

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 ON **JANUARY 18, 2022**
ATTEST: JACQUE WILLISON, 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 Wells called the board to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call by County Clerk Jacque Willison showing all members present. A quorum was had to hold the meeting.

Chairman Wells gave a general reminder about masks. Sheriff has stated that masks must be worn in the building to and from offices. Please do not put the deputies in a position that they have to tell somebody they have to wear their masks. The Sheriff is in charge of the building, please where your masks in and out.

APPROVE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Wells asked for any corrections or additions and to accept the December 21, 2021 County Board minutes to approve as printed. *Dale Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Bev Graham.* After no discussion or improvements, Chairman Wells asked for roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; the motion carried.

Chairman Wells asked for approval of the minutes from the Public Hearing on December 21, 2021. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Dale Livingston.* After no discussion or improvements, Chairman Wells asked for roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Wells called for public comments - is there anyone from the public who wishes to address the board? This is not a question and answer session. Any one from the public wish to speak?

There were no public comments.

Chairman Wells stated he has asked some people to come in her today, it's on the agenda backwards but I asked Chad Coady to explain because some board members asked me about taxes and money from the solar farms and solar panels and I don't want to make Chad wait here for an hour and a half so if no one has any objections.

Chad stated that he has 5 solar projects that are up and coming. The state assesses the solar farms. They have a market value of \$218,000 per megawatt and we apply a trending factor and do a lot of math and it comes out to be about \$82,000 per megawatt of taxable value. Depending on what taxing district it's in and the tax rate, those examples that I have there show the first year's taxes what the county will get. It's not new revenue just what will offset the tax dollars for people in that taxing district. The new revenue that the county will get will be just from the first time value of levying above and beyond our CPI. So those dollar amounts are not new money the county will see. It's just the amount of tax dollars those solar farms will be paying. The solar farms depreciate out at a rate of 4% per year but the trending factor is applied to that so right now 2022 the trending factor is 13%. Even though it depreciates 4% it's appreciating for the year 2022 13% because solar farms are popping up everywhere and the value of them is going up. The max depreciation is 70% so the last column shows the maximum depreciation the revenue should go no lower than that other than changes in the tax rate, could be higher or lower just based on the rates. It's a ball park based on today's tax rate.

Bev Graham asked if there was an application for building permits to do these solar farms.

Chad stated there were two different kinds; Commercial and home use. Anything below 1 megawatt.

Bev Graham asked how much they were.

Chad stated he did not know and Chairman Wells stated that was a Zoning question and that she would get an answer later in this meeting.

Gene Price – we talked about new tax revenue but not county's portion. For example the first year, the 3.8 million that includes revenue of the county, schools

Chad responded stating yes, if you take the Black Diamond Solar Farm for example, for the first year it says \$1.8 million and that is all in South Fork Township so they would benefit the most from that. The tax rate will likely go down because of that influx of assessed value. So the county will not get that. It's not additional money the county will get that is just to offset what the taxpayers are already paying.

Dale Livingston asked what additional money will the county receive.

Chad responded – well they get all the permitting fees. The first time value, they can levy above and beyond the CPI which I believe the CPI is around 1.8%. The first time value the county can levy 5%, the first year value and then after that it is gone.

Dale Livingston stated that is what the board is interested in, is what portion the county will receive.

Chad stated it's a very small portion. It would be something like 2-3% of that \$1.8 million. But then once it gets processed and tax rolls - it translates into reduced taxes for everyone else in those districts. Christian County is different than other counties because we are a PTELL county. We don't get to keep that revenue towards the county. It gets rolled into - applied to everyone.

Bryan Sharp asked at the end of the day is there a net gain to the county. I mean new dollars into our treasury from these projects.

Chad Cody said there is but the calculation I can't determine that because it is based on the current CPI. We won't know until it is actually built because the CPI changes every year. Depending on how much those levying bodies increase their levy by, the county gets, like I said all the levying bodies get first time value, the first year they can levy beyond the CPI. We would have to levy for additional dollars.

Dale Livingston asked so out of the \$1.8 million we are going to get like \$30-\$40 thousand dollars for the county and that is it.

Chad stated roughly and Bryan Sharp said that is a onetime deal?

Chad said yes one time but after looking at this and crunching some numbers for South Fork Township, the tax rate could drop up to 30% so that could be a 30% decrease for everyone in the taxing district of the solar farms. You could see a huge drop in the tax rate but with the closure of the power plant it just might offset a little. If the power plant closes and we didn't have the solar farms the tax rate will shoot way up to compensate for the levy being redistributed. The tax burden of the power plant would be redistributed to everyone else.

Mike Specha - I'm sorry Chad I am just going to make you go over the numbers again. I realize it is complicated, but if it's complicated for you, its way complicated for me. So if we are dealing with \$3.8 million and you through out a 2 to 5 percent net gain - just as a rough scientific wild ass guess. So 2% is \$80,000

Chad stated that not all these solar farms are set in stone.

Mike Specha stated he understood and so in the 10th year it's not 2% of that number anymore.

Chad stated that is for the first year only.

Mike - what does the \$2,300,000 mean then? The 10th year number in total.

Chad - that is the amount that has depreciated over the 10 year period. It gets a 4% depreciation for the amount of taxes of the assessed value from the solar farm. So it gradually slides back down.

Mike - so is the county's only gain in terms of tax dollars is the first year.

Chad - Correct. One thing I did calculate out is all these solar farms come up to I believe about 5000 acres of farm land. It is no longer being taxed as farm land. That's gone but it's only about 1 percent of what the solar farm value is.

Dale Livingston - so the land is still taxable right?

Chad – it's not taxable. The land is built into the assessment. The total assessment of \$218,000 per megawatt, that includes all the land all the panels, everything.

Gene Price –I was just going to say what he was getting at - It's just a one time.

Dale Livingston – so are we losing tax money by putting up the solar farms.

Chad - No. Because it far offsets the valuation of the farmland assessment. Farmland is at the very max assessed at about \$680 per acre. It's at the highest soil type if it was all crop land whereas this 5000 acres of solar farm would be \$4,000,000 worth of farm land. Just a few hundred thousand in taxes.

Ken Franklin – so you are talking about the solar panels that are taxed on their evaluation, so much a percentage where the farm land is an income component.

Chad –yes the state does the farm land on a 5 year average and it's based on the agricultural economic value and they are still trying to bridge the gap. They have a figure set and they are still below that. They are gradually trying to get up to it but without raising the high soil types too much and they are trying to bring the lower soil types up and bridge the gaps between the high and the low because they have been so far apart for decades.

Ken Franklin – so with the solar panels not taking any income into that, it's strictly the value -

Chad – It does take the value, the CPI and the trending factor factors in what the evaluation of the solar farms are. Like I said last year it was 4% increase and this year 2022 it is 13% so the price or evaluation of the solar farms have already increased. They have a number they started with I think in 2018 and every year they are applying a trending factor to bridge the gap to what the true value is and then you also get a 4% depreciation for the solar farms that have been around for a while.

Brian –you hear the scuttle butt is this is a windfall for the schools. Is this a windfall for the schools?

Chad – Well they get the same first time value. They get to levy that increase one time value. That's it.

Chairman Wells – I don't know anything about taxes but the South fork school board president told me when these two projects came there, he and the superintendent believed it would be \$5,000,000 for the school district.

Chad – so yeah, that's \$5,000,000 that the solar farm company will be paying instead of the citizens. So it's an offset. So it would be savings for everyone else.

Ray Koonce - so the bottom line is biggest take away from this is the people living in those tax districts are the ones to benefit the most from it.

Chad – it's no different than if there were \$3,000,000 worth of new homes being built. If the levies don't go up the tax rate plummets but obviously if the levy goes up the same percentage as the

CPI, you increase the levy by 1.8% or whatever our CPI is. Every year that's the max you can increase the levy but for that first time value you can increase the levy to 5%.

Dale – farm ground doubles in two years because of something weird, does that have any effect on the value

Chad – no, they don't have the value of the farm land in there because it is not all farm land that solar farms are being put on. Some of it is just rural bottom ground. I guess it is still considered farm ground it's just not all crop land.

Chairman Wells thanked Chad for all his information

911 Board Director – Dan Bland

I am here on behalf of the 911 board, Shelby and Christian joint operations. We have been monitoring a concern over the last couple of years for those of us who have been on the board. These concerns have gradually increased where it is affecting everyone across the nation including us locally but it is about employee retention. Specifically speaking of our tele communicators, our 911 dispatchers, 911 in the Sheriff's office. Over the last 6 months we seen issues arise where we are just struggling to retain. So we as a board have been discussing at the last few meetings as some employee numbers have changed drastically and there are some options in the future that could change things further. We wanted to approach you as the board because the boards intertwine in a sense as to how things operate, funding, employees, expense, budgets and we understand that process. But we thought it would be good to approach and share with you our concerns. It's a public safety concern not a crisis at this moment. If you look at the time it takes to hire and train and establish a 911 tele communicator dispatcher you are talking 6 months or longer. We are seeing staff trained and rotating out, new opportunities, better wages, and better benefits. And what this is doing internally within is wearing thin as you all know how it affects your stronger, more experienced staff, workers. They are training, rotating out, covering overtime while they are still working. The entire picture has been affected by our ability to retain our dispatchers lately. So as we are seeing as a board and I am sure you as well there is tremendous funding out there pouring in from the government; state and federal and we are not the type to support throwing out temporary funds for a long problem that we are facing. But yet we are also needing to address this issue because it is going to affect both our counties, Christian and Shelby. With the retention the way it's going, it's not going to get better until we can figure out 1) why and 2) how are we going to address it and prevent it from happening.

So, to approach the board we wanted to inform you of our concerns. We would love to meet with some committees. Maybe that would be the best angle to go - to get more detail – we are familiar with our history of funding through the difficult times and the more blessed times and yet those can change based upon legislation and funding through surcharges. So we understand those concepts, but we do sense a serious problem that's approaching down the road if something is not addressed. It's going to affect us all and I know it's all about budget. I consider myself physically responsible, conservative. That's how I operate. I want to operate within my means. I don't know the solutions. We don't know the answers to the problems we are facing. There is funding available but for how long. We understand the cost of employees. We all want to operate within our budgets but yet if this lingers for 6 more months to another year and we keep losing employees, wearing down our strong experienced staff, where are we going to be in another year when that center within the city now operates and controls two counties. Law enforcement including and the software system that we are all connected to, so we as board members, Amy is here, Sheriff and

other board members. We just wanted to inform you where we stand. We would love to be on the committee where we can discuss in more detail what we are looking at. Some of us are not going to be here forever including myself. I am 45 years into my law enforcement career. This is a serious issue. There is comparables nearby, benefits are better. It's pulling people here and there, the economy is unpredictable but we still have to operate. We are public safety. So we as a board are sharing this with you. We hope we can meet soon with some committees and look forward to finding a solution together since it affects us all. We all operate together. That is why we are here.

Chairman Wells stated to the board and to the public, I have not yet signed or seen the contract with their employees. We have been waiting on a copy, I believe it came in today. We will discuss that later. If that contract gets signed, when the contract gets signed, I will be glad to put them on an agenda under the finance committee. But if there is an issue there and it doesn't get signed, this month then I will not put them on the February agenda. If we get the contract signed and everything is fine, then I am more than happy to have you on that agenda. But until the contract is signed, I don't want to talk about it. We are close. I did get a copy of the contract today, and we will discuss it a little later and the board will tell me what they want done. If it gets signed this month I will have you on there, Venice's finance committee agenda in February. If it doesn't get signed until February, I will get you on it in March.

Betty Asmussen – ARPA Funds

She wanted to let everyone know that the US Treasury made a change on the interim final ruling pertaining to revenue loss. Previously revenue loss, some genius out in Washington, I don't know who, came up with the formula that you had to use to find out if you had revenue loss or not. And revenue loss under the American Rescue Plan Funds stated that if you had revenue loss you can transfer that money over and the restriction or the guidelines on how you had to spend that money was not as stringent on the other categories. So what had happened was the counties got together and complained because the majority of the counties weren't calculating revenue loss and it twerked a lot of the counties off. They got with their representative, they heard it, went back and so they made an adjustment pertained to revenue loss basically saying if your allotment, your total allotment was under \$10,000,000 you can claim that total allotment as revenue loss. Sweep it over, which we already have an account. The restrictions are not as heavily as when they were under certain categories. So the treasurer's association is having a conference call. They invited 102 counties. Bellwether is leading the conference call. I know several board members, I sent that email out. I can't have every board member sit in. But I would like for you to hear the changes that were made and how it is going to affect us as a county. The conference call is at 10:00 am. Again everyone can't come, we can't have a quorum and I would like to know who is coming.

Chairman Wells stated two from each committee would be allowed. Dale Livingston stated that he would not be there.

Betty stated this conference call was throughout the United States, not just Illinois. Cities, Villages that received the money. This is a huge game changer for anybody who had less than \$10,000,000 for total allotment.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Wells stated that you all know Joe Stepping is leaving next month. We interviewed eight or nine people. I have 3 or 4 candidates. I think all of you know, I contacted you. Tough choice. I had 3 good candidates. I had people pushing me every which way, but after speaking with all of you, I have come to the conclusion that Vince Harris is the man to be appointed to the position. So I am going to appoint Vince effective Monday. He will be assisting Joe at Solid Waste for the next month and when Joe retires then he will take over. That also means he will be giving up the day to day operations at Animal Control and Dwanna Kimmel will take that over.

All appointments by the chairman require the approval of the board. So I have made the appointment and I am going to ask for a motion to approve Vince Harris as the new Solid Waste Manager. *David Puccetti made a motion to approve the appointment with Dale Livingston seconded that motion.*

Chairman Wells called for discussion. Bev Graham asked if this could be done in closed session. Chairman Wells stated discussion? Bev Graham stated again if this could be done in closed session, voting and asking questions for you.

Chairman Wells stated that due to the OMA we could not do any voting in closed session because that violates the OMA. Questions, personnel issues if the majority want to go into closed session he believes we could do that. But that takes a motion and a second and the vote of 9 members.

After no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard (n), Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, (15) aye; (1) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

Drawing by lots for a two year and four year terms for the 2022 election

Chairman Wells stated he had reached out to both party chairmen, neither of which are here, to make sure this is done as fair and above board as possible. So what I have here is four bundles of envelopes. Venise if you would hand them to Jacque and set them right up here in front of the clerk. Then I would like to ask with the party chairmen not here, we have some elected officials here, could I get the Circuit Clerk and the Sheriff to come forward and help us. I don't want anybody to think there is any funny business, that I know anything at all. Chairman Wells asked Julie and the Sheriff to come forward please.

He asked Julie to grab one of the bundles of envelopes and take the rubber bank off of it, to mix them up and hand them off to the Sheriff. He then asked the Sheriff to put them in one of the containers that was borrowed from the Sheriff's office and to mix them up again. He asked Julie to grab the next bundle and do the same as the first.

Chairman Wells reiterated he wants to make sure everyone has the same chance and that no one knows what's what.

On each container there is an envelope on the bottom stating which district the container belongs to.

Liz took off the first envelope and it was District 1. County Clerk Jacque mixed them all up again. The drawing for each district was done by the most senior person first with results as follows:

District 1: Tim Carlson – 4 year term
Craig Corzine – 2 year term
Linda Curtin – 4 year term
Venise McWard – 2 year term

District 2: Vicki McMahon – 4 year term
Thomas Snyder, Jr. – 2 year term
Ken Franklin – 2 year term
David Puccetti – 4 year term

District 3: Ray Koonce – 4 year term
Bryan Sharp – 4 year term
Mike Specha – 2 year term
Bev Graham – 2 year term

Before anyone drew for District 4, Chairman Wells turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Craig Corzine. Vice Chairman Corzine called for Matt Wells to draw since he was the most senior person.

District 4: Matt Wells – 2 year term
Dale Livingston – 2 year term
Gene Price – 4 year term
Chuck Smedley – 4 year term

After the drawing the meeting was turned back over the Chairman Wells.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

Resolutions will be done in committee reports.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

JANUARY 2022 COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The January 2022 Prevailing Wage Report
2. The December 2021, Public Defender's Report
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on December 31, 2021,
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for December, 2021
5. IDOT – December 2021 Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for the County and the Road District Township report.
6. IEPA – Notification of Permit Application for Five Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility for January 2022
7. C.E.F.S – Christian County September PCOM report just receive on December 28, 2021

8. REO – Budget Report for December 2021
9. Grain Belt Express Transmission Project – Notification of Public Hearing meeting on Phase 1 of the project is February 8, 2022 from 10-12 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 186 US Highway 51 Pana, Illinois 62557

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE January 11, 2022

Present: Dale Livingston, Chuck Smedley, Bev Graham, Mike Specha
Absent: Thomas Snyder, Jr. (via phone)
Others present: Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Bill Kennedy, Vince Harris and Elizabeth Hile
in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Part of Parcel #12-10-34-100-001-00

There were no bids to open tonight. Because there was some confusion on whether bids would be received and opened tonight or at the January Board meeting, this will also be an agenda item on the January 18, 2022 Board meeting.

Bids will be done in new business.

Chairman Wells explained to the board that they asked for bids to be submitted to committee by deadline is what he thought happened. Betty was gracious enough to go on Face Book, Zoom, and Yelp, whatever you call that part of the computer. No bids were received in time for that committee. There is at least one bid here tonight but the committee did not open it because they didn't have it. We do have one bid.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Chairman Wells has been conducting interviews for the department head position and hopes to have a recommendation by Tuesday's Board meeting.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff Frye requested to purchase a new tractor to replace a 1999 CX90 utility tractor. Sloan Implement has a new 2021 6130M utility tractor in stock priced through Sourcewell, which Christian County is a member, at \$115,483.52.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Bev Graham to recommend to the full Board to purchase the JD 6130M from Sloan Implement at a cost of \$115,483.52. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Livingston made a motion for the highway department to buy a new tractor with a second by Mike Specha. With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

County Highway had a 2012 pickup truck totaled in December in a rear end collision. The insurance settlement is \$17,396. Looking for a fleet type truck to replace this pickup, Bob Ridings in Pana has a 2021 Ram Tradesman work truck on the lot. It is the last work truck they have left in stock that they were able to secure from Ram at fleet pricing. We can purchase this truck for \$29,993 with a net out of pocket of \$12,597. They will hold it for the County until next week.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Chuck Smedley to recommend to the full Board to purchase the 2021 Ram from Bob Ridings for \$29,993 with a net out of pocket cost, after receipt of the insurance settlement, of \$12,597. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Livingston made a motion to approve the purchase the 2021 Ram Truck with a second by Linda Curtin. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

A preliminary engineering agreement with Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. was presented for the design of a roadway realignment on 900N Road, East of Owaneco at the Assumption-Locust Township line. The design and construction of this project will be paid for with the Townships allotment of Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds. The agreement amount is up to \$39,863.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize the County Board Chairman to execute the preliminary engineering agreement. Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Livingston made a motion to execute the preliminary engineering agreement with a second by Vicki McMahon. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

Resolution R2022HY001 appropriating \$20,000.00 from the County Bridge Fund was presented to pay Christian County's share of the estimated costs to construct Pana Bridge #66 (Section 19-11115-00-BR).

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Bev Graham to recommend to the full Board adoption of Resolution R2022HY001. Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Livingston made a motion to R2022HY001 with a second by Bev Graham. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

Resolution R2022HY002 appropriating \$13,000.00 from the County Bridge Fund was presented to pay Christian County's share of the estimated costs to construct Pana Bridge #71 (Section 19-11116-00-BR).

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Chuck Smedley to recommend to the full Board adoption of Resolution R2022HY002. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Dale Livingston made a motion to adopt R2022HY002 with a second by Mike Specha. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

ANIMAL CONTROL/ZONING BUSINESS

Draft County Municipal Agreement for Animal Control

Chairman Wells advised that a couple of Mayors have asked for help with animal control. He took an agreement and modified it. The States Attorney has not yet reviewed this draft plan.

The committee discussed not having authority within the municipality and that police in the community would need to write any tickets.

Mike Specha made a motion to send the draft agreement to the States Attorney for review but withdrew the motion based on the motion from the December Board meeting which read as follows:

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor. Ray Koonce made a motion to send this to the state's attorney's office and then back to highway and animal control committee for review with a second by Thomas Snyder, Jr.

Chairman Wells stated that Mr. Poggenpohl has reviewed it and has sent a copy to us which should be in your packet. States Attorney seems to think we can use it if municipalities want to enter into an agreement with the county to provide them with animal control. I would think we could have a motion to pass that to send back to committee whatever your pleasure is here this evening.

Bev Graham made a motion to send the contract back to committee with a second by Mike Specha.

After no further discussion Chairman Wells called for roll. A roll call vote being called upon polled all ayes. Motion carried. We will put this on next month's agenda.

Vince Harris provided an update on the upcoming ZBA agenda and a variance request for a 72 solar panel. The County's limit is 50 panel.

Chairman Wells advised the committee that Chad Coady would be present at the Board meeting on January 18, 2022 to explain how solar panels are taxed.

Bev Graham inquired about bids for cat house. This issue will be on the full Board agenda next Tuesday.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING

Bill Kennedy noted a minor smoke event in the building on Monday caused by an overheated solenoid valve on the radiator in the board room vault. He also noted historical smoke incidents. Bill discussed some economical options for adding smoke alarms to the building and would like to purchase on his own a couple smoke alarms to see how they work.

He discussed an issue with some of the buildings controls being 24 volt and some 120 volt. He feels the 120 volt values should be replaced with 24 volts with the main reason being to ensure the control power to the WatchDog is 24 volt.

The Kentrol system on the first floor has been completed and is working with the exception of the men's restroom where there is a radiator leak. Bill anticipates that the 2nd floor will be operational soon as it is almost completed and work will be done on the 3rd floor over the holiday weekend.

Charles Samson will continue work on the previously approved floor leveling project this Saturday and on Saturday, January 22nd. The Clerk's office has to move things in order for them to be able to work each week.

Chairman Wells stated that Bill Kennedy contacted him regarding the ceiling repairs in the Clerk's office. He found what he calls to be a nest of wires. So we are trying to level the floor up and we are in there working and now there is a big ball of wire. Bill contacted me and I haven't had a chance to get back with him. Looks to me like we are going to have to spend some money to have an electrician come in and straighten that out before or after we get the floor leveled up and before we can put it back. I believe Mr. Samson will be held up from the information I got from Bill due to all the wires that are just hanging. I don't know but that is how Bill described it to me as a nest of wires. I think there is an issue there and I think we are going to have to spend some money there. I don't know how this board wants to proceed. I don't know if you want to make a motion to allow me to approve up to so much money. I guess with two or three bids without that by our rules I can have the authority to spend up to \$2000. After that we have to have 3 bids. Committee would have to approve the bids but if you don't give me permission to move on then I have to bring it back to committee and we will be held up for two weeks getting a floor leveled up that is a two weekend job. I don't know what the board wants to do, if somebody wants to make a motion to allow x amount of dollars to be spent on this. What's your pleasure board members? Chairman Wells stated that all he knows is Bill called it a nest.

The question was asked, "Do we have an estimate"? Chairman Wells stated he got this email this morning. He is working on it. His first question was who we have been using for electrical work.

Mike Specha stated – don't you already have the authority to spend up to \$2000 without board approval.

Chairman Wells stated yes that is correct. I don't know – quite honestly Mike I am not an electrician and I don't know if you can fix a nest of wires for \$2000.

Mike Specha stated his suggestion would be within that \$2000 limit to get an electrician in here. By the time we are done it would be fixed or we will have a mess.

Chairman Wells stated he understands exactly what is being said but wants the board to understand this – if he comes in here and has spent \$2000, I believe I have to stop him and the project is put on hold until I can get approval from the board to spend more money. Now if that is what the majority of you want me to do, I assure you that's not what Jacque wants to do because the mess is in her office because this is all going on in the ceiling above her. I have said from day one, I have one vote on this board, one out of the 16. So, if you don't want to tell me that I can spend 5 or \$10,000 whatever it takes to get this fixed I will stop them at \$2000.

Venise McWard made a motion to spend no more than \$5000 with a second by Mike Specha. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahan, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

Cost Related to Work to Level the Floor

Bill Kennedy secured some estimates from Two Brothers Tuck Pointing. The first cost estimate for \$2160.00 is to fill voids above the new and existing steel under the ROE office and the south bay of the County Clerk's records room where the floor was reinforced prior to moving the rolling file system in that room. The second cost estimate of \$4819.00 is to point up the approximate top 2' of the brickwork around the perimeter of the building. Bill advised that we need to do both to follow the reinforcing of the floors, etc. and in being consistent with the work reviewed by Hurst and Rosche.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to refer the cost estimates provided to the Finance Committee. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

None

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Chuck Smedley to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Dale Livingston

Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning
Welfare Chairman

01/11/2022

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE

January 10, 2022

Present: Craig Corzine, Chairman, Ray Koonce, David Puccetti, Gene Price,
Bryan Sharp
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Vince Harris, Jeff Stoner and Elizabeth Hile
in attendance.

The Executive, Personnel, and Liquor Committee met on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in County Board meeting room, second floor of the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address any agenda items, any personnel issues, policies, and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SIMEC ENERGY

Reg Ankrom, President of Simec Energy advised that Christian County is 1 of 55 counties that he has represented through the Municipal Electric Aggregation Program. Christian County has participated in this program since 2012. He researches electric prices in the market in order to give rural home owners choices for electricity. Ameren currently has the lowest price and he is unable to offer a lower cost option at this time. That could change in June of this year. Options are the County can pause the program for a year or he can continue as the County's broker and watch the markets for lower pricing options. There is no cost to the County if they continue the consulting services offered by Simec Energy.

A motion was made by Craig Corzine and seconded by David Puccetti to recommend to the full Board to allow Chairman Wells to sign the consulting agreement with Simec Energy. Four (4) members were in favor and one (1) member abstained.

Craig Corzine made a motion to allow Chairman to resign the contract with SIMEC with a second by Gene Price.

Ray Koonce asked Vice Chairman Corzine if this was the one he sustains on and Corzine stated yes it is. Ray Koonce stated the reason for him sustaining is because that company represents a third party energy company that he is involved in.

After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll. A roll call vote being called upon polled all eyes.

EMA UPDATE

- EMA Director, Jeff Stoner advised that the Fire Departments/Districts and ambulance services that received ARPA fund checks were very pleased. Jeff would like the Committee to reconsider providing funds to Dunn's Ambulance. He understands they are in business to make money but they did have a significant increase in calls from the previous year.
- Highlighted the smoke event in the vault off the board room.
- Updated the committee on status of the new vehicle and outfitting the vehicle with SCBA breathing apparatus in the event of a natural disaster.

OSHA COVID 19 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD (ETS) POLICY

Chairman Wells discussed the draft OSHA ETS policy mandate for employers with 100+ employees. The deadline to have a policy in place is January 10, 2022. This policy requires employees to provide COVID vaccination record documentation or test every seven (7) days for those not willing to provide vaccination record documentation or for unvaccinated employees. There is an approximate \$14,000 fine per incident per day for failure to comply. This draft policy was presented at a department head meeting today with the States Attorney indicating this is law until it's not law and is within compliance of the OSHA standard.

A motion was made by Craig Corzine and seconded by Ray Koonce to pass the matter of OSHA COVID 19 ETS Policy on to the full Board. All members were in favor with Ray Koonce noting he strongly opposes this as it's his opinion it's a violation of civil rights but felt it should move on to the Board.

Chairman Wells stated that since that time basically the Supreme Court has struck down the federal mandate and the state of Illinois has pulled their rules and regulations off of their computer. What was going on it was a 13 6 fine for every day every incident and we did the math, Liz and I did, and if 10 board members didn't comply with this all for a solid year of this it would cost the county \$4,000,000. However, with all this going on, I emailed Mr. Poggenpohl and his opinion is all we can do with this being pulled off is to ask people to volunteer this information. I personally don't feel whether or not someone's been vaccinated for COVID is any of my business and so what I am going to ask of the board to allow me to do is simply to monitor this. I can tell you we had a department head meeting where we discussed this. I contacted the unions today and told them this would be discussed tonight but Mr. Poggenpohl's advice to us right now is if we want to ask for volunteer information we can but until he can as our legal advisor tells us we need to proceed with this I think we need to let sleeping dogs lie.

SPECIAL USE LIQUOR LICENSE

Chairman Wells advised that States Attorney Poggenpohl has reviewed the draft changes to the Special Use Liquor License and does not believe we can enforce "serve for profit" under "caterer".

Motion by Ray Koonce and seconded by Gene Price to recommend to the full Board to strike “serve for profit” and accept other policy changes. All members were in favor.

Craig Corzine made a motion amend the Liquor License Resolution with a second by Ray Koonce. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

COUNTY BOARD RULES AS OF MARCH 2021 VERSUS NON-BARGAINING STARTING SALARY POLICY AS OF DECEMBER 2021

Last month the Board approved changes to the Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy which included striking the last paragraph which was reference to reducing an elected official salary, which the Board establishes, when a current office holder does not run. Chairman Wells indicated that perhaps that paragraph wasn’t intended for that policy but Chairman Wells wanted the Committee to be aware that reducing of an elected official’s salary, in these situations, to 90% of the current salary had already been made in the County Board Rules and approved in March of 2021.

ORDINANCE REGULATING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

Vince Harris advised there currently isn’t any carbon capture and storage ordinances in the United States. He used the current Wechs Ordinance to make some draft modifications for carbon capture and storage. There is still work to be done to this draft ordinance.

Chairman Wells discussed lessons learned when the wind farm issue came before the Board and the process to submit things to the ZBA and when fees are involved. Multiple ordinances can be presented to the ZBA but in the end, the ZBA will make a recommendation.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION FEES PROPOSALS

Two (2) fee schedules that were very similar were presented for discussion.

A motion was made by Bryan Sharp and seconded by Gene Price to recommend to the full Board to send the typed carbon sequestration fee schedule to the ZBA. All members were in favor.

Craig Corzine made a to send the typed carbon sequestration fee schedule to the ZBA with a second by David Puccetti. Dale Livingston asked for a copy of the schedule and it was in their packets.

Venise McWard stated this was very good, it was a great start. After listening to what the County gets for the solar situation I’m not so sure it shouldn’t be higher.

Mr. Harris – You had asked me a question at the meeting last Monday, I didn't have the answer because I didn't know. Dale and I took a trip up to Decatur to look at the facility they have working in Decatur. On our way up there we got to talking with Monty and Tenaska and he thought there was some kind of taxes on that so we called the assessor's office and spoke with Chad and Chad said there were no taxes on this what so ever. When I brought that forth to your committee that would be to govern of special use and I think this should be to govern on the fee schedule on page 116 of the fee schedule of the actual code book. That's my recommendation.

Chairman Wells stated so your saying instead of sending this to the ZBA, it should be sent to the ZBA as part of the code book.

Vince Harris stated when you make such recommendations Mr. Chairman you have to have where it's going where you think this fits into the code.

Chairman asked what we voted, the committee vote to send to this board – this fee schedule.

Craig Corzine stated we voted to send our recommendation was to send the fee schedule to the ZBA.

Chairman Wells stated that is the motion that is on the floor now. It needs to be withdrawn to put it into the code book – to ask the ZBA to put it into the code book and a new motion made or we are going forward with this and do that just not going into the code book. Chairman Wells stated to Craig that he made the motion and if you want to withdraw that motion – Craig Corzine stated that he likes the motion. I think like we got into before and we discussed in committee, there is a lot of time wasted on the WEX thing, in this room, in committee. Before it went to ZBA and for us later to find out everything is supposed to go to the ZBA. I am in full favor of staying-sticking with this motion and letting ZBA review it and if the fees want to be discussed then I am all for that.

Chairman Wells – what I am saying to you Craig is, the motion you have made is to send this to the ZBA to approve it but the way you have made the motion it won't go into the code book. So if you want to withdraw that motion and make one to put it into the code book – same fees schedule – put this in the code book.

Craig Corzine – ok so can the ZBA change that fee schedule? Can they amend it?

Chairman Wells – they can make any recommendation they want to.

Craig Corzine – said he was okay with retracting.

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to ask the ZBA to review it and put the fee schedule on page 116 of the code book.

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Bryan Sharp. Gene Price asked – what we are saying is they adapt this and then it will be implemented on page 116. They can change how they want. Don't they have to bring it back to this board?

Chairman Wells stated that all they do is make recommendations. They have the hearings and make recommendations to you to this board.

Gene Price asked if we don't approve their recommendations can we send it back to them.

Chairman Wells stated we can do anything we want to. We just can't – Gene Price stated then at that time we can put it on page 116.

Vince Harris – stated the proper procedure is you need to tell him in writing what it needs to do and I will take it back to the ZBA and we would work around. So yea, I think that is the right course of action.

Chairman Wells stated he thinks there is more teeth to what we want to do if it is in the code book.

After no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston (n), Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, (15) aye; (1) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

ILLINOIS TRUST PROXY VOTE

Chairman Wells presented information on a request to sign a proxy vote for Illinois Trust.

A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Gene Price to recommend to the full Board to allow Chairman Wells to sign the Illinois Trust Proxy Vote. All members were in favor.

Craig Corzine made a motion to allow Chairman Wells to sign the Illinois Trust Proxy Vote with a second by Ray Koonce.

Chairman Wells explained Illinois Trust few years back we were in a group of 9 counties then it dropped down to 6 counties where we were self-insuring. They have people who run this organization and we get to vote on who gets to run the organization. Now they have recommendations but you guys need to be aware I am going to sign the proxy vote and let them elect who they want. They have been handling it for years. But I want this board to be aware of that. It doesn't cost us any money. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled all ayes.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Wells advised that Chad Coady would be at Tuesday night's Board meeting to provide information on how solar panels are taxed.

Bryan Sharp would like to receive information sooner when projects are looking at the County. He also inquired as to the status of the 2nd Amendment Proposal that was moved on to the States Attorney. Chairman Wells advised that since States Attorney Poggenpohl was recently appointed that he may not be aware that was awaiting review.

Motion by Ray Koonce and seconded by David Puccetti to adjourn. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Corzine, Chairman
Executive/Personnel Committee
01/10/2022

Chairman Wells stated to Mr. Poggenpohl before he brought Venise up for the Audit Finance Committee report, he meant to ask or text Mr. Poggenpohl today, by next month's meeting can you have a recommendation to us whether or not you can handle it or the name of some company. Mr. Havera gave us a company that had Mr. Jacoby who dealt with the zoning legal issues. He left that company. As long as he was at that company, Vince had a contact to get legal advice on this zoning which we think it's going to continuously come at us and so if you could by next month I would like your opinion on – should we go here or there. Do you feel you want to handle it? You are the attorney were not.

Mr. Poggenpohl – so you want advice about zoning issues – Chairman Wells stated where we should go for that. Whether it's with you or you know of someone we could contact. We would like your recommendation on that please.

Dale Livingston stated that if he remembers right didn't Mike go to the state to get them name?

Chairman Wells stated he didn't know where Mr. Havera went but I know this, he is the lawyer so we will let him deal with that. We will get the advice from them. I will let the Sheriff arrest people, I will run the board meetings.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 12, 2022

Present: Venise McWard, Chairman, Ken Franklin, Linda Curtin,
Vicki McMahan
Absent: Tim Carlson
Others present: Matt Wells, Betty Asmussen, Bryan Sharp and Elizabeth Hile.

The Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee met on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Linda Curtin to approve the claims presented for January. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Venise made a motion to approve the January claims with a second by Tim Carlson. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahan, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ARPA FUNDING/ORDINANCE(S)

Coroner Request

Chairman Wells advised that Coroner Winans has a request in for \$15,000 in ARPA funds. He would like to see that our Coroner has ARPA funds available to get PPE and equipment for COVID mitigation.

A motion was made by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahan to recommend to the full Board to approve the ordinance for \$15,000 of ARPA funds for the County Coroner. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Venise made a motion to approve O2022CB001 ARPA for Coroner second by Dale Livingston. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahan, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

Chairman Wells advised that a request for the Circuit Clerk will be presented on the January 18, 2022 Board agenda.

Treasurer Asmussen advised the committee of US Treasury changes to calculating revenue loss for ARPA funds less than \$10M. Included in the changes are loosening of restrictions for fund use. As of result of these changes, Bellwether will be holding a conference call with all County Treasurer's in Betty's association next Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Betty sent out an email to all Board members advising them of this call and hopes a few Board members can attend. We will need to be aware of quorum rules.

Chairman Wells asked the time period that ARPA funds would need to be spent and if that time period started when the County received the funds. Betty advised that she believed it was four years from receipt of the last trench but she would look into this and provide an update on Tuesday.

As Treasurer, Betty provided her opinion on spending the 1st ARPA fund trench as the Board had already approved. Commented that she would like to see employees receive a onetime flat amount compensation/bonus.

Ken Franklin noted he felt the original process to make spending decisions regarding ARPA funds was done with some haste and now with more leeway would like to look at this again. He also discussed issues raised at a recent 911 Board meeting as well as provided a summary of hourly rates, sign on bonuses, etc. that is making it difficult to bring on and/or retain staff.

Salary Reimbursement(s)

Because of the new US Treasury changes, Betty advised that she has halted work on salary reimbursements so no action will be needed or table these agenda items.

SURVEY RECORDS

Chairman Wells has made efforts to reach the Delay family and has no new information. The family still has the records as far as we know.

Chairman Wells stated that since the meeting he has been in touch with Mr. Delay and he told me he thinks they are getting very close and perhaps his brother will be ready to discuss turning loose of all those records the next month or two. My concern is somehow if we end up with them are they Foible. They definitely need to stay in this county if we can make that happen.

Dale Livingston asked if that was a question that need to be asked and Chairman Wells stated no not on record.

REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Highway/Building/Grounds referred the matter of costs related to floor work in the basement on to the committee. Bill Kennedy secured some estimates from Two Brothers Tuck Pointing. The first cost estimate for \$2160.00 is to fill voids above the new and existing steel under the ROE office and the south bay of the County Clerk's records room where the floor was reinforced prior to moving the rolling file system in that room. The second cost estimate of \$4819.00 is to point up the approximate top 2' of the brickwork around the perimeter of the building.

Motion by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahon to recommend to the full Board to approve the cost estimate provided by Two Brothers Tuck Pointing for \$2160.00 to fill voids above the new and existing steel under the ROE office and the south bay of the Clerk's records room and \$4819.00 to point up approximately 2' of the brickwork around the perimeter of the courthouse with the funds coming from capital improvements. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Venise made a motion to approve \$6,979 from capital improvements with a second by Dale Livingston. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

OTHER MATTERS

Bryan Sharp presented information regarding carbon sequestration project fees that was discussed at the Executive/Personnel Committee on Monday evening. Referring this matter on to the ZBA will be presented to the Board on Tuesday night.

Ken Franklin asked if we had any information on Build Back America.

Treasurer Asmussen advised that work she did to assist with the IEMA/FEMA grant(s) from last year have been completed and Jeff Stoner, EMA Director will be doing these grants from this point forward.

Treasurer Asmussen would like the matter of elected official salaries on the February agenda.

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Venise McWard
Finance/Audit/Purchasing/Budget Committee Chairwoman
01/12/2022

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS/OTHER

- Bid Opening – Parcel #12-10-34-100-001-00 4.96 acres in Moweaqua
Chairman Wells stated this is a parcel in Moweaqua that we had no bids on last month.
First bid: Jim Cleveland of Decatur - \$1,115
Second bid: Bryan Maakes of Edmen- \$5,101
We have two bids, I think we should take the higher one. Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor. *Dale Livingston made a motion to accept the \$5101 with a second by Thomas Snyder, Jr.* With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahan, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

- Tax Rates on solar farms – Chad Coady: he spoke earlier in the meeting
- 2nd Amendment Proposal – Mr. Poggenpohl. You have a copy of it. Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to approve the 2nd Amendment Resolution. *Bryan Sharp made a motion with a second by Ray Koonce to approve the proposal.* Chairman Wells asked Mr. Poggenpohl to speak regarding the proposal. He stated basically everyone knows these are pretty common around here. Basically loss of rears. My position on it is that they are a symbolic gesture to legislature, state legislature and federal government that it is our position, the county board's position, on how we take laws in the future should go not having further restrictions. That being said whenever I say symbolic in nature – just symbolic. Not enforceable. The example I sent to Chairman Wells, the gun shop in town, the state puts in new requirement on background checks. That might be considered further restrictions according to this ordinance or additional tax. If they don't follow the law and what is required of them they can't say well this says I don't have to. They are probably going to lose their license to sell guns from the federal government or whomever they get their license from. It doesn't prevent that from being forced but it does state on the position on how we think things should go in the future. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll. A roll call vote being called upon polled all ayes. Motion carried.
- ARPA Request – Circuit Clerk – this is different. Here is why this came to the full board. Last year and I know Ken says it may have been a little hasty, but last year we had an outline to send to Bellwether because at that time we knew nothing about this money. Betty was telling us we need to send them how we want to spend the money – for them to give us guidance. That is what we are paying Bellwether for. What Julie asked for was not included in that first trench. While Betty is telling us she thinks it's more wide open and I believe Julie will tell you how this is COVID related. I think it will qualify but it was never discussed with this board and that is why it is here with the full board tonight. If you have a copy of the request in your packet, you will see that part of it is crossed off. And what happened there was, Julie, I believe had talked with former State's Attorney Havera or she put the plan in and State's Attorney Poggenpohl feels he does not want that equipment. That is why that got crossed off. Her request is reduced. But I believe what she is asking for and I think Julie can explain it better than I can they are giving the public the ability to pay tickets without having to come into the courthouse. Chairman Wells asked if this is

what this is about and Julie stated no that we already have the ability for the public to pay online.

Julie stated this is an E citation program. So this is how law enforcement gets their tickets to us. It's a paperless aspect of doing that. So the state police has this program now and the law enforcement. A vendor approached me and I sent information to all law enforcement offices in the county. All the municipalities. The three main ones that responded were Pana, Sheriff's Office, and the Taylorville Department. So this bid is only for them. What this does is a one-time purchase of all the equipment to electronically start writing tickets for law enforcement and then forwarding them to my office. There are lots of reasons why this is beneficial mostly to law enforcement officers. It cuts down personnel time that they are on the road, the side of the road to write the tickets. Less contact the people. They are all computerized. Its a little hand held gadget they put all the information in. The good thing for us is we don't have to read their handwriting on the tickets anymore. Other than that it is a really good program. Like I said the purchase price of it, this cost was only good until the end of the year. At the time that was the best we could get. I have emailed him and he said he would honor this discount until February 28, 2022. If we could get approval and get a contract signed we would go with that pricing. After that, beginning March 1 he might be able to give us a discount at 5% which the discount right now is 15%. So this would equip Pana Police Department, Taylorville Police Department and the Sheriff's office their squad cars with all this equipment to do this.

Chairman Wells stated that he doesn't know what the board wants to do if someone wants to make a motion to send this to the finance committee me. Let me explain to you after Wes got appointed, Julie had this. I contacted Wes's office or had Liz contact your offices because I wanted to know that Wes wanted this also and that is why I brought it to the board that's why it was not on the finance committee's agenda. By the time we got a response from them their agenda was already set.

So my question is, do we want to approve this tonight or does someone want to make a motion to send this to the finance committee. *Ray Koonce made a motion to forward it to the finance committee with a second by Craig Corzine.*

Betty stated for reporting purposes it is probably the best practice and protocol that we make sure we have ordinances that are passed so when that portal is up and running in April I can send the ordinances up to report to the US Treasury. I would prefer these be in the form of an ordinance. Just thought I would let you guys know. That's my preference on reporting.

Chairman Wells stated he wanted the full board to hear this. That this board is going to do what they want to do. Yes, I do understand that if they wanted to deal with it tonight I would be looking for some type of ordinance somehow but that's not an issue I don't believe.

Bryan Sharp – reading through this there is ongoing cost associated with this. Do we have any estimates as to what the ongoing annual costs will be?

Julie – Yes the annual maintenance would be around \$14,000. However, we would have to deal with that between ourselves. We all have E-citation money that we have been collecting for a while for a fund for E-citation to purchase it. As you can see, it is a very

large purchase price and none of us have that much money. We talked about this several months ago and I just talked to the Sheriff and Jim again tonight real quick to make sure they did still want this and everything. We have other money that will – I understand this will be a one-time purchase. The yearly maintenance after that will have to come out of either my E-citation fund in addition to their E-citation fund or an automation fund but that would be totally separate and taken care off.

Gene Price – Why didn't the state's attorney want it?

Julie – this is totally different program. It doesn't have anything to do with E-citation. It was a program that would interface with our case management system with him. Right now, he is just opting to not do it right now. It was totally different from E-citation. It was two separate things.

Craig Corzine – it sounds wonderful. I guess I am wondering why all the rest of the agencies in the county are not jumping on board also #1, #2 is that maintenance of \$14,000 regardless is that \$14,000 if Edinburg, Stonington and all the rest of them decide to jump on board later, does that fee go up?

Julie – it's per license. Each car would get a license so it's per license. So it would go up. We would have to figure out how to join them up later. Some of them just didn't respond.

Craig Corzine – Is that availability there to join up later?

Julie – oh yes. Money would be an issue.

Chairman Wells stated the best example he could give why the rest of them didn't join up when all this ARPA money started coming around, Betty and I invited all the Mayors of every community in this county to a meeting so that Betty who has been to all these meetings, could explain to them what they had to do to get their money - half of them didn't show up. All we can do is invite. I asked the same questions, but that happens a lot. You know, you put this out there, you ask all the communities to be involved and several never do.

Julie – obviously the three agencies that responded are the largest ones. The rest of them, it's per squad car so it wouldn't be anything near like this is.

Craig – could you ask him before the finance committee meets on this to see what it would cost if another community would join if they had one squad car or two cars. So with that information, if they wanted to join before we pass all this they can. It seems like to me they would all want to join in.

Julie – I approached all of them by email correspondence and then I sent out another one to all of them telling them this vendor would be contacting them so they wouldn't think it was just some salesman and they didn't want to talk to them. We were all copied including this Cory Box, the vendor on it. Please, he is going to be calling you and this is why he is calling you. Just talk to him he just needs information about how much equipment you are going to need and stuff and those are the only three that responded. But I can personally contact the others too and see.

Gene Price – is that per car or per department?

Julie – there is 40 licenses. There is a license per car and this bid is for 40 licenses. I don't even know what it per licenses because it is partially for hardware, partially for software.

Gene Price -

Chief Baker – I didn't know when she through that out there, the difference in the benefit. It would be tied to the computer so the time spent with your head down filling out the paper work

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

- Engineer – HVAC System – I have asked Bill because it was included in the first trench. The air in the courthouse with the heppa filters. That was something this board approved to send to the consultants so whether or not it qualified and it does. Since that has happened it's been almost a year. I asked Bill to bring some engineers in and walked around the building the other day. There is an estimate here of \$500,000 plus 12% for the engineers to install central air in the courthouse with heppa filters. It is a lot of money. It's the type of thing this board has approved once but now we are talking about spending the money. To me, this looks like the type of thing I should get a motion to send to the finance committee. It wasn't on their agenda because I got this email I believe today. We are at a point now where I think the board needs to make a decision if we want to proceed this way putting central air in the building.

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to send this to the finance committee. *Dale Livingston made a motion with a second from Bryan Sharp.* Please read through this. It does say the \$500,000 for the air conditioning plus the 12% fee for the engineers.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

- Cat Room Bids – we tabled this last month because we didn't think they were apples to apples and asked that the bid from BRADCO be broke down and I believe you should all have the broken down bid from BRADCO in your packets. Still less than the other bid. Last motion we had was to table this and bring it back to the board with a broke down bid. Walls, ceilings, bottom plates, siding, fascia. I believe you can see the bid. Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to approve this bid. Several members stated there were no changes.

Chairman Wells stated he thought we got a new bid. You guys don't have the new bid. It is talking about poured 2' x 8' foundation with 5 bag mix. Chairman Wells asked Vince if he had a different bid then what we have here and Vince stated that he thought he emailed

that to Liz. It is on page 2. Liz handed out the proper bid from BRADCO. Chairman Wells once again called for a motion from the floor. Ray Koonce made a motion to send this back to the Highway Building and Grounds committee with a second by Chuck Smedley. Bev Graham stated everything on the bid was confusing. She asked if the gutters were on there. Other members stated it was. With no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll. A roll call vote being called upon polled (14) ayes and (2) nays to send this back to committee. Motion passed.

- Tradition Energy – Email from Tradition Energy. At the Personnel committee meeting, if you would look back at their agenda, SIMEC and Tradition Energy were on there. SIMEC showed up and explained to us they buy power in bulk. They explain how they do it and sell it to our residents cheaper. I believe from the email that we all got, Tradition Energy does the same thing. You have the email in your packets. I don't know why we aren't spending any money with them if they are coming in here and they are another company who is buying power and selling it at a reduced rate. I personally don't know why we wouldn't want the public to purchase it from them. They have to have our permission to come in to the county and do it.

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to approve this one also. *Venise McWard made a motion to sign contract and approve Tradition Energy to sell power in the county to the public and Ken Franklin seconded that motion.*

Craig Corzine asked if this was in conflict with our other.

Chairman Wells stated it was his understanding

Craig Corzine – I asked him the other night – I don't think – he kind of sidestepped. That makes SIMEC exclusive. Does that keep anybody else from coming in to the county?

Chairman Wells stated that he didn't think so. In 2021 both companies were selling power to residents in the county. However, the state's attorney is sitting here. We can send this to his office to get his opinion before we sign any contracts if that is what the majority of the board wants to do. Last thing I want to do is sign a contract and violate it by signing the other. But I also don't want to tell the people from Kincaid to Harvel you can buy the power cheaper and tell the people from Assumption to Pana you are paying because we are not helping them. That is my fault. So if the board will approve it a motion to do this before it gets signed, I will send it to Mr. Poggenpohl. Ray sustained from voting due to the same reasons as before. A roll call vote polled (15) ayes and (1) sustaining. Motion carried.

- Bond Release – RLE Pawnee Properties, LLC – I have an email from Joe Stepping and you have a copy of it in your packets. I have been asked by board members in the past what are they putting over around the lake and on the ground in Kincaid. Joe sent me an email basically explaining and I am not an engineer either. I am not an engineer, not the sheriff and not an attorney. But basically the acidity or the alkalinity is way too high on the ground by the coal mining and some of the water over there and so EPA was paying a company, like you I thought they were just bringing their trash down here to Christian County and just dumping it. The IEPA was actually paying them to come in here and dump material on that ground to reduce the levels of I believe alkalinity or acidity one or the

other. They are done with the project. It is my understanding in order to get the bid with the EPA, they had to put up a bond. What they are doing now is applying to get their bond back and EPA states that they have to send a letter to the county notifying us they are done and they are applying for their bond money. That is what this is about. I don't think we need to take any action, but I wanted this board to understand what was going on because I have been asked the question, what are they dumping over there. Actually EPA has them cleaning up the ground.

- Five Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility - There is a permit here to be signed. I can't say they are expanding because they have that big complex out there. I believe they are moving to another place to put trash in that requires some paper work. They have been in business here for years. I don't know why we would oppose it. Nothing to be signed.
- FOP Contract Unit 2 - We finally received the contract today. This is for the jailers and the dispatchers. Finally got the contract today. Liz has found some – Liz spoke and stated it was very minor, minor changes that we asked to be removed. Things we asked to be removed they agreed to. Chairman Wells then stated they left them in the contract they sent us. So I was advised to ask for the board's permission to sign the contract contingent on the changes being removed. Chairman Wells he was not signing a contract until this board tells him to do so. He called for a motion from the floor to sign the contract on contingent the corrections are made. *Ray Koonce made a motion to approve the contract with a second by Venise McWard.* With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahan, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

- BLH – Situation I went over to drop off a TV the other day and I had to show my driver's license. I understand I serve as the chairman of this board at your discretion. But my wallet was in my vehicle and I showed them our face book page with my picture on it and the kid told me it was \$40 or my driver's license. Now our contract says it's for residents of Christian County. This is how I personally feel about this folks. I know that in all the years that Judge Paisley has been upstairs, he has had to tell some people he is taking their driver's license. Maybe a hundred. I don't believe he ever told them they couldn't take TV's to BLH. I am not happy with this situation. Yes, I could go out to my vehicle and get my driver's license and I could show it to him. We have people who couldn't get a driver's license if they had to. We have people in our county who their families have gone into court and asked the court to take dad's driver's license from them. I don't think any of them said this means you can't take a TV to BLH. I am not happy. I have asked Cliff to haul all of this equipment out of here, no one asked those people hauling that equipment over there whether or not they had a driver's license to prove they live in Christian County but they asked me. My intention is to go to BLH and their supervisor and tell them they need to get something changed. People without a driver's license have to be able to drop off a TV or computer and if they don't then I will come back to the board and not have a contract. I am not happy at all.

- Hickory Point Project – Invenergy – it is the southern solar farm in the Kincaid area. They have discovered they may have some problems. Some of the people who work for them when this project first started and they were taking off land and didn't realize there was a coal mine there. Largest underground mine in the world and they have missed it. So what they are doing is exploring options with moving further south in our county. And the reason they explained to me was some of the land owners in that area also have ground south of there. Not saying they are going to do it but they asked to meet to explain what they are going through. That they are checking. They are going to do more test. Is the ground where they were originally going to set up will it hold up? Or will solar panels be destroyed with the ground shifting due to the coal mine. I will keep you informed. They are not making any decisions but I have done all I can to keep this board informed of everything I know that is going on.

Bryan Sharp asked if he could share a recent statement that was put out by the Christian county health department with the board. Its information that we may be able to discuss it further in committee.

Chairman Wells stated you can discuss it but I can't send it anywhere because it was not on the agenda.

Bryan Sharp stated he can't hand it out then and Chairman Wells stated I am not saying you can't had it out. I can't accept a motion to send it to committee because it is not on the agenda.

Bryan handed out a document.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – JANUARY 18, 2022

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u># of Meetings This Month</u>
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Craig Corzine	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Ken Franklin	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Bev Graham	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Vicki McMahan	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Gene Price	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
David Puccetti	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Bryan Sharp	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Chuck Smedley	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Thomas Snyder, Jr.	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Mike Specha	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Matt Wells	\$615.38		

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report *A motion was made by Vickie McMahan and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve the mileage and per diem report.* With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Thomas Snyder Jr., Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Venise McWard, Gene Price, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

With the statement Bryan handed out from the health board regarding COVID and the schools, Venise McWard stated she thinks the director of the health department should attend our monthly meetings to give us updates.

Chairman Wells stated that may be. Our department heads are required to attend our meetings but that department head works for the health board. While I do have the authority to appoint people to the health board with your approval, and while I am a non-voting member of the health board, I do not believe I have – this board has the authority to tell that board to make that person available to us month after month. Like we have the authority for example to tell Tim and Cliff we want them at meetings unless they are excused because they work directly for us. Now I am not saying if something came up, we couldn't send a request and ask the board to send him but Mr. Poggenpohl would have to answer that because he does not report to us directly.

Bryan asked if that director has been here since COVID started to address any of the issues going on health wise in the county. Chairman Wells stated he comes to department head meetings when requested.

Ray Koonce stated to elaborate he has gone over the state statute of health boards and this board here, the only authority we have over that board is we appoint, we can remove a board member and set their budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until February 15, 2022. *A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Gene Price to adjourn until the next meeting on February 15, 2022.*

With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; the motion carried.