

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE COURTHOUSE IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON **September 19, 2017.**

*ATTEST: LAURIE J. MENSE, COUNTY CLERK*

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The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

Chairman Timothy J. Carlson called the Board to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Pastor Jerry Thorpe of the Faith Community Worship Center in Taylorville gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by Chief Deputy County Clerk Monica Haines with Ben Curtin, Donna Hibbetts, Matt Wells and Chad Michel absent did signify a quorum as declared by Chairman Carlson. Matt Wells and Chad Michel arrived thereafter.

**ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

The Chairman Carlson asked for any corrections and to accept the August 15, 2017 County Board minutes and the Special Board Meeting of August 30, 2017. *It was moved by Paul Schmitz and seconded by Becky Edwards to accept and place on file the minutes for both August County Board Meetings.* The motion carried.

**PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS-** A request for special use for repair or service operated solely by owner or occupant of the dwelling (RV Storage) in AG-1 District was presented in Ordinance O2017 ZN 011 With no discussion, *a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Charles DeClerck to adopt O2017 ZN 011 and to dispense with the reading.* A roll call vote was taken polling the following: Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Vicki McMahan, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards--yea (12): nay (0): Donna Hibbetts, Matt Wells, Chad Michel, Ben Curtin (4) absent:. The motion carried.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications were presented and read and placed on file in the Clerk's Office.

- 1- The Prevailing Wage report for September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 has been posted and will be effective until notified and it is placed on file in the Clerk's office.
- 2- The August 2017 Public Defender's report is on file.
- 3- The Treasurer's report ending 8/31/2017 is on file in the Clerk's office.
- 4- The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund Report for August 2017 is filed with the Clerk.
- 5- The August 2017 Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction reports dated September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were received for both the County and Road Districts.
- 6- On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the franchise fees for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 2017 were received from NewWave Communications in the amount of \$1,789.79. These were deposited with the Treasurer and copies are on file in the Clerk's office.
- 7- An MLCR-3a was received 8/28/2017 and was placed on file in the Clerk's office along with the map of mined area in reference to the Pana Limestone Quarry.
- 8- An MLCR1 was received on 9/11/2017 in regards to the Christian County Limestone Quarry and placed on file for inspection.
- 9- A letter dated September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was received on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from Ameren advising tree trimming. A copy is on file in the Clerk's office.

**APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ**

Chairman Carlson *called for a motion by Marilyn Voggetzer and was seconded by Molly Alaria to accept the communications as read.* The motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public would like to comment during the committee minutes on the solar ordinance.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED

*A motion was made by Chad Michel and seconded by Becky Edwards to accept & file the committee reports as printed. The motion carried.*

### HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE—September 7, 2017 Minutes were read by Phil Schneider.

#### BUILDING AND HIGHWAY UPDATES:

Cliff Frye reported that Zach Hicks had tested and checked the aging boiler at the Highway Department and no cracks were found. After new gaskets are put on, he will rebuild for the upcoming heating season.

The road projects scheduled for this are done, with some maintenance jobs yet to finish.

#### CHILLIFEST APPROVAL

Committee Chairman Phil Schneider read a letter of request from Patty Hornbuckle to use the courthouse grounds during the annual Chillifest celebration the weekend of October 6<sup>th</sup>. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Aaron Allen to approve the request for Chillifest. The motion carried.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL FEE INCREASE PROPOSED

Health Department Administrator Nancy Martin and Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner and Director of Environmental Health Greg Seiders came before the Committee to request fees be increased as approved by the Christian County Health Board. The Health Department is quickly depleting their fund balance due to grants having a lack of funding, slow reimbursements from the State or the elimination of grants. Additionally, all revenues from the department like flu shots have been down due to other local flu shot clinics now being available. Restaurants are closing rather than increasing which decreases the revenues there as well. The fees increased pertain to full year licenses for food service establishment permits with potential increased revenue of about \$15,000 annually. Christian County is either under or comparable to surrounding counties on the fee schedule. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Vicki McMahon to raise the fee schedule as presented. The motion carried with one no vote.*

#### SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES STAND ALONE ORDINANCE

Offered to the public were their comments/concerns about the proposed Solar Ordinance.

\*Pat Wolfe, President of the Christian County Farm Bureau, commented that County landowners have been receiving information from many companies concerning solar farms. There are many issues however, that have not been addressed concerning property owner rights. He requested the committee work with the CCFB Mellissa McMillan with their concerns. Farm Bureau attorneys have been working with zoning issues and have developed sample ordinances for review.

\*Shane Shields of Cypress Creek Renewables attended and offered to address any concerns the landowner may have.

\*Vince Reinke introduced himself stating that he and his father are the landowners who have signed with Cypress Creek and hopefully can work through issues for good common ground for landowners.

\*Venise McWard commented that other counties had had an experience which was not favorable to the landowner.

Phil Schneider continues to read the minutes from the minutes. Last month the Committee discussed the ordinance and reviewed a sample ordinance. After review from States Attorney Mike Havera, Brett Rahar Zoning Officer presented a similar ordinance. Some discussion was held about definitions of “building” relative to this ordinance and fees to charge. States Attorney Havera will make the suggested change prior to full board approval. The fees proposed are \$1,000 for a Solar Sitting Hearing and the building permit fee is \$2/solar panel installed on the solar farm. It should be noted that this ordinance only pertains to solar farms not residential use. A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Charles DeClerck to recommend adoption of this stand-alone Solar Energy Facilities Ordinance with the fees of \$1,000 for a Solar Sitting Hearing and a building permit fee of \$2/solar panel installed on the solar energy farm.

The motion carried. *Committee Chairman Schneider requested to withdraw the motion due to the many unanswered questions for landowners and it was seconded by Becky Edwards.* The motion carried.

Property owners Vince and Steve Reinke and Shane Shields of Cypress Creek Renewables discussed the processes completed to date and answered questions. Some topics discussed were:

- A meeting was held for neighbors to answer their questions. The goal was to look out for the landowners and neighbors properties. Questions about tile destruction were addressed.
- Solar farms are not as dangerous as wind farms. Only small 4-6' pilings are installed and easily removed when converting the land back to agricultural.
- There are many positive points about solar farms such as there is little ongoing maintenance in the area. If problems arise, technology monitors the site. The company installs and operates the farm; it is not just developed and sold off.
- On about 50 acres of land, 2000 panels would be installed in rows. Ten acres would collect about 20 megawatts of solar power.
- The timeframe once started is about 6-8 months before the power is online (sold to the grid). The earliest that the connection can begin is mid-2019.

#### DOG PARK DISCUSSION

States Attorney Mike Havera explained there are so many more details that need to be proposed and explained concerning a dog park whether sponsored by the County or another group. At this point there can be liability in either situation. Last month the issue was tabled, however without more information and a detailed proposal the Committee will again wait to address it further.

#### LANGLEY CEMETERY REQUEST

The Langley Cemetery is owned by the County and a family member of Langley's requested a marker be allowed to be placed at the cemetery. The person would be a Langley descendent and it would be a marker only with no type of burial next to her parents. This is not an active cemetery. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Paul Schmitz to approve the Langley family request for a marker to be placed.* The motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** –Meeting was held August 22, 2017 and addressed during the County Board Special Meeting of August 30, 2017.

Minutes from committee and no action taken at this full Board meeting.

#### LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Rodney E. Jackson of Edinburg has submitted a new liquor license application for package liquor (wine and beer). He will be leasing the property and reopening a bait shop (RJ's SHAK) near Sangchris Lake. A motion was made by Marilyn Voggetzer and seconded by Molly Alaria to approve the application pending all requirements are met. The motion carried.

A special event is scheduled early October for the Luke Bryan Farm Tour in rural Edinburg. This is a unique situation and the only policy for liquor licenses are for established buildings and year round license holders. The committee reviewed a suggested policy and application which would allow the sale of alcohol to such special events for non-profit groups in the unincorporated parts of the County. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Marilyn Voggetzer to approve the Special Event Liquor License –Temporary Permit (beer and wine only) policy for non-established county license holders (of which they must be non-profit applicants) and the application requirements for such permit. The motion carried.

Bruce Engeling and Mike Havera were in attendance to answer questions about the event which apply to the provisions of the policy. In 2016, this tour took place in Effingham. Both the City and County were contacted as well as their States Attorney to review permits and any problems:

- Security, crowd and traffic control will be coordinated by Bruce Engeling with law enforcement from the County, the Auxiliary, and the State Police. All time is paid for by the Tour Group. [Additionally, Mike Crews and community first responders have been meeting for months.]
- Wrist bands will be provided by color for 21 and must be worn during the event.
- Liquor sales- There will be five serving locations with BASSET trained people on staff at each station and they will use both their own tour bartenders and local bartenders.

- The Farm For Life, Inc. group meets the non-profit group status as they give back to the local youth involved in 4-H and other agricultural groups through scholarships and other financial support from the onsite sales.
- It is estimated 10,000 to 13,000 people will participate in the event.

A motion was made by Molly Alaria and seconded by Venise McWard to approve the application and permit for Farm For Life, Inc.—Luke Bryan Farm Tour 2017. The motion carried.

#### AFSCME PROBATION CONTRACT-STEP 3 GRIEVANCES

AFSCME Probation Contract-Step 3 Grievances on Call back pay grieved by Cheryl Graham requires a roll call vote to go into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(2): Collective bargaining matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. Roll call polled all ayes.

A roll call vote pursuant to the above stated reason polled all ayes to come out of executive session. In open session a motion was made by Ben Curtin and seconded by Venise McWard to deny both grievances on call back pay. Ben Curtin wanted to express his reason for the denial which was that it is important to stand behind our department heads and the Chief Judge of whom both denied the grievance in the preceding step. A roll call vote polled all ayes to deny the grievance. The motion carried. There is no action necessary of the full County Board at this time.

AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE- 9/14/2017--Minutes read by Becky Edwards. There were no public comments.

#### ESDA VEHICLE UPGRADE

Mike Crews requested the use of the budgeted vehicle funds to purchase a newer vehicle for the department. Currently some travel, especially in rain is not ideal as there are holes in the floorboards. He presented three options of used automobiles. He favors one especially with low mileage. Mr. Crews will apply for a \$4,500 grant or reimbursement to the County for the replacement vehicle. The money is in this year's budget. *A motion was made by Becky Edwards and seconded by Paul Schmitz to approve the purchase as budgeted.* The motion carried.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL STATUS

As the financial status of the Christian County Health Department continues to decline, an option was asked of States Attorney Havera if a temporary loan could be used from the TB Fund. After consulting with several other counties, States Attorney Havera explained the general advice he received was not to do it. The reason behind the discouragement is the TB Fund is money that is levied for a specific use. The disease of TB is rare and the money has had some accumulation over the years. During his research, other counties noted that their TB levy was removed and converted to general health department programs. In order to do this it is most likely a referendum will need to take place to transfer the use of levied money. Havera said, "We are looking for best practices for the County." He will report back with the procedure for the tax levy change.

Dr. Terry Cunningham, the President of the Board of Health, commented that they just need some money to get them through until the grant money can be approved and paid to the department. We just need something rather than reducing hours or shutting the doors. The process is not as simple as reducing the time or services to save money, but if reduced or no service is provided, no grant money gets returned. They have to work it, report it and then receive the money. Health Administrator Nancy Martin again reiterated that some grant applications have not been signed by the State to even assure future payment and the few that are active only small amount of reimbursements are coming in. Some grants have been reduced. Currently, no FY 2018 money has been received and there is no expectation of when it will be. When asked bottom dollars today, Nancy said after 9/29/2017 there will be approximately \$94,000 and monthly expenses range from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Chairwomen Edwards also asked about other health departments around the state as to what they are experiencing. The response reflected others have reduced hours of operations/days per week open and have also reduced or laid off staff and reduced programs and services. At some Health Departments they have done all three reductions. CC Health Department is just now at the critical state due to saving money over the years which is now almost all gone. During the

Environmental Committee meeting, an increase in the annual food permits was presented for increased revenue. These funds are still minor in the big picture and will not be coming in until December and January.

The Committee recommended the use of a line of credit from a local bank which is the financial avenue that 911 used when they were in financial crisis last year. The process is to use what you need, pay it back as money comes in and it repeats as needed. Nancy was concerned there will be interest and she can't charge that back to the grants. All entities will keep a close eye on the situation.

#### SENIOR CITIZEN BUDGET REVIEW

Gerry Mahr, Taylorville Senior Citizen Director presented their budget for review as the senior citizens in Christian County have money levied through the County's levy. Although, he only submitted the Taylorville budget, Mr. Mahr noted that levied money is distributed to him for distribution to the other centers.

The tax levy is \$128,000 for all centers in Christian County and is divided as follows:

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Taylorville Center   | \$78,080 |
| Pana Center          | \$29,440 |
| Morrisonville Center | \$ 8,960 |
| South Fork Center    | \$11,520 |

Next year all senior centers will be invited to present their individual budgets showing the need for levied money. Mr. Mahr explained that the levied funds are allocated for 1/3 of their transportation budget.

#### CLAIMS

*A motion was made by Becky Edwards and seconded by Vicki McMahon to approve the claims for September as submitted. A roll call being vote being necessary polled the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure- yea (14): nay (0): Ben Curtin and Donna Hibbetts absent (2). The motion carried.*

#### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The 2018 calendar year holiday schedule was submitted for approval. The holidays have not changed from the current year and comply with union contracts. *A motion was made by Becky Edwards and seconded by Venise McWard to approve 2018 holiday schedule. The motion carried.*

#### DELINQUENT TAX RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

Resolution 2017 TR 015 was presented for approval. Stefanie Bailey, for Shawn Strohl, paid the back taxes and requested surrender of the tax sale certificate on property at 915 E Third Street in Pana Township. *A motion was made by Becky Edwards and seconded by Phil Schneider to adopt Resolution 2017 TR 015 and dispense with the reading. A roll call being vote being necessary polled the following: Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon - yea (14): nay (0): Ben Curtin and Donna Hibbetts absent (2). The motion carried.*

Resolution 2017 TR 016 was presented for approval by Treasurer Betty Asmussen. The property located in South Fork Township, parcel number 15-12-10-411-009-00 received a bid of \$675.00 from Joseph and Julitta Newingham to execute the deed. *Becky Edwards made the motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of Resolution 2017 TR 016 and Phil Schneider seconded the motion. A roll call being vote being necessary polled the following: Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard- yea (14): nay (0): Ben Curtin and Donna Hibbetts absent (2). The motion carried.*

## BUDGET REVIEW

Chairwoman Edwards and Treasurer Asmussen reviewed changes from various departments and compared last year's budget.

- A \$14,000 request towards the purchase of a squad car was denied.
- Many departments have employees who waive health insurance coverage, those charges were eliminated from their office budget. This does not eliminate the option for employees to participate in coverage, but does help reduce the budget for options waived.
- Animal Control will move line items of food and veterinarian services for the animals to an account set up for the care of animals through contributions.
- Court Security will consist of all part time security officers with the retirement of a full time deputy.
- The only increase [other than contractual salary increases] at this time is the website upgrade/redesign due to ADA compliance. Next year the website maintenance line item should reduce substantially.

Chairwoman Edwards had additional comments:

- Last year 2016 our contingency fund spent \$64,887 and to date this year 2017 only \$12,805 has been spent.
- Even with contractual salary increases for 2018, the overall FY 2018 budget was reduced about \$280,000.
- "Although the goal was a 5% reduction, a 4-4.2% reduction is good and I am very pleased with the result."
- The non-bargaining employees have not yet been addressed for raises. The AFSCME employees will receive an hourly increase equal to \$500 next year and it was suggested that the non-bargaining receive a flat \$500 one time pay next year as well. The county board does not determine all non-bargaining employees. Non-bargaining is mostly management and mid-management employees [elected office holders are not included in this group except prior to the election of their position]. A list will be prepared with who is eligible for the \$500 lump sum pay and the total cost.
- Chairwoman Edwards thanked all that participated with this effort.

## INSURANCE BIDS

It was reported that six companies have been sent information on the work comp, property and causality coverages.

## NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

States Attorney Mike Havera presented a resolution R2017 CB 017 declaring that the unlawful distribution of prescription controlled substances has created a public nuisance and serious public health crisis. In 1970 the Controlled Substance Act was adopted to clarify controlled substances of prescription medication. It is mandated that prescription wholesalers (there are three major companies) keep a tracking of retailers' sales of opioids. It has been documented that opioid sales have increased exponentially. It is their obligation to report to government the increased changes for review. Since the Act, nothing has ever been reported for review. Christian County would be the third county in Illinois (Hamilton and Jersey) to file this nuisance resolution. If awarded any damages, the money would be earmarked for education, drug rehab, resources such as detox centers and for law enforcement. The firm would be hired on a contingency fee basis; therefore, there would be no upfront dollars for the county. This is a serious situation in our county. These drugs are prescribed for pain for many types of injuries. Heroin overdoses and deaths affect all classes of society.

## MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:

*A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Aaron Allen to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of September 2017. The motion carried.*

|                  | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Meetings<br/>this month</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Molly Alaria     | \$200.00      | \$50.00     | 2                              |
| Aaron Allen      | \$200.00      | \$50.00     | 2                              |
| Timothy Carlson  | \$813.73      |             |                                |
| Craig Corzine    | \$200.00      | \$50.00     | 1                              |
| Ben Curtin       | \$200.00      | \$50.00     | 2                              |
| Charles DeClerck | \$200.00      | \$50.00     | 2                              |

|                   |          |         |   |
|-------------------|----------|---------|---|
| Becky Edwards     | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Donna Hibbetts    | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 1 |
| Venise McWard     | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Mike McClure      | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 3 |
| Vicki McMahan     | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Chad Michel       | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Paul Schmitz      | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Philip Schneider  | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Marilyn Voggetzer | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 2 |
| Matt Wells        | \$200.00 | \$50.00 | 1 |

**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Aaron Allen and seconded by Molly Alaria to adjourn until Tuesday, October 17, 2017 for the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.