

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**  
AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY  
ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN  
TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, AND BY TELECONFERENCE ON **August 18, 2020**  
*ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, 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;

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-07, issued by Governor JB Pritzker, this County Board meeting is being conducted by teleconference with remote participation by County Board members.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Donna Hibbetts and Matt Wells did signify a quorum and was declared. Becky Edwards, Vicki McMahon, and Clark Pearce participated remotely; Matt Wells connected remotely after the meeting began.

**ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the July 21, 2020, County Board minutes and the August 3, 2020, Special County Board minutes. *A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve said minutes of the County Board Meetings.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, (14) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, Matt Wells, (2) absent; The motion carried.

**PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Edwards called for public comments.

Thomas Snyder, Sr. stated that the agenda included the CEDS to be voted on by the full board. He asked if the board was governed by Robert's Rules of Order because the CEDS went to the Personnel Committee and then the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee voted 3-2 to not send it to the county board. He asked again if this governmental body ran by Robert's Rules, and if it is, a vote on this is not legal per Robert's Rule's this evening.

Seth McMillan stated he supported putting a CEDS on file in Christian County; however, there are many unanswered questions. He contacted legal counsel at the Illinois Farm Bureau to get their insight into what this involves. The reason he came tonight is because there seems to be a roadblock in doing something with this because of who happens to be sitting in the chairman's seat right now. He asked if the Chairwoman would listen to questions, answer questions about what this is and what it's going to do, and make a case for why the board should consider it, instead of berating people, being nasty, and treating the public that shows up at county board meetings with disdain. He asked that she answer questions and make a case why the board should pass this instead of talking down to the people that are representing the folks in this county.

Jeff Nolen said he did a lot of research with the EDA and understands that grants are given to not-for-profit organizations and many times for building infrastructure to entice companies or on the demand of a company to be able to come in. His question for Becky, Mike McClure, and Clark Pearce is "Will the grants under the CEDS directly or indirectly benefit Invenergy, either in the wind turbines or in the Grain Belt Express transmission line." Jeff asked for an answer and Chairwoman Edwards stated it was the public comments session and it would be addressed at a later time.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. The August Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
2. The July 2020, Public Defender's Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on July 31st, 2020, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for July 2020 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The July 2020, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated August 5, 2020, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. A check and a report were received from Cable One, Inc. for the 2nd quarter, 2020, franchise fees for NewWave Communications. The total amount was \$1,334.97 and was deposited with the Treasurer.

**APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Brian Wilbur and was seconded by Molly Alaria to accept the communications as read*. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED**

*A motion was made by Tim Carlson and was seconded by Mike McClure to accept & file the committee reports as printed*. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, (14) aye; Vicki McMahan, (1) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**-August 11, 2020-Minutes read by Phil Schneider

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present did signify a quorum and was declared.

**HIGHWAY BUSINESS**

Cliff Frye indicated he will be bringing preliminary engineering agreements for bridge projects to the full board for approval in order to get the Township Bridge Program funds obligated with IDOT.

Addressing the full board, Cliff presented five agreements where the funds need to be obligated by the end of August.

1. Bear Creek Township: Supplemental agreement for additional surveying and structure locating; not-to-exceed \$21,405
2. King Township: New project on an old concrete-through-dirt structure; not-to-exceed \$57,000
3. May Township: Small single-span slab; not-to-exceed \$30,405
4. Ricks Township: Through-dirt structure; not-to-exceed \$50,000
5. Rosamond Township: Single span structure; not-to-exceed \$35,525

He explained all of the agreements are the standard IDOT agreements based on actual costs with permitted overhead to get the not-to-exceed value.

*A motion was made by Dale Livingston and was seconded by Brian Wilbur to approve all of the agreements as presented*. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Cliff Frye indicated emergency bridge repairs need to be completed on our structure over the Sangamon River, North of Mt. Auburn. A piece of the nose iron on the North Abutment broke loose from the concrete back wall. Temporary traffic control is in place until repairs can be completed. Quotes were received from County Contractors in the amount of \$15,550 and from Kinney Contractors in the amount \$33,314. Ray Koonce had been contacted by constituents and thanked Cliff for responding quickly. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Brian Wilbur to accept the quote from County Contractors and authorize them to proceed with the repair.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Cliff Frye indicated specifications are almost ready to go out for bid on the storage shed that was damaged by the 2018 tornado. The salvage value of \$52,261 has been received and an additional \$22,268 will be received upon substantial completion of the new building.

Cliff Frye indicated all bridge and roadway projects are continuing to progress through our consultants and IDOT.

### BUILDING UPDATES

Bill Kennedy indicated the floor in the court reporters room between Courtroom B & C has been leveled by Charles Sampson. He's very pleased with the outcome and early results indicate it may be a cost effective way to remedy other floor issues in the Courthouse.

Bill Kennedy discussed the acoustics in the County Board meeting room. As demonstrated in Courtroom A & C, the combination of carpeting on the floors and a drop ceiling with tiles provides far better acoustics for public meetings. Bill indicated he believes adding a drop ceiling in the County Board meeting room would improve the acoustics and reduce the complaints during meetings with remote participation. He received a quote from Charles Sampson in the amount of \$6,440 (\$2,850 labor & \$3,600 material) to install the drop ceiling. In addition, the lights will have to be moved or replaced which will be an additional charge. Bill Kennedy will work on getting a cost for the lights. Chairman Schneider asked if it would be more cost effective to put up fabric acoustic panels. Bill Kennedy indicated he didn't feel they would get the same amount of reduction in the noise level and that it wouldn't necessarily be much more cost effective. A motion was made by Dale Livingston; seconded by Phil Schneider to refer the quotes to the finance committee to see if the funding is available to complete this needed project. Bill Kennedy informed the committee that the boiler failed inspection by the County Insurance Underwriters inspector due to deterioration of the west mud leg. However, the problems detected weren't as bad as originally feared. The plumber opened and cleaned the boiler out prior to the inspection. There was a considerable amount of mud in the boiler indicating it hadn't been cleaned in some time. After inspection, Bill Kennedy contacted a boiler repair company and received a quote to make the repairs in the amount of \$2,500-\$3,000 and they can get to it by the end of the month. Once repairs are completed, the boiler will have to be pressure checked and then reopened and re-inspected. In addition, Bill Kennedy indicated the chemical feed pumps have been removed and need to be reinstalled in order to help preserve the boiler. He is willing to look for the replacements and indicated a maximum of \$3,000 would allow him to get that completed. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to proceed with the repairs at a not-to-exceed cost of \$3,000 and to have Bill Kennedy acquire the chemical feed pumps and chemicals at a cost not-to-exceed \$3,000.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Bill Kennedy has been in contact with a foundry from Mexico that is widely used around the Country for aluminum castings, including fountains. They have several sample pieces of various sizes with a near identical look of the existing cast iron fountain. In addition, the bird at the top of the existing fountain is aluminum and can be use as the top piece of a replacement. Bill will continue to work with the foundry to come up with pieces of the appropriate size to create a replacement fountain that closely replicates the existing. He believes this can be accomplished for approximately \$2,000.

Bill Kennedy indicated several roof leaks have been addressed. Charles Sampson found and repaired loose caulking on the east side at the base of the clock tower and repaired loose copper flashings on the southwest corner. The repairs appear to have taken care of the problems but will need to be monitored under different storm conditions to know for sure.

Bill Kennedy reported two attempts were scheduled to repair the floor drains at the jail. The first time a big enough pump wasn't available and then the second time the material wasn't reacting the way it should. Even though the shelf life of the material was only out of spec by a couple of months, Bill Kennedy has secured new material and will do a pretest before rescheduling the repair.

Bill Kennedy indicated that Mike Gianasi had secured a TV mount for the new large screen TV monitor to be placed in the County Board meeting room. With a monitor in the plus 70" range, Bill indicated a bracket needs to be fabricated to attach the TV mount to so that the monitor will be able to be seen over a larger area of the Board room. Bill will get a bracket fabricated for this purpose.

Bill Kennedy indicated that when the insurance company inspector was there, he indicated that the stored records in the basement needed to be removed. They are a potential fire hazard. A discussion was had regarding various options for storage. Dale Livingston volunteered to look at the various County facilities with Bill Kennedy and Cliff Frye to determine the volume of storage needed and for possible storage locations.

#### ZONING UPDATES

Vince Harris provided the following Zoning updates:

- The Zoning office has brought in approximately \$1,400 in new zoning permits this month.
- Since April, he has sent out approximately 175 building permit violation notices.
- He will be making the following recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeals at their August 25th meeting:
  - Recommend adding an Amendments/Update tracking page in the front of the Zoning Code.
  - Page 11 – Add a definition of Farm Animals
  - Page 20 – Add a definition of Residential Grass
  - Page 26 – Add fee for Zoning Violations
  - Page 73 – Agricultural Activities, (A) Farm Animals; change the distance to lot line or residential property from 100 ft to 150 ft.
  - Under Home Occupation in an R1-R2 add any residential yard with height exceeding 18" or offensive to neighbors subject to a \$200 fine.
  - Add Appendix C – To add in Ordinance #O2001ZN026, the inoperable vehicle ordinance into the code.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATES

Vince Harris indicated adoptions are going good. He's added more cameras which now allows him to see the perimeter of the facility.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were called for by County Clerk Michael Gianasi and there were none.

**EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE**-August 10, 2020-Minutes read by Matt Wells

#### OTHER BOARDS TO BE LISTED ON COUNTY WEBSITE

Discussion continued from last month to include on the county's website a listing of all Boards and their members of which this county board appoints those members. Mike Gianasi submitted a preliminary list of members from those specific local public entities. Discussion continued as to how to list the names and contact information including names, phone numbers and political parties. Although these positions are appointed and not elected positions, the public should have access to contact those members. Some of the public entities are fire districts, sanitary districts, the 911 Board, the Christian County Health Board, the CC Mental Health Board, ...as declared by statute. The appointments would normally be made to the respective political party of which

the County Board has the majority. A member of the CC Water Reclamation District commented he would certainly have his party affiliation with his name. Research will continue to determine if there is a ratio of political parties per board members; assuming the majority would be determined by the County Board political majority through the appointments. County Clerk Gianasi will contact the webmaster to consider options for a “response request” through an email. *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Ray Koonce for all appointed boards and member names and political party to be listed on the County’s website and to seek the ability to use a fillable form for a “response request.”*

#### Discussion:

Ray Koonce said he had a constituent contact him about the matter and even though you have the majority on the board, if you have to make an appointment you won’t always have the option to appoint from the majority. You may have to appoint someone from the opposite party.

Sometimes it’s hard to find someone to fill an open position.

Mike McClure said he had the same concern brought to him along with a complaint that the county health board phone numbers may already be listed on the website. Vicki McMahon responded that the public health website doesn’t have the board members listed on it.

Matt Wells described the intended process of the public being able to submit a question to any board member of any committee the county board appoints. It would be forwarded to them for their response without the public knowing their email address or phone number.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

#### 2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE APPROVED

The 2021 holiday schedule was submitted for approval of the board which coordinates with union schedules. It will be submitted to the Judge for scheduling purposes. *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Brian Wilbur to approve the schedule for 2021 of holidays and days observed for the holidays.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried. The holiday schedule will be posted on the website.

#### HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY-ESDA

A previous agreement with Montgomery County covered services and personnel, however, not hold harmless provisions. The current liability carrier, Illinois County Risk Management Trust, has requested a hold harmless agreement be added to the joint agreement. States Attorney Mike Havera commented he will have it drafted and submitted for approval at the next meeting.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

It was determined by members that this topic should have been sent back to the finance committee and a motion was made by Molly Alaria and seconded by Brian Wilbur to forward to the finance committee for review. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

With no public comments being acknowledged through freeconferencecall.com a motion was made to adjourn by Ray Koonce and seconded by Molly Alaria. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

[After meeting was adjourned a text came in saying there was a public comment. After consulting the State’s Attorney, the meeting was reconvened.]

Acting Chair Matt Wells requested the meeting be reconvened to address a public comment. Attendance was taken with the same members present in a roll call signifying a quorum.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Nolen asked what is CEDS. Although public comments do not require a response, Chairwoman Edwards requested the floor to quickly summarize. The CEDS is a strategy for economic development opportunities within Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery counties which is required to be approved by the county for any public entity to be eligible for a matching grant. Mr. Nolen asked if the wind turbine companies would utilize this

process. Chairwoman Edwards responded only public governments like the Taylorville Industrial Park who received \$528,000.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-July 29, 30; August 13, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce

### BUDGET HEARINGS

Committee Chairman Pearce asked Treasurer Asmussen about the first tax collections. She stated that they went very well with more people calling in for tax relief. Overall revenues and reimbursements will be ready next week with the end of July report.

### BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULED-July 29

#### Solid Waste Office-Joe Stepping

Salaries and health insurance are the only increases.

The truck lease is due for renewal and will probably increase some. It was asked why not purchase the truck with a response that the grant reimbursement covers 100% of the payment. The department is funded by tipping fees and state funding.

#### 911-Micki Ehrhardt

Salaries will decrease with retirements and health insurance increases

There is a large equipment purchase from new vendor, but quote from current vendor higher.

Anticipating \$100,000 grant

Shelby County surcharge comes here and is \$1.50/phone either cell or landline. 80% is cell and 20% comes from landline.

#### Highway-Cliff Frye

- Basic expenses which increased are salaries and benefits.
- For each levied fund the projected budget contained the anticipated revenue and estimated expenditures and projects which include the county highway fund, the county bridge fund, the highway matching fund, and the county MFT fund.

#### Animal Control and Zoning-Vince Harris

- He reported that he had been very busy with new building permit violations and the many extra ordinary paperwork due to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- His postage expenses have well exceeded the norm due to the return receipt mailings.
- In previous years, the cell phone plan was shared with the sheriff's office, but his line no longer qualified for the law enforcement plan so there is an increase in telephone.
- Due to the overall increase in activities, even without including the extra zoning events, there is a great need for a full-time person. He has classified this person as the office manager and would request this position start at \$15/hour.

#### ESDA-Greg Nimmo

- He began in December with the dual role at both Montgomery and Christian county and for the past five months has been non-stop due to the pandemic.
- Greg discussed the grants available due to the pandemic such as CARES which \$424,000 is supposedly allotted for Christian County through 12/31/2020.
- Something recent is a possible "administrative leave" salary reimbursement for employees who could not telework from home.
- With the two counties experiencing the same emergency, Kevin Schott has been hired to assist Greg at \$500/week which is 100% reimbursable.
- He updated the committee on the week's hot spots in the two counties and that both counties were having drive-through testing locations.

#### Coroner-Amy Winans

- Her salary has been determined and little change otherwise.
- She noted that autopsy expenses are never predictable and that Bloomington is still the location used (even Springfield uses Bloomington).
- She does have PPE expenses from COVID.

#### Probation-Laura Cooper

- She reported that her long-time secretary will be retiring next year and has requested to hire a replacement earlier to train.
- In review, probation officers' salaries are reimbursed by the state mostly at 100% however there are two positions that are reimbursed at only \$1000/month. Newly announced is that one of those positions will now be at the 100% status.
- She requested that her janitor receive a \$.50/hour increase.
- There is a new line item for the GPS payment and Adult Redeploy project which is also reimbursed but must be paid up-front.

#### State's Attorney-Mike Havera

- He reported little change in the overall budget and does have a second assistant again.
- Recently reported was the increase and the retro increase to the state's attorneys' salaries. Due to no increases for 13 years, the State is adjusting the overall salaries more in comparison to the judge's increases over the years. The county pays 10% of the state's attorney's salary.

#### Circuit Clerk-Julie Mayer

- Her staff has been reduced by one after promoting from within and not filling that opening.
- During the COVID shut down with no court taking place no fines were imposed and no new revenues.
- The document storage fund will now cover the salary and benefits as the child support fund replenishes.
- Again, due to COVID the expected reduction in paper, envelopes and postage, a new process has most likely increased those supplies.
- The copier/printer line item has increased due to the change in contracts to Ricoh.
- The insurance line is reduced as four employees waive coverage.

#### BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULED-July 30

#### Public Defender-Tiffany Senger

She was introduced to the committee as the new public defender. She noted the largest increases were in salaries and the addition of the new assistant public defender. As previously approved, the public defender is a full-time position and may not have an outside practice; the public defender's salary will increase by percentage of the states attorney's salary and is reimbursed 66% by the state. The assistant is a new salary and benefits.

#### Sheriff's Departments

The new chief deputy, Scott Woods first began with salaries noting that the new jail administrator Cecil Polley is a great asset to the county. He comes from an extensive correctional background and has made many changes at the jail and recommending that his salary be increased to \$60,000 which is barely what the highest paid correctional officer earns. Other salary increases have already been determined through union contracts and for the elected official. He mentioned probable retirements of 2-3 employees at the sheriff office which would have benefit pay outs.

Other line items were renamed to better explain the type of expenses. For court security staff he suggests a \$1/hour increase. With the use of Zoom in the courts and less transports, the need currently is for fewer officers during court hours. The courthouse janitors' salaries were adjusted for the next year with the retirement of one person.

Utilities are up and the elevator maintenance contract has decreased.

#### Supervisor of Assessments/GIS

Chad Coady explained salary and insurance as the only increases. He has budgeted for the purchase of a new computer. He also noted that from the second fly-over approximately \$16,000 of new revenue has been brought in.

#### Treasurer- Betty Asmussen

Betty Asmussen has made several decreases however salaries and benefits increased her budget by 2%. She explained that next year's tax bills could be requested to be sent by email rather than printed and mailed.

#### Building and Grounds

Without a current supervisor, Jan Bland made suggestions to the committee for the budget. Office items were decreased minimally, the office coordinator and contractual services were both temporary line items and eliminated. With one union staff salary now at \$50,565, the supervisor position was increased as policy indicates supervisors/Department Heads should earn 10% more than the highest paid employee and suggested to fill that position at \$60,000. Previously, in search for a replacement \$55,000 for the duties of a licensed plumber and HVAC certified individual did not draw any applicants.

#### County Clerk- Michael Gianasi

Michael Gianasi explained that office increases were from union contracts and increases for election officials. There was an increase to polling places from \$100 to \$150 per location. [Noted that in Pana the VFW holds two polling places and he is in search of new locations.] In 2021 there will be only one election which is the normal for odd years with one and even years having two elections. There are three different grants that he may submit for reimbursements in the election area. The vote by mail will most likely increase postage expenses.

In automation upgrades to vital records and recording have already begun due to software programs ending. As mentioned at a previous meeting, a new accounting and payroll system is being sought due to support being dropped for the current software program.

#### County Board

Jan Bland explained the calculations for per diems of county board members: basically, two meetings per month per member times 12 and an additional 40 meetings as necessary. All board members will be at a \$25/per diem and a \$100/month salary. This would be about a \$12,000 reduction. The Assistant to the County Board/HR position will be up for discussion as she announced her retirement for March 2021. A county administrator/HR was recommended with a salary of \$60,000. Other line items were gently reduced with a small increase in the copier/printer.

#### Office Zero

Treasurer Asmussen presented some of the projected changes in this account which covers general expenses of the overall county and not charged off to individual departments. There are currently two line items for the software and maintenance of the programs on the second floor. She has consolidated them including an estimate of new payroll/accounting software conversion in the total. These lines will be discussed more closely by the finance committee.

#### REGULAR MEETING-August 13

##### CLAIMS

*A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Linda Curtin to approve the claims presented for August. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.*

##### APPROVE WECS COUNSEL THROUGH COUNTY BOARD DECISION

During the special meeting on August 3, 2020, the Board approved an additional \$5,000.00 to conclude the current WECS proceedings in the Zoning Board of Appeals and sent to this committee for additional \$2,500.00.

ZBA Chairman Steve Sipes spoke that this process was nearing conclusion to submit to the full County Board, however, it is important that Attorney Ben Jacobi continue. In his time on the ZBA, there has never been such an immense undertaking with companies and other attorneys. Zoning Administrator Vince Harris echoed his comments that continuing counsel was important to the ZBA as well as for the County Board. Attorney Jacobi explained that most likely there will be a third ZBA meeting to define the advisory report for the County Board as well as



explanations and guidance to the full County Board upon receipt of the report. He will attend the meetings remotely to help control costs. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to extend counsel's service up to \$2,500.00.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

## BUDGET HEARINGS CONTINUE

### Courts

Judge Brad Paisley presented the court's budget noting not much change. Some items were reduced, and other lines were requested by the Chief Judge to increase. Jury Commissioners will be eliminated as many counties have already done so. Although a small amount in the budget, the Judge and Circuit Clerk can do the process and have been for a while. He will submit and an ordinance to officially change the process at a later date. The juvenile detention line has always been unpredictable. This past year was high as threats to schools, teachers and students were occurring. Youth detention costs vary from \$120-\$150/day.

### Health and TB

Greg Seiders, new Health Director, noted most everything is same as both revenues and services are projected and changed during COVID-19 and will certainly have an effect going forward. The Health Department is totally funded by grants and fees. There has been just one nurse, but with the influx of cases, he will be hiring two more temporary nurses as well as the three contact tracers currently working on COVID matters. TB services cover salary of one full time nurse. TB is part of the County's levy.

### EMA Update

Greg Nimmo reported that there are two grants the county can apply towards COVID expense reimbursements; CARES, a state program with a 25% compared to PA-Public Assistance-FEMA, a federal program with a 75% reimbursement. Registration opens next week for FEMA. Salary reimbursement availability is still unclear. The time to receive reimbursement checks is unpredictable.

### TB last case in Christian County

The question was asked, when the last case of TB in the county was. The answer was not known.

### Senior Citizen Presentations

Reporting from Pana, Taylorville and South Fork were the directors of the respective units. Each described their services and activities offered to their senior citizens. Meals on wheels distribution and transportation continue to be the most needed service from all groups. The activities for seniors are also very important. The County levies monies to be distributed to all senior citizen groups.

### U of I Extension

Amanda Cole, Program Director for the Christian, Jersey, and Montgomery counties distributed program materials. She receives money from grants and works with two different budget dates with the one submitted for the time period of being FY 2022. During last year's budget hearing she promised to reduce the requested levy amount by the amount of dollars raised locally. Therefore this year's request is \$1000.00 less.

### Christian County Mental Health

Brent DeMichael, President and CEO of Christian County Mental Health Association discussed the services still provided. Due to COVID-19 the on-site manufacturing facility has been closed, but the services for independent living arrangements continues. The 708 Mental Health Board includes a county board member. According to DeMichael annually, by statute, the county shall increase the levy by \$2000.00.

## BOARD ROOM UPDATE

County Clerk Michael Gianasi reported the TV mount has been purchased and is also looking into a better sound system. There was no update on software for accounting and payroll.

### DEED OF CONVEYANCE APPROVED

Christian County is trustee for delinquent tax properties. A resolution was presented to adopt. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to adopt the resolution for the property in Pana Township: 11-25-22-223-002-00.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### FUTURE BUDGET MEETINGS

No additional budget hearing dates were set at the committee meeting so Clark asked for future dates to complete the review of office budgets. Treasurer Betty Asmussen confirmed the date as August 27 at 6pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Nolen spoke about the CEDS program claiming many comments from the former director/grant writer for West Central Economic Development that they applied for grants but there was no money for grants, the county did not pay their dues and TIF districts took money away from schools. Also repeated that CEDS would be used for benefits for the wind farms. Committee Chairman Pearce stated it was a vehicle for matching funds for local entities. Chairwoman Edwards asked why a debate on every aspect of economic development? Why should we wait?

A motion was made to approve the CEDS report by Tim Carlson and seconded by Mike McClure.

Discussion and comments continued:

- West Central was not paid dues by this county from 2002-2018 (when West Central failed to produce grants).
- Each community must decide its project under economic development and apply for the 50/50 grant
- The money is awarded to the community not to the county.
- The participation for grant funding is through the Economic Development Administration a federal funding source, the county where the community is located must agree to the CEDS and the CEDS must be on file with the Economic Development Administration.
- This is to approve the strategy. The one-time fee of \$1,334.00 has been paid. A "Resolution on Participation to Obtain a Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" was passed on August 20, 2019.
- Shelby County dropped out.
- What about Rodney Davis and Avery Borne calling in on the subject.

A roll call vote polled the following: Ayes-Mike McClure and Clark Pearce. Nays-Venise McWard, Tim Carlson and Vicki McMahan. The motion failed.

At the full county board meeting, Clark Pearce continued stating that " Although the motion failed, I believe the full board should have the opportunity to vote on the CEDS; an economic development plan that will assist local municipalities to obtain a 50/50 grant if they wish to." A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to accept the CEDS report.

#### Discussion:

Clark called upon Bruce Barry, mayor of the City of Taylorville to speak. Matt Wells called a point of order asking why the public was being allowed to speak when it is not the period for public comments. Matt said it was a board decision and that Clark had an obligation as the chairman of the committee to present what the committee found, and not his personal opinion. Clark answered that he believed the board should take the issue up and there should be public discussion and board comments now. Dale Livingston asked what Robert's Rule's say about an issue that goes to committee, is voted down; it does not come back to the board. If it's voted down it's over with. Mike McClure said that the board had already voted to join the group back in August of 2019. Dale said this was sent to committee and Mike said this was a different one. Mike reiterated that the board joined the group in 2019 and paid the money. Dale said it was voted down at the recent committee meeting and should not come before the board. Mike then asked if the City of

Taylorville and others not want grant money from the federal government; that's what we're voting on, he said. Vicki McMahon commented that when put that way it makes it sound like the board doesn't, but that is not the question at hand. The question at hand is: What are all of the unanswered questions, and why is it that no one can give us straight answers? Mike responded asking what are the unanswered questions and that we have already joined. Vicki asked how it would benefit wind and said Mike's response was a non-committal answer. Chairwoman Edwards said that Mary Renner of the Christian County Economic Development Corporation would be able to provide the most information and answers. Vicki asked if all of the board members were done with the discussion. Dale again asked if we are following Robert's Rule's because it did not make it out of committee. "Are we going to follow Robert's Rule's or is it a free-for-all?" Becky stated that the board resolution was signed on August 20, 2019, to join this group of people for this strategy and she was not sure where the confusion was coming from. She said there are people that want to insult her but she has answered as many questions as she could and as best as she could. She said she thought it was fair to allow Mayor Barry and Mary Renner, who are both involved in economic development in Christian County, to speak to this issue. Vicki answered that Matt said the board members should speak first. Dale asked who the money was paid to and Becky answered that the \$1,334 was already spent. Vicki commented that \$300,000 was already spent too and we can't get it back. Matt restated that he had no problem with the others speaking, but that the board members speak first according to the by-laws. Becky agreed with Matt and also stated the question of wind has already been asked and she has answered the best that she could. She said that if she could not answer it and the board members could not answer it, that she would defer to Mary Renner and Mayor Barry.

Brian Wilbur said the question on hand is whether the board could vote on it or not. He asked if assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson could answer if it was voted down at committee could it be voted on at the full board. Craig Corzine agreed that he would also like to hear from the Mayor but he did not want to waste everyone's time if they can't act on it. He continued that if they can't act on it they need to put it back to the finance committee. Mike McClure said that he always thought that the committee vote was a recommendation to the board. We can't pass it in committee and we can't turn it down in committee; we just gave a recommendation that's going to the board. Craig responded that he did not remember ever having a motion fail at committee then be brought forward and voted on by the full board. Mike again stated that a committee is passing on their recommendation to the full board. All the committee did was voted to say "no." Phil Schneider said he did not think that was right. Phil said that there was a tie when working on the WECS ordinances and that could not go before the full board. Venise McWard also asked for Sarah's opinion. Becky then asked why we have the full board if the committee controls what happens? Phil answered why have a full board if two people control what happens? We can't answer either until we get a legal opinion on how things flow through committee to the full board.

Ray Koonce asked why the issue was being brought up if it was approved August of 2019. Becky answered that she was approached by Sheri Albrecht, who led the effort to put this together with the other six counties. Christian County had been in a CEDS agreement many years ago and they were not provided the services they were supposed to. EDA removed them as the regional contact for our county. Sheri contacted EDA and was given the opportunity to create a new CEDS through Calhoun, Greene, and Jersey counties, possibly due to a flooding issue. Sheri told Becky that the reason the other counties could join is because they were part of the previous CEDS under West Central Development. Becky said she sent a letter to the board members describing the grant information and the matching amount divided between the participating counties resulting in the \$1,334. Becky read the last statement of the letter, "We believe that this is a quick moving, affordable solution to our long-term problem. We will all have access to a 5-year CEDS for a county cost of approximately less than \$1,500!" She continued stating that every municipality in Christian County could rely on this CEDS for any project they want to take to EDA for the next five years. She mentioned Assumption, Tovey, Kincaid and Morrisonville as examples that could apply to receive a 50/50 grant. If they have a \$100,000 project they would only have to pay \$50,000.

Ray then asked if there was a time limit for the passage of the CEDS. Becky said that for every day you delay, you delay municipalities. She also said she understood there is a COVID issue attached to this and there might not be funds available if this is not passed.

Vicki said this was the first she had heard of that and Becky said it was new and changing every day.

A motion was made by Craig Corzine and seconded by Phil Schneider to table the issue back to the finance committee. It was said that there was already a motion on the floor and it was questioned whether the first was a valid motion. Ray Koonce then stated that a motion to table or a motion to amend supersedes a main motion and there is no discussion on a motion to table by Robert's Rules of Order. It goes immediately to a vote. Mike McClure questioned how the vote to table could be voted upon with the original motion still to be voted. Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson was then available and her opinion was that the issue had to pass the committee to be voted upon by the full board. Matt Wells then asked if Craig Corzine would withdraw his motion temporarily to provide an opportunity for the Mayor of Taylorville and the economic development person to be heard. He said he would like to hear from them. If the item is tabled, they may not get an opportunity to speak. Craig's opinion was that they need to talk to the finance committee and maybe it will make it through next time. If the finance committee feels the need for them to talk to the full board, we'll do it at that time. Becky disagreed because they have been waiting to speak until after the board members had spoken. Stated again, *A motion was made by Craig Corzine and seconded by Phil Schneider to table the issue back to the finance committee.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahan, (11) aye; Clark Pearce, Linda Curtin, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, (4) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards commented after the vote that all who voted no just turned down economic development in Christian County.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Phil Schneider to extend the Emergency Disaster Declaration to the date of the next county board meeting on September 15, 2020.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, (14) aye; Venise McWard, (1) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

DowntownTaylorville.org requested the use of the lawn on the west side of the courthouse on August 29 for vendor tents during a special event. *A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Tim Carlson to allow DowntownTaylorville.org to use of the lawn on the west side of the courthouse on August 29.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Animal Control's Dog Days is requesting the use of the courthouse lawn on September 12. *A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Phil Schneider to allow Animal Control to use the courthouse lawn on September 12.*

#### **Discussion:**

Phil Schneider said that Vince Harris did talk with him about the event and Vince was available remotely to describe the event. Vince said it would be 9am-1pm and several vendors were committed to be there. This year's theme is Scooby-Doo.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### **MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:**

*A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of August 2020.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan,

Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u># of Meetings This Month</u>
Molly Alaria	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Timothy Carlson	\$200.00	\$25.00	5
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	0
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	7
Vicki McMahan	\$200.00	\$50.00	6
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	5
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	5
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Brian Wilbur	\$100.00	\$25.00	3

**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:**

*A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Dale Livingston to appoint Kathy Fergin to fill the remainder of the term due to the resignation of Margaretha Strawn from the Christian County Health Board. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.*

Kathy was present and said it was an honor to serve on the public health board and she was looking forward to it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, *a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Phil Schneider to adjourn until **Tuesday, September 15, 2020** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.