

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 **November 21, 2017.**

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, COUNTY CLERK

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 Steve Switzer of the Calvary Baptist Church in Taylorville gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

The roll call by County Board Assistant Jan Bland showing Becky Edwards absent did signify a quorum as declared by Chairman Carlson.

RECOGNIZE RETIRING COUNTY CLERK LAURIE MENSE

Chairman Carlson read a proclamation describing her service to the County. She was given “the key to the courthouse” for recognition of service. Laurie Mense spoke briefly, noting she was pleased to have had the opportunity to serve the public.

MICHAEL C. GIANASI APPOINTED TO FILL TERM-11/30/2018

Chairman Carlson declared he will appoint Michael C. Gianasi to the vacant position. With the current Clerk being a democrat, a democrat must fill the position. *A motion was made by Paul Schmitz and seconded by Mike McClure to appoint Michael C. Gianasi as the County Clerk and Recorder to complete this term ending 11/30/2018.* The motion carried. The Honorable Judge Bradley Paisley swore Michael in as County Clerk and Recorder and he was seated to begin his duties as County Clerk.

ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Carlson asked for any corrections and to accept the October 17, 2017, County Board minutes. *It was moved by Aaron Allen and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* The motion carried.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

There were none to be addressed except as recommended in committee.

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 November 2017 remains the same as on September 25, 2017 and it is placed on file in the Clerk’s office and posted.
- 2- The October 2017 Public Defender’s report is on file.
- 3- The Treasurer’s report ending 10/31/2017 is on file in the Clerk’s office.
- 4- The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund Report for October 2017 is filed with the Clerk.
- 5- The October 2017 Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction reports dated 11/1/2017 were received for both the County and Road Districts.
- 6- A check was received from Cable One, Inc. in the amount of \$1,730.00 for 3rd quarter franchise fees and deposited with the Treasurer.
- 7- The Christian County September PCOM report, dated October 19, 2017, was received from the CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation. The letter and attached reports are on file in the Clerk’s office.
- 8- The CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation sent a letter notifying us of their recently held annual board meeting and provided a cop of the meeting program. Both are on file in the Clerk’s office.
- 9- The County received notice from Ameren Illinois regarding tree trimming to be done in the Taylorville area in the near future. Included are maps and common addresses of areas affected. Ameren also provides public notice in the newspapers. This notice along with supporting documents is on file in the Clerk’s office.
- 10- US Army Corp of Engineers sent the Fall 2017 issue of “Our Mississippi” and it has been placed on file in the Clerk’s office.

APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kenny Kleinik had several questions regarding the Solar Farm Ordinance.

-Setbacks are not defined in the solar ordinance but neither are they in the county's zoning ordinance. The company wants to be a good neighbor with the fencing. Setbacks and issues may be addressed in the Special Use Hearing.

-Nature of land use of nearby properties and water run off guidelines. Phil Schneider noted the mention of tile lines and provisions.

-Are there any adverse effects from stray voltage? It was noted the panels are to be located near the center of the project, not near the edges of property.

-Other concerns can be addressed during the Special Use Hearing or any issues brought to the attention of the Zoning Office to investigate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Paul Schmitz to accept & file the committee reports as printed. The motion carried.

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE-11/08/2017- given by Phil Schneider.

BUILDING AND HIGHWAY UPDATES:

Public comments were addressed concerning the seal coat places on County Highway #10. Venise McWard stated that she had received several calls concerning broken and cracked windshields received during travel on County Highway #10 since the seal coat was placed. The highway department took the personal information of all callers to the department and submitted their information to our insurance carrier through the Chairman's office. Matt Wells echoed the comments and issues with the amount of calls with damages received from the seal coat.

Highway Engineer Cliff Frye spoke to the circumstances of the seal coat and the new aggregate product used. He stated the seal coat was placed by an IDOT prequalified contractor in accordance with the specifications and our directions. The slag product we have been using for several years was not available this year due to a processing issue with the supplier. He looked for an alternate product for this year as a stop gap until the slag became available again next year. The highway department has gone to darker colored aggregates to provide a contrast to the centerline striping. The City of Virden as well as a few other agencies in the surrounding area has been using a trap rock from Missouri. The aggregate is from an IDOT approved source and after seeing samples of the crushed aggregate and viewing it in Virden, he felt it was a viable alternative. It is normal to have loose aggregate on a seal coat road and not unusual for some to be thrown on roads where higher speeds exist. There are still new incidents being reported. Cliff stated they will broom the highway again and try to get any loose aggregate farther from the edge of the road. He feels at this point the chips are being picked up on the road edge and brought back onto the highway. The highway department will look to sell any leftover aggregate.

Eric Snedeker, the insurance agent explained after receiving a few calls, he opened a claim and the adjuster identified that there was no legal liability by the County. The County used IDOT approved materials and the process met IDOT standards. He stated that we regret the event, but there was no negligence on the part of the County.

SOLAR ORDINANCE REVIEWED:

Public comments were called prior to the review. Butch Dooley said he wanted to ask questions and see what was involved in a solar farm. Scott Novack from Cypress Creek Renewables addressed many of his questions as setbacks, panel buffers, drainage, property values, temperature changes from panels, fencing, and weed control and salvage or decommissioning. All topics were discussed and are addressed in the ordinance. It was noted that solar farms are much less invasive than wind farms. The only noise is minimal and the substation is located on

the interior of the panels not close to the road or homes. As the entire ordinance was read it was evaluated and if there were questions they were answered by the land owners or the Cypress Creek representative and brought to a consensus by the committee. The Farm Bureau had sent questions previously and their concerns were also considered. The building permit fee was discussed by acre and by megawatts. Although a solar farm may have many acres rented for use, it does not mean that panels will be placed on all of the acres. When the projects are approved by the State, the permits are awarded and determined by megawatts. A conclusion was made to charge \$10,000 for the first two megawatts and \$1,000 per megawatt thereafter. The proposed site would sit on approximately 200 acres and would be a 20 megawatt solar farm. Decommissioning was discussed and is a part of the ordinance. Discussion questioned if the bond would be enough to do a land recovery. It was noted that there would be very little concrete in the project and this should be in the landowner's agreement.

A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Venise McWard to approve the changes made during the meeting and recommend adopting the stand alone solar farm ordinance. [The ordinance was reviewed by the State's Attorney with no changes or concerns.] A roll call vote being called upon, polled the following: Craig Corzine, Ben Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Vogetzer, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson (15) Yea; (0) Nay; Becky Edwards (1) Absent. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - None

AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE- 11/16/2017- Minutes read by Vicki McMahan. There were no public comments.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Eric Snedeker proposed the County to be a reimbursable employer for the unemployment insurance. Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust, based on our current premium from the State (1.35%) would charge us 1.08%. Everything is based on the same numbers (taxable wages) and the reporting is still mandatory to report to the State. The difference is within the State's rate which carries a baseline rate to cover unemployment claims for seasonal employees plus our own reported wages. Payroll would continue to process everything the same except pay ICRMT rather than the State. When any claim is filed, the State would either approve or deny and also pay the unemployed person. The State would bill ICRMT for the payouts to the employee. It is estimated that this 20% savings would equate to about \$8,000 this year in savings to the County. A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to accept this policy for the 2018 and 2019 calendar years pending review from the State's Attorney. Confirmed from Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson, no issues, however, questioned if this decision was the Board's or the office holder and the opinion was the office holder. The motion was withdrawn and the Board took no action. Betty Asmussen stated this is a duty of the office and shall not be dictated by the Board.

COUNTY HIGHWAY #10 INQUIRIES

As referred from the Highway Committee, Matt Wells began the discussion of the many calls he had received and as did Venise McWard concerning windshield damages occurring on County Highway #10 after the seal coat process. Cliff Frye reiterated the circumstances as described in the Highway minutes. He added, the crew had been out a couple of times with the rotary broom and they will continue to do so. The main part of the road is ok, it is the shoulder area that still kicks up some. An audience member understood the approved aggregate, but questioned the time of year for the application. Cliff noted the oil prices were good and the temperatures were actually better when applied than later that day. The traffic load and speed on that road were worse there than if the application was on a slower traffic road. The highway department will not be using that aggregate next year. The County used the proper materials approved by IDOT, proper application, and proper signage which creates no liability or fault of the County. Matt Wells made a motion to pay up to \$25,000 in claims. The motion died for a lack of a second at committee.

COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

On November 9th a public hearing was held in the Board meeting room for the purpose to sell taxable bonds for the use of the bonds for the protection against possible liability of the County and related costs. Former county auditor Sheridan Pulley attended the finance meeting to explain

the particulars of the issuance of taxable bonds. December 1, 2017 (FY 2018), the last payment for bonds for the Illinois Counties Insurance Trust for liability, causality and work comp insurance will be made. At the 2017 December County Board meeting an ordinance will be presented authorizing the issuance of taxable general obligation limited bonds, Series 2017 with details of the bonds and for the levy of direct annual taxes to pay such bonds and related matters. Pulley explained the issuance will be in \$1000 denominations rather than \$5000 amounts. The repayment will be over ten years with the levy not to exceed \$149,300 due to tax caps. The proceeds go into an insurance fund-tort immunity to assist with the above mentioned insurance liability of the county. He thanked the Treasurer and Craig Deere, local banker for working together with him. No action is necessary at this time. Next month the ordinance will be presented for adoption.

PANA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BONDS

CEO Trina Casner, Attorney Sean Flynn, and CFO James Moon representing the Pana Community Hospital came before the committee to request the adoption of a resolution for the County to authorize issuance of revenue bonds in the amount of \$7,000,000 for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, equipment and furnishing health facilities. In order for the not-for-profit entity to obtain non-taxable bonds for their renovation, the County must declare their intent to finance the project, but with absolutely no financial obligation to make payments or be responsible for the debt. *A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Aaron Allen to adopt R2017CB024—Determining the intent of the County of Christian to issue its revenue bonds to finance the costs of a project for Pana Community Hospital.* A roll call vote being called upon, polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Ben Curtin (15) Yea; (0) Nay; Becky Edwards (1) Absent. The motion carried.

PROPOSED FY 2018 BUDGET SENT TO FULL BOARD

Noting that the proposed budget has been placed on file and is ready for the full board to approve, a question of health insurance was discussed. At least two positions within two departments could already increase the health insurance line items of those departments from leaving employees who had waived coverage to potentially new employees accepting coverage. When reducing the health insurance line item by current demand, the committee agreed the availability of health insurance would not be denied to those departments. Aaron Allen reiterated the insurance issue and feels that at least the two offices who now know the new employees will want the insurance should be included in this budget. Matt Wells noted regardless of the reduction, he would not want to vote for a budget where there is not enough revenue. This time last year it was reported that about \$200,000 was coming off from the 2018 budget, however credit was given to those who worked on the reductions. Budgets can be amended if there is an unexpected expenditure. With no changes being made, *a motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Molly Alaria to approve the FY 2018 County Budget.* A roll call vote being called upon, polled the following: Donna Hibbetts, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Molly Alaria, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, (10) Yea; Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Craig Corzine, Ben Curtin, Charles DeClerck (5) Nay; Becky Edwards (1) Absent. The motion carried. Vicki McMahon read a letter from Becky Edwards concerning the budget and ongoing efforts to balance the budget.

AMEREN PAYS COUNTY \$580,400

According to the Public Utilities Act Section 8-406.1, a one-time construction fee was paid to the County in the amount of \$580,400 for the completion of the Illinois Rivers' project also known as the Pana to Austin 345KV electric transmission line. Treasurer Asmussen asked the committee members their preference as to where to deposit the money. After discussion, *a motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Craig Corzine to move \$500,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund (investing \$300,000 in short term methods) leaving \$200,000 available for Capital Improvements and deposit \$80,400 into the general fund.* A roll call vote being called upon, polled the following: Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Ben Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts (14) Yea; (0) Nay; Becky Edwards, Molly Alaria (2) Absent. The motion carried.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

In the 2018 budget, \$12,500 was budgeted for the development of an ADA compliant website. After speaking to a few companies, one was recommended from the area and presented a proposal. Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. (LRS) was founded as a local computer consulting firm in 1979. Currently, with Illinois corporate headquarters their offices are found around the United States as well the globe. The content of the website will be determined by department and will offer an updated user-friendly design, maintenance, and updates. Selected county staff will be trained to be an “administrator” of the site and allowed to make changes upon approval from the Chairman’s office. The base quote will range from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for a one-time development fee. Afterwards, a monthly fee of \$60 for website and database hosting and \$50/month for Antilles maintenance and software support. The Chairman and Vice-Chairwoman have met several times with their representative. The change can begin as soon as next week with a department head meeting. *A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Matt Wells to accept the quoted proposal not to exceed \$12,000 from LRS Web Solutions.* During the Board meeting, additional information as to the ADA requirements and necessity to update the website were discussed and *the motion was rescinded* and no action taken. More information will be gathered with new information for compliance being brought to the table.

MARCH COUNTY BOARD MEETING CHANGED

Due to the primary election on March 20, 2018, the regular *County Board meeting was suggested and motioned to be held on March 27th with the Finance meeting the 22nd.* *The motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Aaron Allen.* The motion carried.

ELECTRIC BIDS FOR COUNTY BUILDINGS

Three years ago Traditional Energy bid the electric rates for the county’s buildings. Chairwoman Edwards reported that Bob Wooten has been in contact stating renewal. She was given various rates as of this week. *A motion was made to authorize Chairman Carlson to sign within the next month the best rate available on the date of signing for the electric service for the County buildings-motion by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Paul Schmitz.* For the best price, Mr. Wooten suggested a 60 month contract. The motion carried.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve the November claims as presented. A roll call vote being called upon, polled the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Paul Schmitz, Phil Schneider, Marilyn Voggetzer, Matt Wells, Aaron Allen, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Ben Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts, Mike McClure (14) Yea; (0) Nay; Becky Edwards, Molly Alaria (2) Absent. The motion carried.

JAIL IS FULL

Chief Deputy Bruce Engeling commented that the jail is full. He doesn’t want to give up the federal program of inmates due to the revenue the County is paid. However, the local population continues to increase.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Carlson explained the upcoming celebration to kick off the State’s 200th birthday. On Monday, December 4, at noon, at the Courthouse flag pole will be the raising of the US flag, and the new bicentennial flag, and the reading of the proclamation in support of the celebration. All are encouraged to attend.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:

A motion was made by Paul Schmitz and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of November 2017. The motion carried.

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

Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Becky Edwards	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Donna Hibbetts	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Venise McWard	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
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	1
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Marilyn Voggetzer	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Matt Wells	\$200.00	\$50.00	2

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER: County Board and Elected Office Holders will have their group Christmas picture taken prior to the board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Aaron Allen and seconded by Venise McWard to adjourn until **Tuesday, December 19, 2017** for the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.