concerning this project.
3. **Section 20-00145-00-PV – Coffeen Rd./Seven Sisters Intersection Update:** Miles reported Hanson Engineers has been contracted, and they hope for a summer of 2023 construction.
4. **Nokomis Road Blade mix Update:** Greenwood reported he initially anticipated blade mixing the entire stretch of Nokomis Road from Fillmore to Nokomis; however, he told the committee he would like to change the plans and get Nokomis Road up to 80,000 pound limits. He said it would be a hot-mix surface, and also stated they would move some of the blade mixing to Witt South Road.
5. **Other Items:** Miles reported Greenwood is working with EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott to get PPE moved from the white pole building at the old Highway Department into the office building on the same property.

SAFETY & ELECTIONS: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Ambulance Billing Office and Oversight Update:** Hughes reported he had a discussion with State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti about a potential collections issue with the Ambulance Billing Office. Billing employee Mona Lewis told the committee two nursing homes in the County have not paid and now have substantial bills due. Affrunti stated the county is not a collections agency but merely a billing service, so the responsibility would fall on the company to collect payment for those outstanding bills.
2. **Ambulance Billing Intern Update:** Affrunti said the contract for the billing intern is good, so it is ok to move forward.
3. **Elections Update:** Leitheiser reported this year's Primary turnout was approximately 25.82 percent of registered voters, with the average turnout for the County's primary at about 25 percent.
4. **Election Judge Commission Approval:** **Motion by Hughes and second by Fogle to approve the Election Judge Commission List as presented for a two-year term from 2022-2024. Robinson abstained; all others voted in favor. Motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 19, pages 105-126).**
5. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Administrator Chris Daniels reported she and assistant David Jenkins have been working with the Illinois EPA to conduct inspections. Greenwood asked if there was an update on tire recycling. Daniels said the State has not done anything with it yet due to a high turnover of employees.

6. **Electronics Recycling Drive Events Update:** Hughes reported the final electronics recycling drive will be held in Hillsboro on Saturday, September 17th from 9 a.m. to noon.
7. **Animal Control Facility Program Update:** Hughes stated there is nothing new to report.
8. **Animal Control Mowing Update:** Hughes reported Chairman Young found a used mower for the Animal Control facility, and the Animal Control employees will be mowing the facility grounds.
9. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update:** Hughes reported we have not received signed contracts from any municipalities.

APPROVAL OF 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Young stated he will work on realigning the committee members so the new committees will be ready to meet in August, 2022, prior to the next County Board meeting.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Fogle and second by Whitworth to approve the reappointment of Deanne Jones to the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizen Bill Schroeder stated the Planning Commission worked hard on the BESS ordinance and he believes it is backwards to have a representative from the company you are trying to control give input on the ordinance. He said he hopes the board will take this into consideration when moving forward and keep the public safety of county residents in mind. Yeske responded Vistra's comments had no bearing on the County Board's decision to table the vote. Chairman Young also responded to Schroeder's request from a prior meeting regarding the Deer Run Coal mine's bankruptcy resulting in a \$300,000 loss to the county by stating his findings show the county had no such loss.

Crossover Ministries' representative Linda Liebscher also addressed the board and stated they would like to apply for ARPA funds to help with their "The Living Room" project which would address mental health issues in the county. She also reminded the board the new 988 emergency phone number designed for those with mental health problems and for suicide prevention purposes goes into effect soon.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL: Motion by Miles 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, August 9th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Yeske and second by Robinson to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.