

**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 **MARCH 15, 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 moved the board meeting to Court Room A on third floor of the Court House. Chairman Wells called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Jacque Willison showing 16 members present. A quorum was had to hold the meeting. Chairman Wells stated we have a quorum and we can conduct business.

**APPROVE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

Chairman Wells asked for any corrections or additions and to accept the February 15, 2022 County Board minutes to approve as printed. *Timothy Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Vicki McMahon.* David Puccetti stated he was down for two extra abstains on the roll call and wanted that corrected. After no further 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 and the minutes are approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Wells called for public comments –Folks we have a lot of people from the public tonight and we are going to have a lot of comments. You are limited in time to 3 minutes. Public comments is a time for you to tell the county board what you think. It is not and will not be a question and answer session. I will ask anyone who wants to speak to please stand and come up to the podium so that you can make sure that we hear and address me. If there are people here with opposing points of view, I do not want an argument or debate. The county board wants to hear what individuals have to say. So, if this is the time to speak, if anyone came here to tell us, (States Attorney has moved the podium up front for people to speak from). Anyone have anything for us?

**Patty Rykhus:** I want to say good evening to everybody. I am the current president of the board of directors of Friends of Christian County Animal Control. Friends is a standalone non-profit animal welfare organization and our mission is to improve the lives of companion animals in Christian County. As an example, in 2021, we provided over \$9,500 worth of veterinary care for animals in need in our county. While helping the animals, we also supported our local and area veterinarians. This is just one example of what we do.

Today, I have two items I want to discuss with you:

1. **The cat room** – our organization helped to raise over \$24,000 designated to improve the lives of the cats out at CCAC. This fund originated with our volunteers seeing the

condition signs of the current cat room and wanted to change things. To improve the cats' lives while out at animal control. The current cat kennels in use are small and the cats spend the majority of their time sitting in their own litter boxes and even sleeping in them. The litter contents often falls into their food and water and we want to improve this unhygienic situation. With the cat room on tonight's agenda, I wanted to voice our position. Our interest is actually providing the cats with a better environment. Actually improving their lives.

At this time, we have not received any documentation from CCAC about their proposed project; the size of the room, the addition, cost, financial sustainability and any of their proposed improvements will actually improve the cats' lives. Before we can support this addition and release any funds, we will require project documentation, as well as CCAC bringing their financial records with us up to date. Specifically, the financial records of the fundraiser held in October.

2. **In regards to enforcement of state laws regarding animal neglect and abuse** – We receive wonderful support from our community. In my hand right now, I have a petition with 597 signatures from our supporters who want vigorously laws of Illinois to be vigorously enforced in Christian County. Recently, Friends of CCAC sponsored two of its members to – (Chairman Wells interrupted her apologizing that her 3 minutes are up and I have 40 people waiting to speak.) Ms. Rykhus thanked the board and stated she looks forward to working with them in the future.

**Mardel Pizzoferrato** - I am a volunteer at the animal shelter and work mainly with the cats when I am volunteering. I would like to read the following so you don't cut me off:

Guidelines for standards of care in animal shelters is an in depth, comprehensive study done by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians in 2010. It has been used by shelters and animal groups to help them set up protocols of care for animals, especially cats and dogs. Today, I am covering only 3 topics that would pertain to the necessity of an additional new cat room. I suggest the entire study be read if you are interested in learning what optimum care entails.

1. The present cat room is set up to house 12 cats. The plan would be to use this room for admissions, observation and vetting, for short time and then move the cats to adoption room (new addition). Every week the shelter turns away someone who wants to surrender a cat or found a cat due to lack of space. The enclosures in present room are basically inadequate for any time of extended stay (longer than a week). Each enclosure measures less than 2' x 2' w/room for small litter box, blanket and food – for kittens, they have movement; for adult cats, movement severely restricted. The only cats that should be put together in enclosures/separate rooms are cats that would come in together and have already been living together. Individual cats/kittens need to be kept separated for health reasons. The objective for new room would be to have compartmentalized enclosures to meet basic standards of care and housing needs:
  - a) Separate area where cat eats/sleeps and away from litter box
  - b) Ensures adequate space so cat can move around
  - c) Minimizes need for handling – less handling minimizes animal stress, disease transmission and helps insure staff safety since enclosure can be cleaned without removing cat.

2. The study recommends that ventilation be maintained at high enough rate to provide clean air in all areas of shelter. Until recently, the only window to the cat room had to be closed because there was an air conditioner in the window. There is no exhaust fan in this room. It is basically a self-contained room with no fresh air and no air flow. Of course, the window could be opened but not much of the year because of our weather. Adding of an adoption room could correct this issue. Door to cat room cannot be left open for both safety and noise considerations.
3. Sound control is very important in shelters. The excessive noise from barking dogs is adversely affecting the cat's adjustment to admission to present cat room. Again, I emphasize that the present room would be for a short duration – then cats would be moved to adoption room which will be further from dog runs.

**Jan Schmedeke** – I am one of the investigators that has been approved by the Department of Agriculture and I am here tonight representing the other girls on our task force. Patty Rykhus who you heard first and Sally Rustene and they are both sponsored by Friends of Animal Control. Claire Duran, Dusty Odom and Margo Wagoner and I are sponsored by Forever Foster. So basically what a humane investigator does is investigates and follows up on any complaints of animal abuse or neglect. Another thing we can do is educate the owners and even the complainants about what is considered adequate care of animals. This is all based on the Humane Care of Animals Act. So the way we were trained to become investigators, we took an online training class that lasted a day and it was a zoom type meeting. After that we were required to take a test and pass that test which we all did. So that gave us as being approved investigators as of the first of this year.

The reason humane investigators are important is because we need objective investigators to go out and assess these situations. We need to be advocates for the animals. Another thing is people need to have a place they can voice their concerns about issues dealing with animals. Those of us who have just recently trained to become investigators, we just feel it is very important. It is a great addition to our community and this is a volunteer type situation that we are in. We don't get paid for this but we want to help the animals that is what it is all about.

We do have an issue though with the amendment to the animal control ordinance that was approved in December. The problem with it is it is in direct conflict with our training that we received through the Department of Agriculture. It really does tie our hands for many of the things that we are required to do. So we do have a problem with that. If you wanted more information about the Humane Care for Animals Act, there is that information on the website. It's the agriculture department's website. It also has a listing of all the approved investigators. There is like 167 in the state. We are able to go anywhere in the state. (Chairman Wells stopped her because her 3 minutes were up).

**Lexi House** – I am a volunteer with the Christian County Animal Control. I would like to speak on behalf of those who can't speak – the cats. Right now with the available room that we have for the cats at Christian County Animal Control is put into a position to make a decision to turn these cats away. If these animals are turned away, a lot of the times these animals are dumped and they have to fend for themselves. If they are not spade or neutered the cats will reproduce. Down the line this puts more of a nuisance on the neighborhoods in Christian County. Thank you so much for your time and the opportunity.

**Visitor** (male) - I have a little bit of a two partor – First, I want to touch on the bathroom on the court house lawn. As a parent I would be concerned with the safety if you put a bathroom on the courthouse property and what kind of liability insurance you would probably carry if a child got injured, worst case scenario murdered, or raped in that bathroom. The main reason I am here tonight is to talk about the CO2 pipeline. You know there is a lot of farmers against it, but I know for sure the first well is bank owned ground and the board, we are going to need your help with the zoning that you will be addressing tonight. This project has never been done before. We are on a preface. And that preface is on uncharted territory. So, we need to slow down, take our time and do this right. We are talking billions of dollars sitting underneath our feet. If we are going to talk about core space we need to talk about core space not acres. Just do our due diligence making sure we do what is best for Christian County. Not just next year, but 30 years from now. What the length of this project is going to go. Are people going to want to move to Christian County with a CO2 field about two miles north of town and is that CO2 field going to leak underneath the town and how are they going to contain it. There is a lot of unanswered questions because this technology is brand new. It has never been done before. Yeah, they say ADM does it but that is on a small scale. We are talking 500 million metric tons beneath our feet. It takes pressure to put it down there and they say it is not going to be pressurized. I mean once it gets there – I don't know. Nobody knows. Like I said, it is brand new. Those are my two things.

**Bruce Brockelsby** – I guess I am asking the board to take their time on this because we got people out there in the country that don't even know it is happening. And they are sitting underneath the storage area. They have never been contacted and some people in the crowd has contracts to sign and they want this person to sign it by March 31. I don't know what this company's gig is, but they are working on both ends as much as they can. I haven't found any farmer or resident living in that area that is for it. And setbacks, I don't know as far as setbacks from a house, I don't think I would want to set on top of CO2 storage area. I mean, CO2, if you have enough you are out of oxygen. All I ask is the board let their conscience guide them.

**Debbie Weber** – I want to talk too about the CO2. If anybody would like I can take an email and I can forward them some information from a zoom meeting that I was present on that showed some of the hazards from this CO2 pipeline that is going through. It is a 24 inch pipeline is my understanding. ADM is either a 6 or 8 inch less than a mile. Ruptures have happened before. I know in Mississippi I was told it was in the basement. They set off in this video a demonstration of smaller pipeline and you can see the dispersal of the CO2 gas as it reacts and just other things that I am concerned about. I have a family, a grandchild that is going to be about a quarter of a mile from this pipeline where it is going in. You hear about mama bear, well this is grandma bear. I want to make sure it is safe and I think you all do to. I think this is unfounded. It has not been tested. I think a lot of it has been based on oil. Not the same as a pressurized or liquefied gas. I don't think we have the technology yet to do this. I think there is other ways of combatting CO2 in the atmosphere. You know there are other ways of doing it other than injecting it into the ground and the possibility of a rupture. What it can do to the land, family and the residence. I understand our first responders have to be trained. If there is a rupture, I don't know if the pipeline company is going to stand behind this and going to train our people. There is a lot of very iffy things. Thank you very much.

**Steve Hunsley** – I am a land owner out on the edge of the Christian Sangamon County line. These people sent me a packet and good lord, I got to looking at it and the line as they have it drawn goes underneath my house. Why do I know that? Everybody know where the Christian County Camelsburg schoolhouse is – just down the road by a creek which is only a few hundred feet, there is a Daughters of American Revolution put a statue there for Abraham Lincoln. It comes down the

middle of our road, it goes straight up and then the rest of it is the river. And also, they say at one of the things I went to, how this will be capped down far enough and have all this cap rock that is going to keep it from ever coming up. They have to sit there and look at it but they are sure that is going to cap it off. My last thing that I did if there is any other coal miners in the room here. Okay we got the shell they are talking about. As soon as the wholes are cut there it is. They have what they call – there is a clay that will go through there – slick stuff. It is not going to hold it. It's going right on through there. It will come up. I almost guarantee it. I am not a geologist but that is what I think.

**Dan Rathmeyer** – I am here to talk about CO2 for just a minute - pipeline. I live out less than a quarter of a mile from where the pipeline is going to run across and up until about two hours ago, technically it wasn't going to be on my ground. I was going to be less than 1/8 of a mile from the pipeline which has concerns for reasons these guys are talking about. About two hours ago, I had somebody from the pipeline company pull into my drive way and they wanted to go survey back there on my ground. I said what are you doing here and they said that he wanted to go survey for the pipeline. Apparently it has changed and it's coming across my ground but I didn't know anything about it. So I didn't let him go back there. I bring that up just to raise the concern. These guys aren't looking out for our best interest so we are going to have to do that and so, we would ask for any help you guys can bring.

**Cindy Frisina** – I am a four generation land owner here in Christian County although I don't live here anymore but I also have done a lot of investigation into this and have some serious concerns about it. I have attended the meetings they have had and I looked into this. I think the safety concerns have not been well researched. I think many of you might know not far from the New Madrid Fault Line – the earthquake fault line – and when I asked a lot of questions about this of the company, it is really unclear what would happen. And we all know if this leaked or ruptured, the damage would not just be to the crops but to human life, ground water, etc. Not well discussed at least in these meetings that I have been to. The other thing is Heartland Greenway Partners is owned by Black Rock, a hedge fund, that is China owned, and a Venezuela company as well as a Texas company. They are not looking out for our best interest right now as far as I can tell. I think there is a lot of concerns with this. I just wanted to share my concerns with everyone.

Chairman Wells asked for anyone else. This is last call folks. You are welcome to speak if you want to. Anyone at all? If there is no one else, we will move on.

### **LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST**

Chairman Wells stated many of you may not be aware of this but Joe Burton is selling. Is Steve here? Steve Kline has purchased Burton's or in the process of purchasing Burtons. Steve has a dilemma and I told Steve if was not a decision I could make that it would have to come before the board. Closing date is the 28th, that's a Monday and the bar is traditionally closed on Mondays. That leaves the 29, 30 and 31 in this month. Steve does not wish to pay and I don't think it would be fair to require him to pay for a full year's liquor license for three days. I do not have the authority by myself to say you don't have to pay. So what I am asking the board with this request, if we require Steve to pay a prorated rate for three days plus the following years at the same time. Another words I am not going to let him open a business for \$6 but I hate to have a business man close down for 3 or 4 days because the closing date is on the 28<sup>th</sup>. He cannot purchase a liquor license from the state without one from the county. Steve you are willing to speak if you want to but I believe the request he is going to make tonight is, can he purchase a liquor license, will the board give him permission to purchase one prorated liquor license and one liquor license at this time. Steve do you have anything to add to this? Steve stated that Chairman Wells stole his whole

speech. I appreciate you all listening to this. I know it is probably unusual. This has been going on for a while. I was trying to get everything, get our ducks in a row and we recently found out the 28<sup>th</sup> was the closing date. We have been trying to get this done for quite a while and that was the first date that came available so if we could do something I would really appreciate it for those 3 days.

*Bev Graham made a motion to approve the 3 days and then the yearly with a second by Vicki McMahon.* After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.

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

### **EMA ARPA FUND REQUEST**

Chairman Wells stated that Jeff asked about speaking to the committee but couldn't make it. We were at the committee meeting the other night and sirens were going off left and right. He has to do his work.

Jeff passed out a handout to all board members. A lot of numbers but I will go through them all as we go forward. I just wanted to give everybody a quick update before we get into this. As of last week, you all approved an order for a new EMA vehicle which is good because I tried to get in the car this morning and it wouldn't start. But it is here and thanks to the approval of the board. We do have it and we are waiting to get it equipped and get it in service so it will probably be in service by the middle of April.

The other thing is the pipeline we are doing what we can at this time to prepare ourselves for either outcome. We are looking into training for our first responders in the county to be aware of the potential hazards of CO2 of the pipeline. If it were to rupture, I am not saying that it is or that it would – I am obviously neither for nor against it, I am just in the mitigation aspect of it. I just want to assure the public that we will be doing everything we can to mitigate to the public.

Biggest thing is communications right. So you saw me up here before asking for ARPA funds- these federal funds. We all are grateful – I have heard nothing but great things from everyone who received those funds from you and it has really been a blessing for them because a lot of departments don't have the tax base that the bigger ones do and they don't have the funds to do the things they need to do – we really appreciate it.

If we look at major disaster even naturally disasters and large fires communications is usually a major break down. Right now Taylorville Fire Department is on a digital frequency. The sheriff office is digital. We also have a backup analog signal which everybody else in the county is on. My goal with this tonight is kind of show you – talk you through why that's an issue on fire runs, and emergency situations. He went on to explain how the communication works between different departments and with first responders. The biggest difference between a digital signal and analogue signal is that the digital signal is always there. Analogue signal if it gets too far from the tower or too far from anything you lose communication. If you are in a building or wherever you can lose that communication.

Chairman Wells – asked what he was asking for tonight.

Jeff – what I am asking for tonight is that the board entertain the fact giving the EMA \$250,000 for the initial cost of the radios and the 4 year plan of covering these radios. Obviously for the next 4 years. And then I would ask for an extra \$10,000 just for EMA expenses, training and equipment as we get into new systems coming into the county. New potential hazards and stuff so we can get our first responders trained so we need that money to help train them. Especially for other departments that can't afford it. So it is \$260,000.

Chairman Wells – so it is \$260,000 that you are asking for out of the ARPA funds. Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor.

*Ray Koonce stated he was not for or against this but with it just be presented to us tonight and it's a large sum of money I make a motion to send this to the Finance Committee for further review with a second by Bev Graham.*

Betty – just remember you guys with these ARPA funds that they kind of go through a procedure of going through the finance committee first because if the full board approves then we would have an ordinance that would be approved. Instead of just approving everything on the fly, because there is a procedure for when I have to report and everything else, so. Ray I appreciate you bouncing that back to the finance committee because that then would be the proper procedure. And then we would have an ordinance ready and then if the board approves it we could release the funds.

Chairman Wells – I might want to add to that, while I may not agree to sending everything to finance first, I do think before we get to spending much more money, because later on tonight on the agenda is the windows for the courthouse and this is my fault this question has not been asked – Betty may know off the top of her head – but we had what was it we had 3.1 – the first trench was...

Betty – yes and they claim in May you are getting the other trench of \$3.1

Chairman Wells – right now, I don't know sitting here as the chairman and maybe Betty does – where are we at with that money. I know we have obligated money for cyber security, we have obligated money for air conditioning, we have obligated money for I believe the fire districts, for Julie, yes we started obligating a lot of money. It would probably be a good idea to have it in black and white where we are at with this money. Sooner or later the money is going to be gone and we are going to have to make some choices.

Bev – has he applied any place else for this to get a grant for this. The firemen just got a grant with Rodney Davis helping them.

Chairman Wells – stated I don't know.

Jeff – stated you can't use grant funds on top of grant funds.

After no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for a 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

## **CTI CYBERSECURITY UPDATE**

Aaron Bialis is the Chief Information Officer at CTI – I would like to apologize first of all that I don't have a paper to handout. I am a bit of a last minute stand in tonight. As far as the update, I would like you to know we have ordered and received 130 of the 155 work stations. We have ordered and received 260 monitors that go with those work stations. We do have the work stations themselves imaged and ready to be installed in the departments. We have completed the work station installs for the Supervisor of Assessments, we have completed the work station installs for the Treasurer. We do have the Circuit Clerk tentatively scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month through the first of next month. We had the County Clerk scheduled for this month but that has been moved to accommodate the various preparation work for the election and we do not have that rescheduled at this time. For the antivirus and antimalware, they call it an endpoint protection suite, we do have that license for all of the work stations and servers that are in county and we are installing that on each work station as we replace them per department. We do not have any of the servers or replacement ordered as that will be the next phase of the project. We want to get the work stations all done first. We have all of the switches and wireless access points ordered and should arrive within the next 10 days. We have received the floor plans or blue prints last week for the Christian County Courthouse. So we are working on scheduling the voltage rewire of the court house right now with an electrician, Ryan Electric I believe is the electrician we plan to use for that. And we do have the centralized fire wall ordered but we have not received it.

Chairman Wells asked for any questions. Stated it seemed like the project was progressing. He asked if any of the office holders have questions. There were none.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Couple of things that aren't on the agenda. I want to make sure the board is aware of this. Firstly, I unexpectedly received a resignation. I got a text message there was a resignation waiting on me. On Monday morning the maintenance supervisor Tim Dean is resigning effective immediately. In the past, the board gave me permission to go out and hire somebody. That is not on the agenda, we cannot act on that tonight. But I have had permission in the past, so I guess the board members need to let me know in the next couple of weeks what they want me to do. If they want me to wait for a month to go through the whole process. If I don't hear from the board members objecting, we will start the process. Ultimately, that is your decision.

The next thing I want to announce to you is I received a resignation letter from Gene Price tonight. It is effective at the end of the month. Gene is moving out of the county. Chairman Wells thanked him for all of his hard work and everything you have helped us with. I know it is not always fun and it is not always easy and we will get someone appointed by next month's meeting.

Then, what is on the agenda is the Nokomis Area Fire Protection District Trustee. I got an email from their attorney asking me to appoint a gentleman and everyone that I have talked to says he lived in Nokomis. I couldn't figure out how I as county board chairman in Christian County could appoint someone from Montgomery County so I asked our state's attorney for a little help and he called down there and they figured out the appointment should come from Montgomery County Chairman. So there is no appointment there tonight. Montgomery County Chairman has informed



me that Christian County already has a representative and as I understand it when a fire district is in two different counties, the board members of that district must represent the citizens by which one lives where. Montgomery County has many more citizens in that fire district so they have two people on the board. We have some so we have one person but we already have someone sitting on the board. Am I explaining that correctly, Wes?

Wes stated they went and reviewed the records and the person they needed to reappoint needed to go through Montgomery County.

**EXTENDED HOURS FOR MUSIC ON THE TAYLORVILLE SQUARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRIDAY NIGHT CAR SHOWS BEGINNING APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Lee Skinner – I am here on behalf of Small Town Taylorville. We are an organization trying to build businesses up for Taylorville and try to bring new life back to the Square up here in Taylorville. A lot of you when you come up on the square on a Saturday, you see the activity, a lot of it is due to Small Town Taylorville trying to bring people to the square. We have a lot of towns like Effingham and Litchfield are competing for residential business. We are competing against them. We are trying to bring customers to Taylorville and give them the best experience they can have. You have a beautiful square here. The courthouse is even more beautiful. Why not show it off. Everybody is loving this. What we are asking for – we already play music until, I think it is 4:30 when the music goes off. We have 12 events scheduled for late night Friday night shopping and we are just asking to extend the music until 8:00 at night. With that we also have a car cruise show coming to the square from 4:30-8:00 so people will be able to see the cars, go out and dine and shop until 8:00. Everything shuts down and that is pretty much it. Like I said, that is the first Friday of every month throughout the year.

Chairman Wells – First, let me say this, we have contacted the city of Taylorville. It is my understanding they have no objection. Mayor's office has no objection to it. The next thing I would want to do before someone makes a motion is this possible to do Bill. Bill stated, yes sir it is no problem. Chairman Wells stated Mr. Kennedy knows what goes on upstairs I don't.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to approve the extended hours of music being played up on the square. *Dale Livingston made a motion to approve with a second by Linda Curtin.* After no discussion a roll call vote was taken showing all ayes. Motion carried

**PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Resolution – O2022CB006 - Chairman Wells called a motion from the floor to approve this amendment. *Bryan Sharp made a motion with a second by Dale Livingston.* After no discussion a roll call vote was taken with all ayes. Motion passed

Chairman Wells stated before we get into Highway Buildings and ground I had a couple discussions with Mr. Poggenpohl. I need to clarify something. I called him last week, we were at a committee meeting and we had 9 board members there. I know we got a nastygram last year when Mr. Havera was here about violating the open meetings act and that is why we are here tonight so we could let everyone in. Wes informed me that that was fine. He informed me he was told about board members being told they could not attend a meeting. Here is what I know about that. We have now 5 different solar companies talking about coming into town. When they had

contacted us, I have asked for meetings with the drainage commissioners because they are going to be affected by where these solar farms are going. I have held several of those meetings. A few weeks back I had a meeting scheduled with drainage commissioners and 3 members from one committee showed up. This meeting was not a board meeting. It was not advertised. There was no agenda set. It was me talking with drainage commissioners. Because the 3 members were from the committee that deals with the zoning, I felt like letting 3 people attend the meeting about what goes on in the county and in that department would violate the open meetings act and I informed those 3 gentlemen that if they all wanted to stay I wasn't having a meeting, I was cancelling it. One of the gentlemen left. That is all I know about anyone being told they could not attend the meeting and I just wanted to clear that up. I don't know Wes if that was your, I couldn't get you on the phone. I felt like it did become a meeting of that committee and it was not advertised so I didn't think we could have it. That's what happened there.

## **READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **MARCH 2022 COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. The March 2022 Prevailing Wage Report
2. The February 2022 Public Defender's Report
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on February 28, 2022,
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for February, 2022
5. IDOT – February 2022 Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for the County and the Road District Township report.
6. IDOT – County Engineer's Salary Resolution
7. C.E.F.S – Christian County January PCOM report just received on March 10, 2022
8. REO – Budget Report for December 1, 2021 – November 30, 2022 and their expenditure report for February 2022
9. AMEREN – Upcoming Vegetation Activities Notification – they will be performing vegetation management in the area in the near future

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**March 8, 2022**

Present: Dale Livingston, Chuck Smedley, Bev Graham, Mike Specha, Thomas Snyder, Jr.  
Absent: None  
Others present: Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Linda Curtin, Bryan Sharp, Jacque Willison, Bruce Kettelkamp, Cliff Frye, Vince Harris, Tom Latonis, Don Hayes, Jay Germann, Larry Saxe, Skip Miller, Bruce Brockelsby, Steve Brockelsby, Phil Bliler, Mike Bliler, Gary Fulk, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

Special Note – due to the number of County Board members present, Chairman Wells contacted States Attorney Wes Poggenpohl to ensure the County was not in violation of the OMA. The States Attorney advised we were not out of compliance and could proceed with the meeting.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Tuesday, March 8, 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 several individuals from the public who spoke on the carbon capture and storage project.

- Concerns were raised that too many things are given up and there are too many unknowns about this project that may impact a life time and future generations to come.
- Comments were made about “what if” in the future the group wanting to start this project sells out and the possibility it’s sold to a foreign owned company where agreements may not be upheld.
- Concerns were raised about first responders, do they have equipment needed and would they have the proper education and training in the event of an emergency.
- Question was asked benefit(s) the County would receive from this project.
- Question was asked about the time frame for making decisions regarding this project.
- Concerns about what this project may do to our county and will people want to come to our community with carbon fields in the area.
- Comment about fees being too low for everything today and importance in taking a long hard look going forward.

Committee Chairman Livingston noted this is all new and uncharted territory. Chairman Wells advised the audience that he felt there are two (2) issues (a) pipelines and (b) storage field. He advised the County cannot pass an ordinance to stop someone from doing something only how and what needs to be done. He feels some type of ordinance will be needed if this project does come about. Chairman Wells noted that he didn’t feel anyone on the County Board likes or feels eminent domain is fair.

Bryan Sharp commented that he was in hopes that there would be some discussion as to why the proposed fee structure was tabled by the ZBA.

The audience was advised where they could find meeting notices, which includes the ZBA meetings, on the County's website as well as offered contact information for individuals interested in getting opinions on this matter and other groups and meetings were information is being provided.

#### ANDERSON CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Larry Saxe provided the required annual Anderson Cemetery report which included financial information regarding operation costs, grave purchases and burials for 2021 with notation of grave and cremation opening increase of \$100 for holidays and weekends.

#### REGULATING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE ORDINANCE

This is a draft ordinance should the carbon capture and storage the project happen. It's a starting point as there is no ordinance out there addressing the issue.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and by Mike Specha to table to the April meeting. Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

#### TEXT AMENDMENT 1-3-17

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Chuck Smedley to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

#### TRADITION ENERGY

Tradition Energy researches costs for electricity providers on behalf of the County. The consultant provided a spreadsheet with options.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board the 60 month contract option. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

*Dale Livingston made a motion with a second by Mike Specha.* Chairman Wells asked for discussion. Ray Koonce stated that since he works with an energy company that deals in similar matters, I will abstain from that vote. After no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.

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

## TAYLORVILLE SQUARE RENOVATIONS

The Committee reviewed the downtown renovation map provided by the City of Taylorville. Initial concerns noted were bathroom facilities on the court house lawn and reduction of parking spaces.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Dale Livingston to reject bathroom facilities on the court house lawn. Bev withdrew her motion.

Mike Specha advised that he has an upcoming meeting with Mayor Barry and will see if he can get more information and will report back to the Committee.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Bev Graham to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

## SOLID WASTE

Vince Harris advised that he is working on a report for the full Board. He advised the secretary has accepted a new position and her last working day is March 25, 2022.

Bev Graham asked if the State has been coming for inspection training. Vince advised that the State has provided notice that they will be training him but has yet to provide training dates.

## HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff Frye advised that he met with Don Hayes from the Anderson Cemetery Board last fall and they agreed to wait until weather broke to begin work. The original plans for the roads have changed and they will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Vince provided an update on the current animal counts/status at animal control. He also provided financial information for animal control/zoning.

2021 70 dogs       -\$1,112.07 for the year

123 cats

2020 121 dogs       +\$1,479.71 for the year

192 cats

2019 144 dogs \$34,567.40 (2019/2020 money received for solar farms)

179 cats

2018 70 dogs -\$71,004.58

138 cats

2017 No info avail -\$185,332.00

2016 No info avail -\$191,138.00

2015 No info avail -\$187,303.00

Zoning department – Ten (10) building permits were issued. Two (2) of which were for residential solar and one was for a grain bin.

Indicated money for the cat room is \$24,212.79 with Friends of, \$26,000.00 from an anonymous donor and \$25,000.00 will come from another trust which is given \$13,000.00 a year from this trust.

ZBA report – highlighted the proposed text amendment for meteorological towers going before the ZBA this month.

#### Draft County Municipal Agreement for Animal Control

Last month the Board approved a rate change from \$25.00 per hour to \$50.00 per hour. No further recommendations were made until Vince Harris could consult with Dwanna Kelmel about being about to meet the needs of the contract should a municipality in the County should sign a contract.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

#### COURT HOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

None

#### OTHER MATTERS

Bev Graham mentioned we lost a tree on the court house lawn. Chairman Wells advised yes we did from the storm this weekend. More than half of the tree top was lost and the tree was removed with the assistance of the City of Taylorville.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Mike Specha to adjourn. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale Livingston  
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning  
Welfare Chairman  
03/08/2022

## **EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE**

**March 7, 2022**

Present: Craig Corzine, Chairman, Ray Koonce, Gene Price, Bryan Sharp  
Absent: David Puccetti  
Others present: Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Linda Curtin, Bev Graham, Tom Latonis  
and Elizabeth Hile in attendance

The Executive, Personnel, and Liquor Committee met on Monday, March 7, 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.

### **EMA UPDATE**

Nothing to present tonight.

### **PERSONNEL HANDBOOK**

Chairman Corzine indicated that the first 1/3 of the handbook was ready for review by the

Administrative Assistant/HR. The change recommendations from UCCI as well as additional notes in areas where further review was appropriate, recommendations and comments was presented.

During review of the presented sections, Chairman Wells advised that when this draft Employee Handbook is completed that he will seek input of the elected officials/departments heads for comments before final recommendation to the Board. Liz also commented that the County will have an obligation to present the draft to the Union for comments as well. She highlighted that the CBA prevails when a topic is covered in the CBA and when the CBA is silent, the Employee Handbook rules prevail.

The Committee would like to have a copy of the Ethics Committee related to the discussion for the need of an Ethics Officer. The Committee was asked to further review the draft recommendations presented tonight before the next meeting and present any additional thoughts/changes at the April meeting before reviewing the next section of the Employee Handbook.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

None



Motion by Gene Price and seconded by Ray Koonce to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Corzine, Chairman  
Executive/Personnel Committee  
03/07/2022

## AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 9, 2022

Present: Venise McWard, Chairman, Ken Franklin, Linda Curtin, Vicki McMahon, Tim Carlson  
Absent: None  
Others present: Matt Wells, Betty Asmussen, Julie Mayer, Jacque Willison, Chad Coady, Mary Rhodes, Jim Baker, Cecil Polley, Bruce Kettelkamp, D.J. Mathon, Kim Jones and Elizabeth Hile

The Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 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 Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to approve the claims presented for March. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to approve March Claims with a second by Timothy Carlson. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.*

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: 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, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### E-CITATION FUNDS

Treasurer Asmussen advised that when e-citation first came about in 2016 the funds were set up in the general fund for the Circuit Clerk's office as well as for the Sheriff but these funds need to be in their own separate fund. The annual fees for DigiTICKET can be taken out of the e-citation fund.

The Treasurer has discussed this matter with our auditor. The recommendation is the e-citation funds for the Circuit Clerk's office totaling \$24397.10 (001) and the Sheriff (005) totaling \$2602.80 received from the period of 2016 through November 30, 2021 be transferred to a separate account. Because these funds have been in the general fund, the recommendation is move the total of \$26,999.90 from contingency to a separate e-citation fund which will be 025.

Motion by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to move \$26,999.90 from contingency to a separate e-citation fund (025). Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion \$26,999.90 to move from contingency to a separate e-citation fund with a second by Ken Franklin. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.*

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: , 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, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

#### JAIL BUDGET

Jail Administrator Cecil Polley advised the Committee that he would like to discuss two (2) matters.

When he presented his budget for the jail, he requested 2 new full time correction officers but felt he could get by this current fiscal year with one (1) new full time hire and would reevaluate for next year's budget. With almost 4 months into this fiscal year, he feels he needs the additional new hire for night shift this fiscal year instead of waiting. The additional staff that have been hired on that shift are new and need additional training. He would like the additional new full time position re-considered this year.

He feels there are discrepancies in the jail budget for the jailers' overtime and part time jailer's salary. At the rate we are going with this just being into March of the fiscal year, he will be short. He is wondering why the numbers are that far off.

Treasurer Asmussen advised that the only changes she made from presented budgets were those related to the union contract negotiations as directed by the Finance Committee. She advised she will need to review what was submitted in the original budget.

Chairman McWard advised that she felt the Committee needed to look at the budget closer before making any further decisions.

#### COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS SALARIES

The salary(s) for positions up for election in November of 2022 must be set at least 180 days prior to the election. The current salary for County Board members is \$100 per month with \$25 per diem for meetings.

Motion by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Tim Carlson to recommend to the full Board to keep the elected County Board salary and per diem rate for meetings the same at \$100 per month and \$25 per meeting each year for the next 4 years beginning 12.01.2022 through 11.30.2026. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to keep the elected County Board salary and per diem rate for meetings the same with a second by Ken Franklin. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.*

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: 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, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

#### CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY BOARD SALARY

Motion by Ken Franklin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to recommend to the full Board to set the salary for the position of Chairman of the County Board at \$20,000 per year for the next 4 years beginning 12.01.2022 through 11.30.2026. A roll call vote polled 4 ayes and 1 nay. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to set the salary for the Chairman of the County Board at \$20,000 with a second by Chuck Smedley. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll.*

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: 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 (n), Craig Corzine (n), Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, (14) aye; (2) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

#### COUNTY CLERK'S SALARY AND STIPEND AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ACT

Motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to increase the salary for the elected position of County Clerk by 3.5% each year for the next 4 year term beginning 12.1.2022 through 11.30.2026 and to note the anticipated stipend. A roll call vote polled 4 ayes and 1 nay. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to increase the salary for the elected position of the County Clerk.* Chairman Wells stated that he would have to rule that that motion is out of order at this time. County Board rules clearly indicate that when the last elected official decides not to run for office that salary will be cut 10 percent. Just last month this board voted to amend that and clean up that language which the vote was 13-0. Parliamentary procedure requires that the chairman of any body of government rule if that motion violates board's rules is out of order. The only motion that I can take on that subject it has to follow the rules of the county board.

Bev Graham stated that you are saying she can't have a raise because Mike Gianasi – Chairman Wells interrupted and said, I am saying this board has rules that this board has adopted and you are saying she, there's an election, I don't know who the next clerk will or will not be but this board has rules that say anytime the last elected official does not run, the salaries for the clerk, circuit clerk, treasurer, sheriff, they are all going to be cut. That was brought up, came out of the personnel policy/procedure committee and the vote last month was 13-0 to clean up the language that was there.

Ray stated under Robert's Rules of Order moving forward someone can make an amendment to this motion. My recommendation if somebody wanted to would be to strike out 2022 that first year with 2023 and then it would still follow that first year could still be 10 percent less. The actual increases wouldn't take place until year 2, 3 and 4. It would still follow under cutting that first year 10 percent if they wanted to amend it.

Chairman Wells stated are you saying if you think there is a motion made to cut the salary by 10 percent for the first year and then give same increases for the each year following? I can't argue that. There is nothing in the language. What the language says is the salary will be cut 10 percent.

Ray Koonce – that is just my recommendation.

Chairman Wells – but as far as I know, the rules of this board say any elected official that does not run again those salaries are being cut. This board's adopted these rules.

Venise McWard made a motion that we cut the salary 10 percent the first year and give the 3.5 percent raise for the 2, 3 and 4 years. There is a second to that motion

Chairman Wells called for discussion.

Betty Asmussen – yes, I have a couple of things to say about that. I'm not running for county clerk. I am the Christian County Treasurer. You all know me. Some love me, some don't. With that being said, I think there is a lot of confusion with this because again, you guys know my standpoint on this. The minute they walk into office, it's no different, they got to take the brunt of, they have to know it all. If not, they have to learn it real quick. But my theory was we all walk in the same. I know a lot of people don't feel that way, but if that is the case, if you are going to do that salary that way - you know what she is making or what that individual is making now you reduce it by 10 percent and then give. I think there is just not enough clarity on this but you know and if that is the case was that cleared up that it was all elected officials or just specified to us. I want to know that.

Chairman Wells – it was specified last month, there was a recommendation that came from personnel policy and procedures that was adopted 13-0.

Betty Asmussen – I understand that but was it all elected officials or did it -

Chairman Wells – we don't control the salaries of all elected officials, firstly. Secondly there was specific elected officials.

Betty – because we are voting on board members which are elected official's salaries, so -

Chairman Wells – let's see what happened last month. Recommend to the full board sending the salaries of elected officer holders passed this last March 2021 meeting, the positions of Sheriff, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor of Assessments and Coroner.

County Clerk Jacque Willison – asked if she could say something. I have been doing the position for 9 months, not quite a year yet and be time the election comes around it will be what 18 months, 17 months, making the salary that I am making now so if I would happen to win the election doing the same work I am going to be cut 10 percent?

Chairman Wells – yes ma'am. That's what the rules of the board say. That is what the board adopted.

Ken – there really was no discussion of the finance committee as a member of the finance committee. I assumed this would work the way the amended motion was made. There was no intention of going around the board rules I think it was understood that is the way it would work or it just wasn't worded correctly.

Chairman Wells – I have no debate with that.

Bev – asked if it could go back to personnel and review the whole thing and represent it.

Chairman Wells – stated well it could. However if it gets tabled in personnel next month –

Bev – it's not enough time before the 180 days?

Coroner Amy Calvert – asked if she could say something. I have been thinking about this for a while – she is our current County Clerk right now, she's not new. She chose to run. Yes, the current county clerk, or the old county clerk - she got appointed to that position and she is the

county clerk. So you would take a chance if she doesn't get elected that new person coming in is going to get a starting salary just as she did when she got appointed. I am saying this, because there is so many people in this room on this board and I have been in this office, the coroner's office, the lowest paid elected official for 18 years. I got a raise last year of 2%. The county finance committee needs to take time, the county board personnel committee needs to take time like we did years ago for people that are - who have so many years of service. If you show loyalty and you are elected by the people multiple times over and over and over where are they coming up with these numbers – 2%, 1%, no percent, 10 percent cut. There needs to be some kind of clarity because I can tell you I have been here longer but if you look at the reasons that have happened, there is way people who have been here less getting significant raises plus they make more money. Back to this point, there is nothing you can do for the Christian County Coroner salary. Her salary is set. It's a done deal. I am just saying, you need to take a look and look back and do some research of what has happened around here and try to come up with a formulation plan because we are not looking at apples to apples. We are looking at oranges, bananas, and it is not right you guys. It is not right. I love this job, I am good at this job, I definitely didn't go into it for the money, but the last 3 years have been the hardest of my life and I feel like if I was in the private sector, people would say girl we are getting you a raise for the stuff you have done. You have no full time assistant. You are the only person full time now does this every day. There is something, there is no control. You guys have no control. This is a 4-year commitment and you are looking at a crystal ball going what's our budget going to look like in 4 years. I get that, but what I am saying is you really need to dissect the language on these positions, because she is the current county clerk she is choosing to run. Just as if Julie was choosing to run and someone else was coming in. If that someone else beats Julie, we're not giving her 10 percent because Julie chose to run. So I think there is a language barrier that we really need to dive deep in and really look at what you are doing to people that are a 4 year commitment.

Chairman Wells stated there is a motion on the floor and it has been seconded, if there is no further discussion, please call roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price (n), David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley (n), Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine (n), Linda Curtin (n), Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, (12) aye; (4) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried

#### COUNTY TREASURER'S SALARY AND SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENT AND STIPEND(S) AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ACT

Motion by Linda Curtin and seconded by Vicki McMahon to recommend to the full Board to increase the salary for the elected positions of County Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessment by 3.5% each year for the next 4 year term beginning 12.1.2022 through 11.30.2026 and to note the anticipated stipend for each elected position. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion Carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to increase the salary of the County Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessment by 3.5 % each year for the next 4 years and it was seconded by Thomas Snyder Jr.*

Chairman Wells asked for any discussion.

Dale Livingston asked what the salaries were of the clerk, treasurer -

Chairman Wells stated it was almost \$68,000 I believe \$67,800.

Dale Livingston asked if he could make a motion to amend it.

Chairman Wells – you can make an amendment to a motion definitely.

Dale Livingston – can I make a motion to amend it to \$70,000 a year straight up salary.

Chairman Wells – you are making a motion to amend this motion to set the salary at \$70,000

Dale Livingston – for the next 4 years.

Chairman Wells – for the next 4 years. I have a motion to amend the motion. Is there a second to the amendment? Mr. Corzine second the motion to set the salary at \$70,000 a year for the next 4 years. Any discussion on the amendment.

Betty Asmussen – I Do. To be honest with you, that is a slap in the face. I appreciate that. The work that we do, I am going to repeat this once again for nobody that was there at the finance meeting Wednesday night. We are the only elected officials for 4 years that went without a salary increase. The only ones. So again, we went 4 years without a salary. The union contracts that you guys have approved for the sheriff, correction officers, 911 if you look at those, those percentages plus longevity and rank is not 3% or even 3.5%. I am going to pass out a little spread sheet I put together. So if you guys want to know what our salaries are currently. So you know because again, you are wanting to punish us elected officials that campaign, run, spend weekends, spend money for the party. So, I know you guys had voted for 3.5%. I put 5.9 because that was recently what you gave someone else and 4 and 3 and 3. I just hope you guys really take this in and not play games and not play – pick somebody you want to make a statement to. I am asking you, I get to come and present this one time for the next 4 years. I feel that we have to beg. I am not sure why. I am up here pleading. If you look at the numbers even what I requested – I said over 4 years. You guys spent more money on a wind turbine attorney than what you would for our salaries at 5.9, 4, 3 and 3. So I have watched this county board throw money out in a way versus when it comes to your employees especially your elected officials that take the brunt. There is not anybody on this county board that hasn't reached out to me, that's needed numbers, that's needed facts, needed opinion. Again, I would really hope you guys digest that. Especially, what Dale just presented and again, that is just throwing numbers out there with not even any thought behind it and really look over what we have presented versus what you guys came back with.

Dale Livingston – Betty I am not arguing – Chairman Wells interrupted and said to speak to him. Dale stated he wasn't arguing with the treasurer, I just didn't know what she made for sure until tonight. As a township official, our salaries are set by board, I am road commissioner, and they are set every 4 years just like they are here. We get so much. As this board, I think can do is set it so much for one year and so much for the next year. I asked what she made and I increased it. I do not have any history when the last raise was made

Chairman Wells - 4 years ago I believe they were making approximately \$61,500.

Betty – and it was 2% over

Chairman Wells – its close isn't it.

Betty – right. It's 2 % over 4 years. Which again, if you look at what other people in the room have made, their salaries – what you have gave union contracts, longevity, different aspects. I

have always said I don't know how it is us elected officials come in – we are the face of the county along with this board, and yet we still get slapped around as if – I mean it makes no sense to me. I am baffled and dumbfounded.

Venise – I just want the committee to know everyone to know Betty help secure a \$420,000 grant not lapse when we didn't know what we were going to do. Betty and Bruce Engeling helped to secure a \$420,000 grant. Chad helped to secure a \$119,000 grant (Chad stated it was \$685,000 grant). I want to say they do a lot. I feel like they are being unappreciated.

Dale Livingston – I don't feel anybody is unappreciated. All of us in here run for \$100 a meeting and I can tell you that my phone rings off the wall at all times for different things for and against and we are elected officials, we choose to run. We know what it is. Its government. That's what I mean – we all don't have to run if we don't want to. And we can all get beat in an instant.

Wes Poggenpohl – so what we have been talking about is setting it for 4 years. That's what we have to do today or at this meeting. We can't come back next year. The whole point is you are not setting or giving a raise to yourself. You guys are giving your salary for the next 4 years. It's got to be done today. We can't set a salary for one year then come back next year and set it for next year because we are setting it for 4 years. I know I haven't been in Christian County here at the state's attorney office for very long, but I have been in county government basically my entire career. One thing that has been consistent with me throughout my entire time with county government is how hard it is to keep good employees everywhere. Not just employees that are working an hourly wage but good elected officials too. I have dealt with many people who are great and leave the job because there are better opportunities elsewhere. More money and a lot less headaches dealing with this. So, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me, echoing what Betty says, why we are doing this, trying to pinch the pennies here when there is a lot of other opportunities elsewhere when we are trying to keep the best person in the position and you know not try to drive something out.

Mike Specha – I just hopefully for everyone's sake and I apologize if everyone understands Betty's chart and I didn't. But being kind of a numbers guy, it took me a minute so I just want to explain what I think this chart is telling us. If our current salary for the offices we discussed is at the top for \$67,974 and there was a 5.9% raise proposed for the first year, additional 4% raise for the second, 3% for the third year and 3% for the fourth year. At the end of that 4 year period that salary would be \$79, 423.05. I just wanted to make sure everyone understood what this illustration is.

Betty Asmussen – and it shows actually non-bargaining salaries at the bottom. In year 3 we wouldn't even be making what they are making. Non-bargaining versus your elected officials.

Chairman Wells – that is a proposal of Betty's explanation that she passed out. And then the committee made a recommendation not the 5.9 (make sure I have this right Venise) but the 3.5, 3.5, 3.5, 3.5 committee recommended not the 5.9.

Mike Specha – no you are absolutely right. I was just trying to make sure everyone was clear on what this proposal extended to.

Chairman Wells – right now the motion is the motion to amend –

Gene Price – Didn't we have a motion and a second here on the first motion



Chairman Wells – we had a motion and a second then there has been an amendment added to that motion. I believe should be dealt with first.

Ray – asked if someone seconded the amendment.

Chairman Wells – stated yes, it was seconded by Craig Corzine.

Betty – asked if someone could make another recommendation to take it back to 3.5?

Chairman Wells – stated he believed this amendment must be dealt with first.

Chuck –asked for clarification on this because we have been throwing a lot of figures. What exactly are we voting on?

Chairman Wells – Well the first thing is the amendment. There was a motion brought forward to give the clerk, treasurer and supervisor of assessment 3.5% raises for each of the next 4 years. There was an amendment to that motion to pay them \$70,000 each year for the next 4 years. That amendment will be voted on first.

Betty – so \$70,000 for the next 4 years with no increase.

Chairman Wells – that’s the motion Yes.

Gene – I guess I am lost because we had a motion and a second, then we had an amendment. Why can’t we have another amendment an override that like we did the first one. I can make a motion to amend it back to the 3.5. He amended her motion and now I want to come back amend his motion.

Chairman Wells – ok. We can have 400 of these.

Gene Price – Yes we can

Chairman Wells – and if yours passes then we go back to his and if his passes then we go back to hers.

Gene Price – That’s the way it is.

Ray – just for clarification. If Dale’s amendment fails then we go back to the 3.5 and vote on that automatically.

Chairman Wells – That is correct. Unless there is another amendment made.

Betty – why don’t we vote on the 3.5 first? It had a second.

Dale Livingston – 3.5% times 4 compounded, have to ask the accountant, does that equal like to 17% at the end of 4 years.

Wes and Betty stated like 12

Mike Specha – it would extend to \$78,000

Chairman Wells – it would take the salaries after 4 years to \$78,000.

Mike Specha – its 3.5% compounded. It gets a little tricky.

Gene Price – that would be about \$78,500.

Betty – You guys have compounded union contracts and didn't bat an eye Dale.

Craig – I seconded the amendment and I am still lost. Where is the 5.9 at

Chairman Wells – that 5.9 is something that Betty brought to the committee that she just handed to you. Committee looked at that and then the committee voted to recommend to the full board the 3.5.

Betty – that was my recommendation.

Chairman Wells – that was her recommendation only

Craig – I am in favor of this amendment because I felt like 5.9 was pretty steep.

Chairman Wells – there is no motion on the floor for 5.9. There is a motion for 3.5 and an amendment for a flat \$70,000. That is what we are looking at right now. Gene if you want to make a motion to go back to it if your motion passes then we have to see if his motion passes.

If there is no further discussion, please call for a roll call on the amendment to the motion to set the salary at \$70,000.

Gene Price – so I don't get to send mine, do mine?

Chairman Wells – sure you can but I looked at you and you didn't so –

Betty – vote no

Chairman Wells - hold on Betty, there is no campaigning in here

Betty – well I am

Chairman Wells – No you are not. If there is no further discussion, please call roll.

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

Chairman Wells –ok. The amendment failed. Are there any other amendments? Any other discussion?

Dale Livingston – is this all in our budget? I wasn't at the finance meeting.

Chairman Wells – it would have to be in the budget for this fiscal year then the salaries – if we set these salaries Dale quite honestly, at \$10. That \$10 is not in the budget for next year. The budget in the future will handle that. Regardless of what the salary is set. Any other discussion?

Betty – The Supervisor of Assessment – his salary gets reimbursed by half through the state. So when you are looking at his salary, it is reimbursed by half. Mine, being the administrator on the ARPA Funds can be reimbursed with benefits up to a certain percentage as well over the next 4 years. So I just want to make sure that is clarified.

Dale Livingston – do you know what the percentage is at all?

Betty – It depends on how much work I do as the administrator on the ARPA Funds.

Chairman Wells – let me say this. No one here knows better than I how much work Betty has done. While I would prefer a flat salary for these positions for the next 4 years. I am not sitting here saying that Betty and Chad don't deserve the money that they earn. I am not saying that at all. Betty was instrumental in the grants Mr. Nemo left. She took them over. She will tell you her name isn't FEMA, EMA or IEMA and don't call her that but she dealt with all that. I'm not saying that she doesn't deserve a raise. I am trying to run the meeting procedural proper. So, any other discussion on this motion?

Ken – I just want to say, you look at the available material on the website see the revenues we passed two years, tax revenues increase at a rate of about 2.5 percent. So 3.5%, 3% of labor management seems to be somewhat of a compromise. We can only do so much.

Chairman Wells asked for any other discussion. There is a motion on the floor to increase the Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessments salary by 3.5% each year for the next 4 years. He asked for a roll call.

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 (n), Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce (n), Dale Livingston (n), Vickie McMahan, (13) aye; (3) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed.

Treasurer Asmussen stepped out of the meeting and came back in as the Committee was starting the Sheriff salary agenda item. She wanted to present a spreadsheet she made for each of the elected office holders up for re-election in November and also included the Circuit Clerk. The spread sheet provided information on various percentage increases ranging from 5.90%, which had been received by some non-bargaining department heads, to 3%. She indicated that ½ of the Supervisor of Assessment's salary is reimbursed by the State and incorporated that reimbursement rate into the total cost for increases. She highlighted that some non-bargaining department heads that are compensated more than elected officials.

Chairman McWard mentioned the extra work Treasurer Asmussen took on with a grant that the former Christian-Montgomery County ESDA Director did not submit and a grant from the Health Department that wasn't going to be claimed. She felt the Treasurer should receive recognition for her hard work that without it, would have resulted in funding losses for the County. Chairman McWard considered making a motion but it wasn't an agenda item and the salary for the elected position had already been voted on.

Supervisor of Assessment Chad Coady advised the Committee that he had assisted the Sheriff's department on a 911 grant which secured funding for aerial photo costs which will save approximately \$100,000.00. He just received the approval information last week. The Committee thanked Chad for his work on this grant.

Chad stated that the total amount we applied for was \$685,000. When he mentioned the \$100,000 that would alleviate off of the GIS Fund in his office. He didn't know the exact amount of the funds that was approved. It was for \$685,000 for Shelby and Christian.

#### SHERIFF SALARY

Motion by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Ken Franklin to recommend to the full Board to increase the salary for the elected position of Sheriff by 3.5% each year for the next 4 year term beginning 12.1.2022 through 11.30.2026 and to note the anticipated stipend. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

*Venise McWard made a motion to increase the salary of the Sheriff by 3.5 % each year for the next 4 years and it was seconded by Mike Specha.*

Chairman Wells called for discussion.

Bev Graham – According to what Betty just passed out, he is going to be making \$12,000 more a year approximately than all the other elected officials.

Chairman Wells – stated that is probably correct because he currently makes more than they do.

Ray – hypothetically, there is a challenger and they win, does this still follow under what we just did for the clerk?

Chairman Wells – absolutely not. Our rules state, anytime an elected official, last elected official does not run, you cannot set, legally, you cannot say if we like Betty, we don't like her opponent, if she wins she gets this amount or her opponent – I'm using Betty I apologize because as far as I know you don't have opposition. Betty or Julie either one. We can't say if they get beat because we like them we are paying the other person less money.

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

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp (n) Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., (n), Mike Specha, Matt Wells (n), Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham (n), Ray Koonce (n), Dale Livingston Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, (11) aye; (5) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed.

#### SURVEY RECORDS

Chairman Wells advised that the DeLay family did schedule a meeting to see the survey records of their father. The County is not first on the list to purchase these records but the DeLay brothers advised that the County would get a change to buy records before leaving the County. There are 1400 survey books and 18 file cabinets of maps. He advised the States Attorney said that the records would be subject to FOIA if purchased. Ken Franklin advised that Chairman

Wells invited him to attend the meeting and it is a very impressive collection that goes beyond just survey records because of their historical value. It was noted that approximately 25% of the records were recorded leaving 75% not recorded.

#### REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None

#### OTHER MATTERS

None

Motion by Tim Carlson and seconded by Vicki McMahon to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Venise McWard  
Finance/Audit/Purchasing/Budget Committee  
Chairwoman  
03/09/2022

Chairman Wells – let me just add one thing about those survey records. The Delay brothers have told me there are people in line ahead of the county but they told me they would give the county an opportunity to buy them before they would let them get out of the county. But there are 1400 books so if we purchase them as a county, I believe Mr. Poggenpohl thinks they can be FOIAED

Wes – Possibly, I think the best way to get around that would be you don't have to have people have free access to the records if there is statutorily set price for them. Without getting into it too much further, the Clerk's office would have to take over those. If somebody wanted to get copies they would pay for them the same price per page as they would any other land records that a clerk's office currently has. So if you wanted to come in and get a copy of your deed it is X amount of dollars. It would be the same thing to get a copy of the survey records. That would be something we would have to look into.

Chairman Wells – the last thing I want to add about that is I am not the clerk, don't know anything about that office but I can only imagine it could take 3 people a year to organize this stuff. And then when people would start coming in asking for requests. While I believe the records should stay in the county, I believe somehow it could be a big obstacle. I don't know that she has room in her office. There are 18 file cabinets full – 18 of them.

Chad – my office takes the surveys that are scanned or recorded and then we attach them to the pin number that they belong to. We have all the old Boyd Dapperts surveys. We have thousands of those and I have never had a FOIA request for any of those. Not saying that couldn't happen. But it does take a lot of time in my office as well to take all the scans, anything that is scanned in, attach it to the parcel, we like to keep them together. We attach it that way for in the future when people do come in, other surveyors, they are able to locate a survey they can start off from. It's a big help. The surveyors we get compliments all the time on our county and how well and organized our filing system is and how they are able to locate surveys and property information so quickly. It's a good thing for the county but it is a lot of work.

Wes - asked if there was a fee assessed or set?

Chad – state we do not charge the surveyors anything for them but there are PDF's so we can email them but the only fee we do charge is if someone comes in and it's not their property survey, we do charge a normal copy fee. During COVID situation we weren't charging. In my office we weren't exchanging money.

## **NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS/OTHER**

- **Circuit Clerk's Salary and Stipend as required by Public Act** – the reason that was not on committee, the rules say 180 days prior to an election. Julie told me in the past, and I remember that she has been grouped here. What I read says her salary should be set 180 days before the next election. We asked Mr. Poggenpohl and he said that her salary can be set because she works for the courts and its different and there are different rules there than for the clerk, treasurer, sheriff and supervisor of assessment. So that is on the agenda tonight. It seems to me like this salary should be a two-year salary, that is just my opinion. Two years there is going to be an election. But that is up to the board. It's on the agenda tonight. Is there a motion about setting the Circuit Clerk's salary? She has been set for the past 8, 12, 16 years whatever it is, before I was here. Her salary has always been set with the treasurer's, the supervisor of assessor's, and the county clerk's. But I was not aware we could do that and that's why that did not go to the finance committee. And that is why it's on this agenda. I would think I believe that she has been making the same amount of money. If we are giving pay raises to elected office holders tonight, it just seems fair to me that hers would be the same. But I am not going to make a motion from here I am asking for a motion from the floor.

*Ray Koonce made a motion to set the Circuit Clerk's salary at what we just said for the Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessments for the next two years with a 3.5% pay raise for the next two years with a second by Dave Puccetti.*

With no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call. Chairman Wells asked Julie if she had anything to say.

Julie – my first 4 years I was in office; salary was set by my predecessor 180 days before the election as she retired. Then after that for the last 9 years I was lumped in with the rest of them.

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

- **Solid Waste Staff Recommendation** – Vince wasn't feeling good today, later in the day. Basically, he gave me some paperwork, he has been there long enough now, he believes he should hire an educator and an inspector. He believes if he has an inspector they both can take the training. And there should not be any issues in the future. If we allow this to happen, the spending for his share of the salary coming out of solid waste, an educator and an inspector, it will be, I believe it will be \$3 or \$4,000 less than what we spent last year. I believe the money is in the budget. He was asked to have a recommendation her tonight. He thinks he has been there long enough learning what the state expects how we are going

to be reimbursed. If one salary is paid out of fees and the other is paid out of I can't think of the name but they are both reimbursed salaries. But if we don't hire two, we are not going to be reimbursed this month. So, he was asked to make a recommendation to the board. I would say how many people he hires would be up to us who he hires would be up to him. We don't go out to the highway department and tell Cliff this guy is a better truck driver so on and so forth. So, I guess first I am looking for a motion from the floor

*Craig Corzine made a motion to forward to Personnel Policy and Procedures with a second by Bryan Sharp. After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call.*

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 (n), Vickie McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, (15) aye; (1) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed.

- **County Clerk email domain change request** - County Clerk Jacque Willison spoke and stated due to all the fraud with the elections, they have made it law, especially my office, we have to go to the domain of .gov for more security and I am just needing the Chairman of the Board to sign the form that you guys have in your packet. We will need to fill that out. And it is free of charge.

Chairman Wells stated as you know I try not to sign anything without this board's approval. Jacque stated there was no cost whatsoever. Chairman Wells stated if the law says she needs to change and the recommendation is that all of our offices do that.

*Ray Koonce made a motion to sign the document to let the Clerk's office obtain the .gov domain with a second by Bev Graham.*

After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call. A roll call polled all ayes, the motion carried.

- **Liquor License New Applications and Renewals** – it's time for the liquor license of all of our customers. Just wanted to make the board aware that. That is traditionally a thing that the Chairman signs as the liquor commissioner. We sign for everyone. I have had no complaints, and of course, I think the Sheriff is still here. I have had no complaints about any of the establishments that we have and so unless there are some objections I am going to go ahead and sign these forms to renew the liquor licenses. There was an issue about our rules and in the packet I believe where – somewhere in the rules these are to be taken to the clerk's office. That hasn't been done since I have been on the board. We asked Wes, and it isn't a problem with them staying in the chairman's office. Wes stated the act is silent as to who needs to collect them and so I think it is fine either way.
- **Windows – Bill Kennedy** – as the a/c is affected by the windows and since I sort of wanted the expertise, architectural expertise on this particular project. I contacted the engineer we got for the air conditioner and asked them to look at this. They brought their architect, two mechanical engineers and a civil engineer and we spent the better part of the morning looking over the building and the windows. The affect the windows have had on the air conditioning system and so forth. This is certainly the time to address it. I am not positive of this but I have been helping the county for about 50 years and I think those windows

were put in right before that. They are extremely good windows and the fact that they have lasted this long. However, after talking with those guys and thinking about it a little bit, I think there is no doubt that we want to replace the windows. We have some numbers here. There are 3 items. They estimate the probable cost about \$445,500 for the windows. Not including the engineering and architectural services or any asbestos removal that we might run into. The engineers agreed to do this for 8%. That is \$35,640 and that is a pretty nicely discounted rate particularly because they are going to do site visits. They believe that probably not to exceed amount of \$1500 might be encountered for examination of the caulking and sealant that has been used in the past to see if there has been asbestos. None of these numbers are inclusive of removing the asbestos if we have to do that. If my timing is right, if about 1970 or the late 60's and a lot of work was done in 69, may have been when the windows got replaced, we are right on the cusp of when the asbestos went away. I don't think we will find it but I don't know that. They were certain because of the kinds of liability they have seen in the past, if we want to spend the \$1500 to be able to say in the future it wasn't here or if it is here then we need to deal with that. Anyway, that is what I know right now. As I said earlier, at this point I think we should do the project. We have the money to do it and it's the time to do it.

Chairman Wells – asked if he had a total for this.

Bill – I didn't add them up but \$445,500 plus \$35,640 plus \$1500 assuming we don't hit asbestos. Now that's not near as bad as it used to be if we do find it. There has been some considerable competition in the market place. Those are the numbers we are talking about.

Chairman Wells – you think \$500,000 will replace the windows?

Bill – Yeah.

Chairman Wells asked for a motion – what's the board's pleasure?

Dale – asked where the money was coming from.

Chairman Wells – stated it would be ARPA Fund money

*Ken Franklin made a motion to send it to finance with a second by Craig Corzine. After no discussion Chairman Wells called for a roll call.*

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: 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, Chuck Smedley, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed.

- **HRA Reimbursements** – The healthcare plans for our employees. Our healthcare plan carries a \$1000 deductible for which the employee is responsible for the first \$250. Okay. They can receive the reimbursement for an additional \$750 plus approved expenses up to \$1750. The responsibility to file these claims with a third party is with the employee. After a claim is filed, the third party administrator determines the county's qualifying portion. Effective 7/1/2021 the third party administrator changes the result of insurance broker changes. There was a 90-day grace period for the employees until 9/30/21 to submit claims



to the former third party administrator. Claim dates with service of 6/30/21 and earlier went to American Central. The prior third party administrator claims with a date of 7/1/21 went to Ameriflex the new third party administrator. The employees were advised of this change during the annual open enrollment meeting and were reminded of the importance of filing all claims with a service date of 6/30/21 no later than 90 days to American Central.

Three issues happened here. We switched insurance broker, we switched third party administrators and we got a new HR assistant. We have a couple of situations. Here is the first situation; we have an employee with a claim with a date of service in June of 2021. Her explanation of benefit was not processed until October 2021. The delay was from the hospital billing not the employee or the former administrator. The former administrator denied the claim because it was submitted after the 90-day grace period. Ameriflex the new administrator denied the claim based on the date of service which was prior to 7/1/2021. We have this employee who is stuck in the middle. The employee did what the employee was told to do. They submitted the claim as soon as they got it. They didn't get it timely. County's obligation here would be \$805.47. After speaking with Liz, in this situation, the employee did everything the employee was supposed to do. But because there has been a change made, there is an \$805.47 bill. I think we should pay it for the employee. I am looking for a motion to do so.

*David Puccetti made a motion to pay the \$805.47 bill with a second by Linda Curtin.*  
After no discussion, Chairman Wells called for a roll call.

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 McMahon, Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed.

Next situation, this employee had claims from March 2021 through May 2021. The employee came and went to the entire enrollment meeting. The employee missed submitting the claims within the 90-day window with the third party administrator. The county's HRA reimbursement based on the claims would be \$223.00. This employee did everything right except turn the claims in on time. I don't know what the board wants to do about this \$223.00. They came they went to the meeting. Looking for a motion or not from the board. They did everything right except submit the claims on time. No motion was made.

Lastly, an employee has 21 claims from the period of January 21 through June 2, 2021. The employee came to the open enrollment meeting but only filled out the forms and left. They did not stay for the presentation. The employee missed submitting the claims in the 90-day window with the former third party administrator. The county's HRA reimbursement on this claim is \$1387.00. Is there a motion from the board to approve any of these two claims? If not, we will move on.

- **Money for Legal Council (Carbon Capture and Storage)** – I received a letter from the carbon company, from the project managers stating they basically want to be good neighbors. They are willing to make a donation to the county board of \$25,000 for us to hire legal counsel, to sign any ordinance that may be drafted.

Venise McWard made a motion to decline this offer.

Chairman Wells stated that was a negative motion we can't make. We can't make a motion not to do something.

*Venise made a motion that we reject the offer. Vicki McMahon seconded the motion.*  
Chairman Wells called for any discussion.

Bryan Sharp – we had a lot of land owners and affected parties in here tonight discussing this and I am just really concerned how this would be perceived by them if we start taking money from the people who are trying to secure these leases, this core space and so forth. You know when I read this the first thing that popped into my mind was a payoff, bribe and play to pay and I don't think we want to go there. So for that reason I think we need to definitely reject this offer.

Dale Livingston – well do we want – everybody has been saying about all these things that we need legal counsel, legal counsel and if they are making an offer to pay for legal counsel. We are going to take our ARPA money, we are going to take money from us to pay for legal counsel to make sure we do this stuff right.

Bryan – this is one of those situation that we haven't been prepared for this. We have known things like this were coming. We have been caught blindsided by this and we should have been a head of the game and we're not. We are behind it. To that point we are going to have to live and learn. We are going to have to ante up like big boys and use the funds in the county to crap this for the residence of Christian County.

Venise – I just want to say I think this is very unethical. To start taking money from a company that we are trying to write an ordinance regarding this issue. I just feel it is very unethical.

Dale – I don't know how it was presented but I mean they are wanting us to just draft the ordinances. Are there any strings tied to this?

Chairman Wells – I received a letter and they simply offered to send us a check for \$25,000 for legal fees. Set it in an account. Mr. Poggenpohl I believe you looked at this and your opinion of it was there is nothing unethical about this, legally.

Wes – I am not going to make judgement on what you guys want to do. To me, there weren't anything tying us to anything. It appeared to me you guys could hire – use the money to hire a local attorney. They would assist you in drafting as strict of an ordinance as you want. It doesn't put any obligation on us to even pass an ordinance or not to pass one. I understand your concerns. That was really my own opinion, it didn't put any obligation at all on the county in accepting the money other than at the end of the twelve months whatever we don't use it goes back. I agree that we should have somebody look at it. I am not an environmental lawyer. To be honest, the only ordinance that I have seen since I have been here or been asked an opinion on was about the high voltage transmission. The draft proposal that was at the meeting last week. I saw it when I got the board packet on Friday. I hadn't even seen it. Not even laid eyes on it. You guys are considering it before I was even asked to put an opinion on it. Someone needs to look at it.

Bev – don't you think realistically it should go to an attorney that knows about the environmental problems and what could occur that that's their specialty. Like he said he can't do it he is criminal. They should have an attorney that specializes in this.

Chairman Wells – my biggest thought of it is and on another attorney. I believe legally the county is obligated to take Mr. Poggenpohl's advice. Legally. Mr. Havera sat there and even Mr. Poggenpohl has sat there in the past three months. Sometimes they tell me things I don't want to hear. But, he represents the county, legally. If we want to pony up money, if we want to hire an outside attorney, we should probably get that to Mr. Poggenpohl for a recommendation. I mean he would know where to go. I am looking up does this guy no anything about it. He has been to law school I believe he can tell us the name of firms that deal with this type of stuff. I can tell you what company build houses and what companies sale carpet but I believe he is the guy who can tell us what types of attorneys we need for this. I do agree with that.

Dale – I know in northern Illinois they are trying to keep - they tried to zone windmills out. They ended up passing zoning ordinances and they didn't stand up. Whatever ordinance we pass, it needs to pass with the current laws.

Bryan – I have no dispute that we need legal counsel on this and we need a lot of it. This is totally new. I think this is almost unprecedented what we are trying to develop here. There is not a lot of examples. So we have to use counsel and best resources as possible. I just don't think we need to be taking money from the people who are trying to run this project – out there actively trying to engage land owners, actively trying to sign leases, actively trying to acquire core space, soon to be actively filing with – I just don't think it passes the smell test. I don't like how it appears.

Ken – just clarification so the motion is not to accept the money. The idea of us getting counsel is a separate issue for us to address -

Chairman Wells – the only thing on the floor right now is whether or not we are going to accept \$25,000 in money from the developer/owner. I get them confused. I am dealing with 5 different companies with solar that has 5 different names for the projects and you know, a lot of different names. Yes, all we are talking about now is whether or not we want this \$25,000.

Gene – I am not going to be here but I agree with you. He is our counsel and we get his opinion first. If he is not happy with it he can guide us to where he thinks we need to go.

Chairman Wells – while I am glad you agree with me I don't think it matters. Legally I don't think it matters what any of us think. He represents the county.

Gene – we get his opinion. And if he is not satisfied with his own opinion he's not fluent with it, then he can recommend us to go somewhere else.

Mike – I think the question in front of us right now is strictly over do we take \$25,000 or we don't take \$25,000.

Chairman Wells – that is correct.

Mike – getting an attorney is a separate discussion. But having said that, very minimum appearances are bad. We already know we have a contingency issue. We are going to have folks that feel strongly probably both ways. I don't know. It certainly makes it look like we have already decided what side we fall on by starting out by having them pay. I mean it wouldn't be the right opinion but I could someone say yeah they gave you the opinion you want. That isn't likely what would happen, but that is beside the point.

After no further discussion, Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin (abstained) 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, (15) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; (1) abstain The motion passed (Linda Curtin abstained because she has several family members that are land owners that have foot prints in this project and I will be abstaining on every vote with this project)

- **Carbon Fee Schedules** – last month the carbon fees schedule was presented to this board and this board sent it to Highway Buildings and Grounds and Zoning committee and they tabled that motion. Couple of board members were in my office earlier this week and gave me new different carbon fees schedules. The one that we sent to the ZBA was tabled at the ZBA. I apologize. Because they tabled that fee schedule, they didn't know what to do. I asked Vince to draw up a couple other fee schedules to bring to the board to see if the board wants to send them to the ZBA so that they have some options. When the ZBA dealt with wind, they were able to take parts of different text amendment proposals and put them together. The chairman of the ZBA tells me they are not allowed to let's say there was a fee of \$20 and \$10 they can't just whip up \$15. For this reason, I asked Vince to send me so that I can send them on to you some additional carbon fee schedules and then I believe there was a couple of others that Bryan brought in today. My question is does the board want to look at any one of them and send any one of them to the ZBA. My concern, just like when we send stuff to a committee, its tabled and its locked in the safe and we have no idea when its coming back. I am trying to get them something that they feel like they can move forward on if the board agrees, because if they don't move forward we have nothing.

*Dale made a motion to send all 6 carbon fee schedules to legal to find out what we can legally do with a second by Craig Corzine.*

One is tied up with the ZBA table but the ones you have today I believe there are 6 of them. Are you saying send all 6. I think the ZBA big hold up was they didn't think what was in front of them was legal.

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

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin (abstained), Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce (n), Dale Livingston, Vickie McMahon (n), Venise McWard, Gene Price, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp (n), Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, (12) aye; (3) nay; (0) absent; (1) abstained. The motion passed (Linda Curtin abstained because she has several

family members that are land owners that have foot prints in this project and I will be abstaining on every vote with this project)

- **Carbon Capture and Storage Ordinance** – this was tabled in the zoning committee meeting. A couple of board members came into my office. They thought what they had would have been tabled. There were some things that needed to be changed. They presented that to me. I believe there was some significant differences and what I was handed because those amendments had a different set back. Those text amendments had a different fee schedule. Because of that I told those board members I would bring that to the board tonight and let the board decide if they wanted to do anything with them or wait until the ordinance comes back from the committee where it was tabled. So you have these ordinances in front of you and it is up to the board. Is there a recommendation

*Dale made a motion to send to legal to see what we can legally do with a second by Ken Franklin.*

Bev – some of the terminology in the one you sent back that has the yellow in it – the difference – there is still terminology there regarding the solar the lighting. It should have been changed to carbon capture storage and they are leaving tower fencing in there and everything.

Chairman Wells – I understand that but when the board members came into my office they gave me a new ordinance that changed setbacks and fees only. That's what I got. I felt changing the setback – if your telling someone this ordinance you are going to have to be 25 feet away and this ordinance you are going to have to be 250 feet away and you are telling someone here the fee is \$5 and here the fee is \$50 to me that is a totally different ordinance. That is what I was asked to bring to the board tonight.

Bryan – do we have a time with regard to find legal opinion on this. What kind of time frame - This may be a little out of your realm and you may be recommending that we forward this? What lead time, lag time. Any thoughts.

Wes – realistically what I what I think would be the best approach is to have this sent to the same committee that tabled the other version. Looks like I need to reach out and see what it would cost to retain an attorney that would be qualified to handle something like this and so I could try to have some names by next month's committee. That's about as good as I could do.

Chairman Wells – I think Bryan, the motion for the fees, we are already sending that to legal and that's him. And this motion is to send it to legal. That's states attorney Poggenpohl, so if it goes to him, now we are going to be at his pace. We can send it back to committee but then he has to go to committee meeting, if this is sent for legal, he is going to look it over, read part of it then decide, come back and tell us this is who I believe you should contact. If he does not feel he has the time or expertise in the legal field to deal with it. So by sending it to legal, it is going to him and he will come back and tell us something hopefully next month.

Bev – you were at the zoning meeting; they are absolutely saying we are not doing anything else until we have legal counsel. They rejected everything and sent it back to us the county when they were in the zoning.

Chairman Wells – I thought they tabled

Dale – tabled

Bev – they tabled it but they don't want to do anything. In the minutes, if you read it they are not going to do anything because they don't have legal counsel.

Chairman Wells – Bev, that is why I came up with a different amendment so that we can start trying to move it. I don't know how the majority of the board feels. I don't know how this vote will go. But I think we owe it to the public to move this forward. One step was to send it to them and they table it. I brought this back and there are significant changes I believe and the board is making motion on them and you must agree with that also, different amendments and different fees. I agree with you and I don't blame them they aren't lawyers either. To me the motion to send it to Mr. Poggenpohl let him work and he will get back to us when he can figure it out. And he will make a recommendation as to who he feels what company we need to approach with it.

Dale – I didn't make the motion but it is tabled for now for us to look at it again next month in the zoning committee right.

Chairman Wells – that is correct. You take it off the table in your committee. I would think it would come off the table, vote to send back to here so the board can send it with the rest of them to Mr. Poggenpohl.

Bryan – just wanted to make a comment to Wes, when reviewing this what is being said to you, I just want to make the statement it is very confusing. It doesn't follow. There is a lot of contradictory items I see in there with regard to wex and carbon capture storage. So it is not a very clean proposal.

Chairman Wells – However let me say this. It is the only one like it in the country. Bryan stated he hopes so. Chairman Wells stated now Bryan you can be derogatory if you want to. We have looked high and low and you haven't been able to find one either. Nobody has been able to find this anywhere in the country.

Bryan – I would just to that point though, we were directed to prepare something for us to observe, look at and to consider but when we take it from wex and we apply it to carbon capture and storage, getting that cleaned up and making it something presentable would be nice.

After no further discussion, a roll call vote polled all ayes with Linda Curtin abstaining.

- **Cat Room Bids** – I have to inform you I received an email from Betty, the US bank is the trustee of the Anna Willie fund and Betty sent me an email from the bank, from a Mary Jo Jansen vice president of Wells Management and Trust. The US Bank is trustee of the Willis trust animal shelter does not believe the funds from this trust should be used for construction. Anna Willie at the time of her death left 20% to the animal shelter

construction fund and 20% to the trust and care of stray animals. We did not believe she wanted any of this money used for construction. So with that being said, Vince is not here. That was part of the 70 sum thousand dollars that he wanted to use to build this but the trustee of the money is telling us that money goes to care for of the animals. She already spent money on construction. That might be something I don't like to hear. I am in favor of letting them build this building, but without this money we are going to have to go a different way.

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to do anything for the cat room. Dale stated to give them ARPA Funds. Chairman Wells stated he would have to rule that motion out of order for tonight it is not on the agenda. Maybe could be placed there next month but not tonight.

*Ray Koonce stated with the new information regarding the cat room he would make a motion to forward this back to the finance committee to see what they can do with a second by David Puccetti.*

Chairman Wells called for discussion.

Bev – can they also check the other two funds to see if they can use that money.

Chairman Wells – I guess we can but I believe those funds are locally raised money, I could be wrong – Betty, is that money in accounts that Vince has?

Betty - not that Vince has. There is the private donation of \$26,000 that is left and then the other \$24,000 was coming from Friends Of. They also stated tonight that they were not going to release any funds until they got more information from Vince off the cat house. They said they have received very vague information – they weren't happy and until – they have requested information from Vince and still have not received it. So she said tonight she wasn't going to release funds until they got all the information.

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

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: 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, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion passed

- **GoRail Letter** – Martin Oberman Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board works in D.C. Illinois is the center of US freight rail. I think everyone has a copy of the letter in their packet. I don't think I need to read it all. They are asking that this be signed by me as the chairman. As you all know, I don't like signing anything without you guys knowing what is going on.

Bryan – asked if the Chairman could explain –intermodal and switching fees...

Chairman Wells – I understand that. It is talking about signing something in support of the railroad - surface transportation board. I am not a railroader. I have a hard time with it.

Bryan– I feel like we need to visit with somebody

Venise – I just want to make the comment the railroad is very difficult to deal with – at least that was my experience in the past.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to have this signed. There was no motion.

- **Monthly Meetings** – We talked about this last month – I brought up about monthly meetings because everyone was showing up at meetings. I don't know if anybody wants to do that or not. Last month we noticed everyone coming to all the meetings anyhow and I thought instead of having all the committee meetings we would have 2 monthly meetings. Is there any interest in this?

**MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – MARCH 15, 2022**

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u># of Meetings This Month</u></b>
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
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	3
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Gene Price	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
David Puccetti	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Bryan Sharp	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Chuck Smedley	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Thomas Snyder, Jr.	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
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 Mike Specha and seconded by Timothy 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: Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vicki 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wells called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until April 18, 2022. *A motion was made by Tim Carlson and seconded by Gene Price to adjourn until the next meeting on March 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.