

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE COURTHOUSE IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON **March 19, 2019**

*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;

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called the board to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Ken Manning of the Taylorville Christian Church gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Craig Corzine, Ray Koonce, and Vicki McMahon, this did signify a quorum and was declared.

**ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the February 19, 2019, County Board minutes. *It was moved by Dale Livingston and seconded by Venise McWard to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* The motion carried.

**PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS**

Any and all will be addressed at the committee report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A large group was in attendance to express concerns over the installation of wind turbines in Christian County. Speaking for the group, Jean Vanderburgh addressed the Board to discuss the potential health and other effects of wind turbines. Infrasound, electromagnetic interference, effects on animals, shadow-flickering, ice throws and blade failures. They also requested that the County amend the current Zoning Ordinance. They are requesting the setback requirements for the installation of a wind turbine include a minimum distance of ½ mile (2,640 ft.) between the turbine and the property line of a non-participating land owner. A set of 300+ petition signatures was provided to the Board. Chairwoman Edwards acknowledged the concerns expressed and indicated the Board would take all issues into consideration for future review and updating of the Zoning Ordinance. Board member Wells questioned whether the height of the tower and blades should also be considered for the setback measurement, as was approved in Boone County. Jim Vanderburgh also expressed his concerns and support of the increased setback requirement. Comments were also made by Board members DeClerck, McClure, Schneider, Michel and Hibbetts. Board member McClure also requested additional information from the property owners regarding their personal stories.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. The March Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection.
2. The February 2019, Public Defender's Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on February 28th, 2019, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and are available for inspection.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for February 2019 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection.
5. The February 2019, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated March 1, 2019, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. A check and a report were received from Cable One, Inc. for the 4th quarter, 2018, franchise fees for NewWave Communications. The check was in the amount of \$1,225.70 and was deposited with the Treasurer.
7. A letter dated March 1, 2019, was received from NewWave Communications notifying the County that negotiations to continue carriage of the MLB Network were not successful so it will be discontinued effective April 1, 2019.

8. The Christian County January PCOM report was received from the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. The letter and attached report have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and are available for inspection.
9. Ameren Illinois notified the County of upcoming vegetation management activities in the areas of Palmer, Morrisonville, and Harvel. A list of nearby property owners was provided.

#### **APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Mike McClure and was seconded by Tim Carlson to accept the communications as read.* 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.* The motion carried.

#### **HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**—No meeting in February

- **ANIMAL CONTROL/ZONING OFFICER DISCUSSES PERMITS ISSUED IN THE PAST YEAR AND PROGRESS AT THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY**  
Animal Control/Zoning Officer Vince Harris informed the Board of some of the numbers of permits issued in the county. Fourteen homes, with an estimated value of \$3.5 million dollars, were added for those improvements. Many pole barns, grain bins, garages, and three-sided sheds were also constructed. Ten permits were issued for home construction in Hewittville related to the tornado event from December 1, 2018.
- Work at the Animal Control facility has resulted in the re-homing of 121 dogs and 182 cats. The front part of the kennel was fenced off to create a secondary play area. A 16'x20' shed was installed and filled with dog and cat food, litter, and other supplies. Soon the lawn mower and other equipment will be stored there. A TV and DVD player was purchased for training seminars on the last Saturday of the each month. A tote system was added that includes two blankets, a bowl, food, and the necessary paperwork to complete for transport to the Animal Control facility.  
The volunteer-led Facebook page is very successful with 3,700 followers. It has been instrumental in assisting in the adoption of animals and the reuniting of lost animals with their families. The quickest reunion time to date is 11 minutes.  
Vince also talked about goals for the future. He wants to institute a trap-spay-neuter-release program for the feral cat population. This cat population is a serious issue throughout Christian County. Those cats would be captured, spayed-neutered, and then released back to where they were captured. The impact on the population will not be immediate but will help as time progresses. Vince provided an example of one cat under optimal breeding conditions could equal out to 22,000 cats in four years. He also wants to start a reduced spay and neuter clinic, to occur twice-a-year. The cost of this program would be 25% to the county and 75% to the owner.  
Vince also addressed the serious health issues with cats at the facility during Fall 2018 where six cats passed away. Dr. Sloan's opinion was too many cats were at the facility and the number should be reduced from 40 to about 24. Facility upgrades would include a receiving room, quarantine room, a room for the sick cats, and a room or rooms for the healthy cats. The healthy males and females would need to be kept separate.  
Funding sources include community donations and a new partnership with Friends of Christian County Animal Control, which is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit dedicated to all of the animals in Christian County. They have offered to assist with fundraising efforts for Animal Control. The Pet funds have been used for the spay-neuter program and shed.

Positive comments from Board members regarding the success of Animal Control were voiced.

**EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE** –March 12, 2019-Minutes read by Donna Hibbetts.

- **NEW COUNTY POLICIES**  
Personnel policies are always in need of updating and some due to changes in the law. Several sample policies were presented to the committee for comments and review. Reimbursements for travel, seminars etc. has been in place, but the use of cell phones has come to question and a policy will be developed if an employee is required to use their personal cell phone for business. Department heads will be asked to help develop these policies.
- **EXEMPT STATUS**  
In 2016, the Federal Government proposed to increase the minimum wage for exempt employees from \$23,600 to \$47,700. These employees are not eligible to receive overtime due to their job requirements in management positions. Recently, the topic has been revisited for comments. The new expected rate is \$35,308 for an annual wage. The County's mid-management starting wage is \$35,000.
- **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**  
Job descriptions need updating on a regular basis. The committee has requested the department heads to work on updating each employee's job description.
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
A motion was made by Donna Hibbetts and seconded by Ray Koonce to go into executive session for the purpose of collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees-5ILCS 120/2(c)(2). A roll call vote polled all ayes.  
  
A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to come out of executive session [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)] and go back into open session. A roll call vote polled all ayes. No action was taken.
- **OTHER COMMENTS**  
Matt Wells asked if the County had requirements for raffle license. The county does not issue raffle licenses.

*Last week the County received a letter from the Regional Passport Agency stating “after a thorough evaluation of the region, the Customer Service Office is deactivating facilities that no longer fill an essential need in the community. The Christian County Board accepted 65 applications in 2017 and 38 in 2018. The surrounding acceptance facilities in the area will be able to assist the population previously served by your facility. The Christian County Board will be deactivated from the Passport Application Acceptance Facility program effective April 15, 2019.*

**AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE**-March 14, 2019-Minutes read by Clark Pearce.

- **CLAIMS**  
*A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve claims for March. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, and Linda Curtin. (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; Craig Corzine, Ray Koonce, and Vicki McMahan absent. The motion carried.*
- **EMAIL PROPOSAL**  
County Clerk Michael Gianasi reported to committee that in order to get a price break for the 365 email and software products the stand alone cost per user annually was \$211.58. If we would use just the email service the cost would be annually \$76.70 per user. An alternate plan is \$71.89/user. He will continue to get the numbers for the licenses and report back next month.

- **IMRF NOTICE OF CHANGE INCREASE**

Treasurer Betty Asmussen reported on how the assumed rate of return reduction will affect the employer. Based on that sentence, IMRF the assumption of rate decrease will directly affect the employer contribution in 2020. In 2018 this county paid a rate of 11.23% for IMRF employees and 19.52% for SLEP employees. In 2019 the contribution rate for employers decreased to 8.75% for IMRF employees and 16.98% for SLEP employees. With the change on the assumed rate of return on IMRF investments, the employer contribution rates will increase slightly in 2020 and will range between 10.15% and 10.65%. Many counties have signed a letter for IMRF to reconsider the rate change from 7.25% to 7.5% for the investment portfolio. IMRF rates are always considered in the preparation of the levy.

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Tim Carlson to go into executive session for the purpose of collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees-5ILCS 120/2(c)(2). A roll call vote polled all ayes.

A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Tim Carlson to come out of executive session [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)] and go back into open session. A roll call vote polled all ayes.

Chairwoman Edwards provided the key elements of the agreement to the Board:

- The fair share section was deleted to the Janus decision.
- It was agreed to continue the court security MOU which allows part-time security guards.
- It added \$1/hour to those dispatchers when they train new personnel.
- Other assorted changes were made to holiday use for the deputies, vacation blocks of time clarification, that unit 1 equals one week as a block of time, and unit 2 equals a two-week period as a block of time (this is for scheduling purposes), amending the vacation award to be based upon the anniversary month of the employee.
- The FOP members have already been contributing 10% of the health insurance premiums and in the third year of the contract will also pay the first \$250 of the deductible.
- The term is for three years 2%-2.5%-3% on the base wage respective to each job classification.

*A motion was made by Chad Michel and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to accept the contract negotiations between the County and FOP for a three-year contract (12/1/2018 – 11/30/2021). A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, and Charles DeClerck (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; Craig Corzine, Ray Koonce, and Vicki McMahon absent. The motion carried.*

**NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Previously, questions were raised about the tax levy including the purpose of the levy, how the amounts are determined, and the process required to complete and approve the levy by the Board. Supervisor of Assessments Chad Coady, County Clerk Michael Gianasi, and County Treasurer Betty Asmussen addressed the Board and discussed how each office contributed to the creation of the levy. Supervisor of Assessments Coady described how assessments and exemptions are used as the basis for calculating the levy rates. Clerk Gianasi discussed receiving the levies for all taxing bodies, including the county, and how the rates for each fund are calculated. Treasurer Asmussen discussed the rates and amounts found on a property tax bill, how certain funds are calculated for each year's levy, and how the money is collected and distributed.

Jody Clark with the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault provided information to the Board regarding April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Blue ribbons were placed around the Courthouse with April 20<sup>th</sup> designated for the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event. A *motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Matt Wells to approve the tying of the ribbons and use of the Courthouse grounds for the event of April 20<sup>th</sup>*. The motion carried.

**MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:**

*A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of March 2019.* The motion carried.

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u># of Meetings This Month</u></b>
Molly Alaria	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	4
Vicki McMahan	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Chad Michel	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Molly Alaria to adjourn until **Tuesday, April 16, 2019** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.