

Montgomery County Board Minutes

For Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 – 5:30 PM

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 13th, 2022.

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

Roll call was taken - 21 members present, 0 members absent.

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

Members Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by County Board Member Ethan Murzynski.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Motion by Hughes and second by Johnson to approve the Mileage and Per Diem. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beason, Beck, Beeler, 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 Donaldson and second by Beason to approve the Minutes of the Previous Regular County Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022. **All in favor, motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Ambulance Billing Report** – Mona Lewis – No report submitted.
- 2. Animal Control Report** –Emily Gerl was present for questions and reported on the number of animals at the shelter.
- 3. Circuit Clerk’s Report** – Report submitted. Daniel Robbins was present for questions.
- 4. Coroner’s Report** – Report submitted. Randy Leetham was present for questions.
- 5. County Clerk and Recorder’s Report** – Report submitted. Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions.
- 6. Health & TB Department Report** – Report submitted. Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
- 7. Highway Department Report** – Report submitted. Cody Greenwood was present for questions. He reported there will be a 21-day closure of Illinois Route 185 in October for construction work required by Hillsboro Energy. He presented a draft of a detour agreement he said he would like the board to review before approval at the next meeting. Young stated the board could approve the agreement at a special meeting they plan on having to discuss ARPA.
- 8. Probation Office Report** – Banee Ulrici – No report submitted.
- 9. Public Defender’s Report** – Erin Mattson — No report submitted.
- 10. ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** – Julie Wollerman – Report submitted.
- 11. Sheriff’s Report** – Rick Robbins – Report submitted.
- 12. SOA Report** – Ray Durston – Report submitted.
- 13. State’s Attorney Report** – Report submitted. Andrew Affrunti was present for questions.

14. Treasurer's Report – Report submitted. Nikki Lohman was present for questions. She reported the due date for the second installment of property taxes has passed, and her office has about three percent of taxpayer funds to collect.

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

APPROVAL OF 12 ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Fogle and second by Whitworth to approve the 12 reports submitted on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **708 Board** – Robinson reported they started meeting with applicants for 708 funding, and they will continue those meetings next month. She said they received 12 applications and have met with seven so far.
- **CEFS Board** – Fogle reported the LIHEAP program started on September 1. He also said Meals on Wheels in Litchfield is in need of drivers.
- **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** – Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
- **MCEDC** – Yeske stated there is nothing new to report.
- **Planning Commission** – Ritchie reported they have a meeting planned for October.
- **Senior Citizens Board** – Deabenderfer reported the Chairperson of the Senior Citizens board recently died, and they have not met since then.
- **UCCI** – Miles reported there is a meeting scheduled for September 26th in Springfield.
- **U of I** – Beck reported they will meet in October.
- **WCDC** – Wendel reported they will meet Thursday, September 15th, at 6 p.m. at the WCDC office in Carlinville.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by Chairman Evan Young:

1. **Information Systems Report Update:** Young reported Information Services is down to their last few office PC installations.
2. **EMA Report Update:** EMA Coordinator Kevin Schott reported they will start having in-person meetings with municipalities for the upcoming Hazard Mitigation plan. He also reported the drone team has been busy conducting flyovers over parades and community events. Deabenderfer asked if there was a way for EMA to track whether or not hazardous materials are brought into the county. Schott said there is no way to track truck transport if they are just passing through, but he can monitor train activity. He stated if someone plans to store hazardous materials in the county, He/she is required by law to notify him.
3. **Committee Structure Update:** Young asked if any board members had comments about the current committee structure. Loucks said he would like to see the Infrastructure Committee split back into the Buildings and Grounds and Road and Bridge Committees. He said they built a nice conference room at the Highway Department to hold these meetings, and now it is not being utilized. Miles stated their last infrastructure meeting lasted for three hours. Beeler said the most recent Finance and Budget Committee

meeting lasted for five hours. Young said there will be a special full board meeting coming up to discuss ARPA, and the committee structure could be discussed then as well.

4. **Carbon Capture and Storage Update:** Jim Prescott, Hadi Shaaban and Ryan Choquette with Heartland Greenway were present to discuss the proposed Carbon Capture and Storage pipeline and well project to run through the county. Prescott stated questions they get asked most often are why, how and when will they do this project. He stated the why is commercial demand is growing for carbon capture, especially in the agriculture community, in order to address greenhouse gas emissions. He said they already have signed agreements with three of the five ethanol producers in the nation. Regarding the how, Prescott said they have to obtain permits at every level in order to comply with regulations set forth by the federal government. As for when the project will take place, Prescott stated they are at least two years away from construction.

Prescott then deferred to Choquette, who stated aviation fuel is the next step for ethanol companies; and while there is a big push worldwide to move towards electric automobiles, electrifying an airplane is never going to happen. Jones asked where the money is going to come from. Choquette said it will come from carbon credits. Jones asked if changes in regulations as a result of a change in government administration in a few years would affect their timeline or project. Choquette responded the rules are defined to state if they receive tax credits, and they're good for seven years. Deabenderfer asked how this process differs from fracking. Choquette said it is completely different, stating fracking technology is used to get oil and gas out of shale by drilling a horizontal hole into the mineral and pumping in water and sand at a high pressure. Choquette stated the permit they have says they can drill vertically and can never go beyond 80 percent pressure. Ritchie asked what kind of seismic impact this could have. Choquette said the earthquake risk is negligible. Sneed asked about the sustainability of this project. Choquette posed the question, "How do you compete with free?" He added it is sustainable depending on what the government does. He also stated after 30 years, the field and injection wells are plugged. He said injection wells are typically located about one to two miles apart and one can only inject so much carbon dioxide into one area.

Shaaban reported they currently have lease agreements in place with landowners in Audubon Township as well as the northwestern part of Montgomery County, totaling 2,131 acres of land. When asked if there was anything the county could gain financially from the project, Prescott said they are proposing a development agreement with the County Board which would give the County approximately \$250,000 per well. He said the plan is to have between five and seven wells in the eastern part of the county and three to four in the western part. Beeler asked if Heartland Greenway has been granted utility status, or if they will be applying for utility status. Choquette stated they are not a utility, but they are governed by the Illinois Commerce Commission, and public hearings will be held as this project proceeds.

5. **Planning Commission Update:** Young stated there is nothing additional to report.
6. **EPA Report Update:** EPA Coordinator Chris Daniels reported the final electronics recycling drive for the year will be held Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Highway Department in Hillsboro.
7. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update:** Young stated there is nothing new to report.

8. **Open/Forever Close Executive Session Minutes Update:** Young stated there is nothing new to report.

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairperson Bill Bergen:

1. **MCEDC Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
2. **Tourism Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
3. **Ambulance Billing Office Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
4. **Ambulance Billing Intern Update:** Bergen stated there is nothing new to report.
5. **Approve the Resolution to Promote Development of Agriculture Approval:** Montgomery County Farm Bureau manager Katie Wilson spoke to the board about the proposed resolution. She said the Illinois Farm Bureau set priorities every year and this resolution is considered a part of their priorities. **Motion by Bergen and second by Folkerts to adopt the Resolution to Promote Development of Agriculture.** Deabenderfer said he did not want the board to commit themselves to one side or the other, whether promoting industry or agriculture. He asked if this resolution would put off an industrial company in the future. Wilson said this is not what they are trying to do by promoting this resolution. Deabenderfer also stated Hillsboro and Litchfield have both experienced watershed issues and asked if the farm bureau could offer any assistance. Wilson said she has not been approached, but they would be willing to look into it. Whitworth said she would imagine industrial-driven organizations would have a problem with the statement in the Resolution that “agriculture is the backbone of the country.” Wilson said while she understands the argument they could make, she would reply by saying without farms, there’s no food, and without food, there is no business. **All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, pages 139-140).**
6. **Employee Health Insurance and Monthly HRA report Update:** Nothing new to report.
7. **Approve Employee Health Insurance Plan(s) for FY 2023 Approval:** Bergen deferred to Assured Partners representative Amanda Mast, who presented the board with the proposed health insurance plans for county employees which would take effect December 1, 2022, after board approval. Mast said the County is currently insured with Health Alliance, and they were only able to negotiate the premium increase down to 17 percent. She said they received offers from United Healthcare and BlueCross BlueShield, adding the BCBS offer was not competitive and Springfield Clinic is still not in their network. She said the Personnel Committee recommended going with the United Healthcare plan, and they were able to hold premiums steady for employees by going away from plans with an HRA. Mast said they are offering four plans, three of which are similar to plans currently offered with the fourth offered because the St. Louis based Barnes-Jewish hospital system is in that network. That plan is the one with an HRA and would cost the county and employees the most. As for the cost, Mast said the worst case scenario would be every employee would sign up for the premium plan and the HRA utilization would be 25 percent. The total cost to the county would be \$946,058, which Mast said is still below what the group would be paying for with Health Alliance. Mast said another benefit to going with United Healthcare is they are a national carrier; and if an employee is out of the region and needs insurance to cover medical services, it would be beneficial to have them. Mast said there are no increases in premiums or copays. She

also said ER costs are just the deductibles under the new plans. The Ancillary plans for Dental and Vision will be with United Healthcare as well, and premiums will be very similar to what the employees pay now. **Motion by Bergen and second by Donaldson to approve the 4 plans with United Health Care as presented by Amanda Mast. The Choice Plus Plan with HRA, the 1500 Choice Plus plan with No HRA, the 1500 Core no HRA plan and the 5000 Core no HRA plan. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Bergen and second by Robinson to make the employee health insurance open enrollment meetings mandatory for employees to attend.** Donaldson asked if these meetings will be conducted during work hours, and Chairman Young replied affirmatively. Mast said the reason she recommended making the meetings mandatory was because there is a lot of new information to present with a new health insurance carrier. In addition, Treasurer Lohman and staff had been forced to track down employees to get them to sign a document signing up for insurance or waiving it altogether. **All in favor, motion carried.**

8. **Bidding out Employee Health Insurance Update:** Nothing new to report.
9. **Discuss Addendum Agreement with the Central Labors Pension Update:** Bergen stated he had a conversation with Sheriff Robbins, and the labors pension group hasn't deposit all of the checks the county has sent them. Lohman said they've selected to deposit some checks, but there are approximately ten outstanding at this time.
10. **SOA Hire Update:** Bergen stated he hasn't had the opportunity to get updates from Ray Durston, but Finance and Budget Committee chair Russell Beason will have more information during his report.
11. **Set Dates for Union Negotiations with Local 1084 (Highway Department) Update:** Bergen reported the committee will meet on Thursday, September 29th, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the County Board Room to negotiate the labor contract with Local 1084.
12. **Approve Contract with Circuit Clerk's Union Local 148 Approval:** Bergen reported the committee reviewed the final draft of the union contract with the Circuit Clerk's Union Local 148.
13. **Executive Session for Personnel/Litigation/Property Acquisition Approval:** **Motion by Bergen and second by Donaldson to enter executive session to discuss the union contract with Local 148. All in favor, motion carried. The board entered into executive session at 7:25 p.m. Motion by Ritchie and second by Yeske to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried. Board returned to open session at 7:37 p.m.**
Motion by Bergen and second by Robinson to approve the Collective Bargaining Contract with Circuit Clerk's Union Local 148. Wendel abstained. All others in favor, motion carried.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairperson Russell Beason:

1. **SOA Report Update:** Beason reported SOA employee Kendra Niehaus has begun taking classes to qualify to become the next Supervisor of Assessments. Beason stated Niehaus has passed one class so far and has signed up to take the rest of the courses. Durston's planned retirement date is November 30, 2022.
2. **Capital Improvement Fund Reports Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.

3. **IMRF Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
4. **Property Casualty Insurance Update:** Beason reported insurance representative Eric Braasch is looking into questions some of the Finance Committee members had during budget hearings.
5. **Sheriff IPRF Insurance Policy Update:** Beason reported Braasch is looking into seeing if the board can use property casualty insurance money levied to pay for software to keep track of risk management certifications.
6. **Discuss FY 2023 Levies Update:** Beason reported the Finance Committee is seeking guidance from State's Attorney Affrunti about levying by rate or by budget for Special Districts. Affrunti stated if they are levying by an "up-to" rate, then truth in taxation hearings shouldn't have to be held. Beeler said some groups had questions about increases in tax amounts because of the change in EAV relative to the rate they levied. Affrunti said he will look into it.
7. **State's Attorney, Public Defender, Circuit Clerk, Animal Control, County Employee Insurance and ROE FY 2023 Budget Proposals Update:** Beason reported the committee heard budget presentations from the Public Defender, Circuit Clerk and Animal Control offices, as well as receiving the proposed budget from the Regional Office of Education. He said they are only waiting on the State's Attorney's budget presentation. After all the presented budgets, the general fund revenues for FY 2023 total \$6,049,044. Revenues for all funds total \$20,656,310. General Fund expenses for FY 2023 total \$8,007,325 and expenses for all funds total \$29,315,793.
8. **Highway Department Fuel Management System Budget Line Update:** Beason reported the Highway Department has had issues with their fuel management system. He said the system is back up and running, but Highway Engineer Cody Greenwood requested the board create a line in the General Fund to pay for future expenses to the system since their department does not need it to function. He said the committee agreed to do so and also agreed to reimburse the Highway Department \$15,000 from coal money already in the Highway Department's FY 2022 budget.
9. **FY 2023 Budget Discussions Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
10. **Finance/Budget Control Policies and Procedures Update:** Beason stated there is nothing new to report.
11. **America Recovery Plan Act (ARPA funding) Update:** Beason reported they have held a number of meetings regarding the ARPA funding and Chairman Young plans to call a special full County Board meeting to discuss it further.
12. **DCEO Energy Community Reinvestment Act Grant and Vistra Energy Update:** County Clerk Leitheiser reported a workshop is taking place later this month to discuss possible grants available to counties affected by the closure of Vistra Energy's coal-fired power plants. Beason stated Tim Fogle, Patty Whitworth, Donna Yeske and he will be attending on behalf of the county.
13. **Add Imprest Fund for EMA and State's Attorney Approval: Motion by Beason and second by Donaldson to create Imprest Funds for EMA and the State's Attorney's office and authorize the use of debit cards for each office. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. **Automatic Increases for Information Services Subscription Services Approval:** Beason reported the committee recommended tying increases for Information Services tech services to the cost of the department's salary increases. **Motion by Beason and**

second by Loucks to approve tying tech service increases for Information Services to the Department's salary increases. All in favor, motion carried.

15. **Revolving Loan Fund Update:** Beason reported State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said we cannot legally loan money and the board must decide whether or not to dissolve the fund or overhaul it. The committee is seeking further guidance from Affrunti before proceeding with a recommendation.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairperson Gene Miles and Committee Member Bob Sneed:

1. **Fuel Management System at Highway Department Update:** Miles reported there is nothing further to add on this topic.
2. **Sale of Surplus Property Update:** Miles reported Greenwood is hoping to sell a 1987 410C backhoe and a 1991 chip spreader. He also said the committee gave Greenwood permission to use the website *govdeals.com* to sell this equipment.
3. **Section 17-09117-00-BR – Irving Twp. N. 17th Ave. Letting Results Update:** Miles reported Greenwood is looking into aluminum box culvert letting this time around since the previous letting yielded bids twice the anticipated estimate.
4. **Hillsboro Seward St. Bridge Project Update:** Miles reported Hillsboro was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$884,000 to fund this project, which will require a 20 percent match. He stated the county previously agreed to split the match cost of the project with the City 50/50, so the County and City will each pay 10 percent of the cost. He said the total cost of the project is approximately \$1 million.
5. **ARPA Funding Request for Equipment Sheds Update:** Miles stated this item is dependent on what the board decides to do with ARPA money.
6. **Coal Royalties Funding Request for FY 2023 Update:** Miles reported Greenwood is requesting coal funds to purchase slag while he can still get it. He said the Highway Department has switched to slag for their final seal coats. Greenwood also stated Montgomery County Farm Bureau manager Wilson reached out to him recently, and he believes the Farm Bureau is advocating for projects.
7. **Approval of Bid to re-stripe parking lines at Courts Complex Update:** Miles deferred to member Bob Sneed, who reported the committee agreed to accept a bid from PLC Pavement Striping to re-stripe the parking lines of the Courthouse Complex in the amount of \$873.26.
8. **Maintenance and Cleaning Issues and Report Update:** Sneed reported the committee heard a 30-minute maintenance report during their last meeting, and the maintenance department has been busy completing jobs around the county complexes.
9. **Request for Proposal for Performance Contract for ADA Updates to New Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported the committee is waiting on the board's decision regarding the ARPA money.
10. **Sign Annual Generator Service Agreement with Altorfer Update:** Sneed reported the committee agreed to approve a six-year generator service agreement with Altorfer.
11. **Open and Approve Bids for Caulking and Tuck Pointing at New Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported the committee received two bids for caulking and tuck pointing at the Courthouse Complex. He said they awarded the bid to AJWD Masonry in the amount of \$48,400, and they have already begun working on the project.

12. **New Locks at Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported the electronic locks have been installed at the Historic Courthouse, and the key fobs have been distributed. He said the physical locks to the building still have to be changed. He said they will have to look if the committee already approved changing the physical locks at a previous meeting.
13. **Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse and Jail Update:** Sneed reported Sheriff Robbins said Kinney Contractors does not have time in their schedule to work on the sidewalks at the jail, but the committee is going to see if they may still pursue it since it is not a large job.
14. **Hurst-Roche Project Cost Estimate for Sidewalks at Historic Courthouse Update:** Sneed reported Jeremy Connor from Hurst-Rosche presented the engineering report for the sidewalk project around the Historic Courthouse. He said the total cost of the project is \$167,200, which includes the City of Hillsboro's Right of Way. Sneed stated they are going to see if the City can help pay for any of the project.
15. **Approve Bid for Jail Generator Replacement and Automatic Transfer Switch Approval:** Sneed reported the committee accepted a bid from Altorfer to replace the 60 kilowatt generator at the jail, but the bid was six months old and a new bid had been submitted. **Motion by Sneed and second by Bergen to accept the bid from Altorfer for a replacement generator at the jail in the amount of \$30,593. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Sneed and second by Fogle to accept the bid from Altorfer for an automatic transfer switch in the amount of \$3,562. All in favor, motion carried.**
16. **Interior Door Project for County Clerk's Office Update:** Sneed reported this item is on hold for the moment.
17. **EMA Storage Shed Update:** Sneed reported this item is contingent on the board's decision on the distribution of ARPA funds.
18. **Solar Farm on County Farm Update:** Young said he reached out to the company interested in putting a solar farm on the county farm about attending a full board meeting but they have not returned his call.
19. **Elections Update:** County Clerk Leitheiser stated she would like to commend her staff on their work processing election applications. She stated she would also like to assure voters who desire to vote in-person they still can do so. She reported early voting begins September 29, which is the same day vote-by-mail ballots will be sent out.
20. **Animal Control Administrator Position Update:** Miles reported Young hired Emily Gerl as the temporary animal control administrator after Amanda Daniels gave notice. He stated Hughes felt the committee needed to go through the proper hiring procedures of posting the job opening, and the committee agreed. The job has been posted.
21. **Animal Control Facility Update:** Miles stated there is nothing new to report.
22. **Animal Control Municipal Contracts Update:** Miles stated there is nothing new to report.

APPROVAL OF 4 COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Sneed and second by Beeler to approve the four committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Young reported he would like to call a special full County Board meeting on September 22nd, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss ARPA, the Detour Agreement and the

Committee Structure. Lohman asked if it could be moved to Wednesday since she has a personal conflict on the 22nd. Leitheiser said they will be conducting election judge training that evening in the board room so it's not available. Young said he will look into a different date for the meeting and inform members when it is set.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: None

APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Donaldson and second by Yeske to appoint John Speiser to the Irving-Witt-Nokomis-Rountree Drainage District #1. All in favor, motion carried. (See Resolution Book 19, page 141).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Coffeen Fire Chief Walt Tarran stated he and representatives from other fire districts would like to be kept in the loop regarding the solar farm at the old Coffeen Power Plant.

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL: Motion by Miles and second by Beason to pay all approved bills and payroll. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN: The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Donaldson and second by Loucks to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.