

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**  
AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY  
ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN  
TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, AND BY TELECONFERENCE ON **November 17, 2020**  
*ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, COUNTY CLERK*

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The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

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

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Tim Carlson and Donna Hibbetts did signify a quorum and was declared. Tim Carlson, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, and Clark Pearce participated remotely.

**ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the October 20, 2020, County Board minutes. *A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Linda Curtin to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, (14) aye; (0) nay; Tim Carlson, Donna Hibbetts, (2) absent; The motion carried.

**CHRIS-MONT EMA UPDATE**

Greg Nimmo updated the board with the latest statistics related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1,113 additional COVID cases and 11 fatalities since the last board meeting
- 2,107 total cases to-date in Christian County
- 9.8% less ICU hospital bed availability – currently at 25.1%
- Region 3 was at 7.5% at the last meeting and is currently at 16.7%
- More time indoors and colder weather is leading to an increase in cases
- Stress and exhaustion levels are high at the hospitals
- Memorial Health Systems reported over 300 employees quarantined across all their facilities
- Some local patients are being sent to Alton, Danville, and Effingham, due to the lack of availability of equipment or staff
- 34 deaths in long-term care facilities; 5 community deaths ranging in age from 40's to 90's; 2 Department of Corrections deaths
- Morrisonville, Taylorville, and Pana schools are using remote learning, driven by staffing issues
- The health department is working on contract tracing but it is being overwhelmed with the large number of cases
- 5 currently working on contact tracing and 2 additional in training
- If you get a positive test you are to quarantine for 10 days and would be released if you have no further symptoms associated with COVID
- If you live in the same house as one with a positive exposure, it's almost guaranteed you would also be quarantined, but for 14 days because of the incubation period
- Large gatherings are an issue
- Vaccine planning is underway between Chris-Mont EMA and the health department
- Long-term care facilities are in the process of signing or have signed contracts with Walgreens or CVS locally for vaccine distribution.
- Tier 3 mitigations began today; wear mask, wash hands, stay at home, essential businesses only

- Asking to be cautious since hospitals could be overwhelmed with COVID and a possible large flu season
- CARES funding submittal is complete and it's in the review phase
- Montgomery County was approved last week; Christian County's reviewer has been provided all requested information
- FEMA public assistance funds have been applied for through June; will ask for another block for the July through October period
- FEMA fund are mostly for supplies – Plexiglas, sanitizer, gloves, etc.

Board member Vicki McMahon confirmed that the Tier 3 mitigations did not start until the coming Friday. Board member Mike McClure asked about the quarantine period of either 10 days or 14 days. Greg explained the 10 days is for a positive test with no symptoms, no sickness, and no fever. If you are an exposure, your quarantine period is 14 days because it could take that long to see it.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Edwards first called for public comments from the room and there were none.

#### **Remote participation:**

Tom Snyder, Sr. asked about the restriction on the number of people allowed into the building and the meeting. Board member Matt Wells said that he would go to the door and ask the deputy to call the Sheriff and find out if 22 is the number of people to be allowed in. Tom wanted the access to the building to be fair amongst the board members, elected officials, and the public. Matt Wells returned from the courthouse entrance after having spoken with the deputy and stated that Tom and his son would be allowed to enter the building.

### **PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS**

These will be addressed in the committee minutes.

### **READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. The October Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
2. The October 2020, Public Defender's Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
3. The Treasurer's Reports, for the period ending on October 31st, 2020, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for October 2020 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The October 2020, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated November 5, 2020, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County September PCOM report was received from the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. Also received was the C.E.F.S. 2020 Annual Report. The letter, monthly report, and annual report, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
7. A check and a report were received from Cable One, Inc. for the 3rd quarter, 2020, franchise fees. The check was in the amount of \$1,250.98 and was deposited with the Treasurer.

### **APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ**

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE-No meeting

Board member and committee chair Phil Schneider updated the board on two projects:

1. Bill Kennedy has been contacted about insulating some pipes in the Circuit Clerk's office
2. A new fountain would be about \$2,500 from the foundry in Mexico
  - a. A casting can be made of the existing fountain
  - b. The company often has trucks in the area but the timing may not work with getting the fountain disassembled and loaded

### EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE-November 9, 2020-Minutes read by Matt Wells

#### COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The meeting was called for an attempt to answer further questions on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and how other programs/processes as eminent domain, other grants, TIF and Enterprise Zone may work with or conflict with CEDS.

Member Brian Wilbur requested that both Jeff Nolen and Mary Renner be allowed to speak as guests on the topics for questions and answers which would exceed public comment time limits. Acting Chair Matt Wells accepted a motion from Ray Koonce and a second from Brian Wilbur to open the discussion for Jeff Nolen and Mary Renner as speakers other than public comments. A roll call vote polled all ayes and the motion carried.

Jeff Nolen's question and beliefs are that eminent domain could be obtained if the CEDS was in place and more specifically the wind companies could be declared a public utility through CEDS. Mary Renner's responses:

- She has been in the economic business for 38 years and neither she or many colleagues have never come across anything like the relationship between CEDS and eminent domain.
- CEDS is a strategic tool to finance large 50/50 grants for infrastructures in municipalities.
- It is a plan for a "state determined" region of counties to come together stating their strengths and weaknesses through lengthy analysis.
- The Economic Development Agency governs CEDS by policy not eminent domain.
- In order for a municipality to be awarded a grant from the EDA, a public hearing is required. If there are any legitimate objections or controversies at the hearing, they will not award the grant.
- A recent example of such a grant was the Taylorville Industrial Park. At that time Christian County was covered under West Central Development Council, however, now the EDA does not recognize West Central for those grant applications.
- Partners in Progress was created to write and update the strategy plan for the group of counties including Christian, Montgomery, Macoupin, Calhoun, Green and Jersey. Their cost was a minimal \$1300.00 for each county where as if any county were to go on their own the cost could easily cost \$70,000. Standing alone is not favorable in the eyes of the EDA and points are low towards the application.
- These are not the only grants available and do not need CEDS [example USDA], but none with the magnitude needed for infrastructures.
- This would be a tragedy for the county if this is not passed.

State's Attorney Mike Havera was asked to respond to the topic from the legal standpoint.

- After consulting with Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes legal firm, CEDS has no bearing on whether or not eminent domain is obtainable. They are two different processes.
- Illinois has not declared wind to be a public utility.
- During the time the County was associated with West Central, eminent domain was not asked for or received thru CEDS funding.

- Again, eminent domain can only be determined in the courts.

Several public comments were heard. With no further discussions, Ray Koonce made the motion to recommend the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to the full Board with a second by Brian Wilbur. A roll call vote polled all ayes: Ray Koonce, Brian Wilbur, Matt Wells and Molly Alaria. The motion carried.

Board member Venise McWard asked if there were any current or future projects and Becky said none with the county but did not know whether the other entities in the county had any projects. Venise also asked if there were two people per county on the CEDS board. Becky responded that a regional board hasn't been created yet but she and Clark Pearce, chair of the finance committee were on the original CEDS board. Board member Craig Corzine asked who determines the county's representatives on the CEDS board and Becky responded it would be the choice of the board chairman and the rest of the board.

*A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and was seconded by Molly Alaria to accept the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, (9) aye; Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Tim Carlson, Charles DeClerck, Dale Livingston, (6) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.*

**AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE**-November 12, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce

#### CLAIMS

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

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

#### CTI SERVICE CONTRACT

In 2015 the County began a service agreement with CTI for technical services to all county departments. For that time period we have paid for 90 hours/month of service at a rate of \$44.50/hour with no increases in hours or rate of pay. Bobbie Dean, General Manager of CTI submitted proposal last month to increase hours and the rate of pay. During the October board meeting it was denied. A negotiation with Mrs. Dean took place afterwards. The changes are as follows: the proposed changes are 100 hours at \$50/hour or \$5,000/month and \$750/month for the back-up plan. The renewal increase is 3%. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahan to accept the contract for 100 hours/month at \$50/hour and the additional backup service at \$750/month with the stand alone department funds to reimburse the general fund and to review the CTI contract during regular budget hearings. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the contract for 100 hours/month at \$50/hour and the additional backup service at \$750/month with the stand alone department funds to reimburse the general fund and to review the CTI contract during regular budget hearings.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, (14) aye; Craig Corzine, (1) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### APPROVE TO SEND WAGE INCREASE IN NOVEMBER FOR REIMBURSEMENT

As pre-determined, the Supervisor of Assessments will have a wage increase effective 12/1. As the State reimburses half of that salary, a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Venise McWard to submit the increase to the Illinois Department of Revenue in November for the December 1<sup>st</sup> increase. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Linda Curtin to submit the Supervisor of Assessments' salary increase to the Illinois Department of Revenue in November for the December 1<sup>st</sup> increase.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### APPELLATE PROSECUTOR RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Annually, a resolution is presented to accept legal services to the States Attorney's Office when there is a conflict and for guidance for the annual fee of \$15,000. This has been submitted into the budget. A question was asked as to how this worked with the wind attorney. States Attorney Havera responded that the Appellate Prosecutor's office was originally assigned [Griffin Winning] to assist us. However, it was recognized that there was a client conflict and no Appellate ordered firm was available with wind experience. Ben Jacobi was recommended by Giffin Winning. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Matt Wells to adopt the resolution R2020SA012 Annual Appellate Prosecutor's Resolution for FY 2021.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### FY 2021 BUDGET RECOMMENDED

Treasurer Betty Asmussen sent out a revised agenda from the last one put on file.

- She explained that the unemployment rate was just received and had increased. She made those adjustments to all of the offices.
- Coroner Winans submitted a letter explaining the need to increase two line items for autopsies and equipment (body bags) as this year has created an overage and the next year may not be any better.
- She had received information from Laura Cooper that the short fall amount would be about \$30,000 which would go into the revenue side and she made that adjustment.
- The deficit for FY 2021 is \$387,054.00.

*A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to accept and recommend the final budget to the full Board.* County Engineer Cliff Frye noted there was an error on the highway department budget where line items were not totaled correctly and the revised version was presented for approval. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

Treasurer Asmussen presented the Tax Levy Ordinance for adoption. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Tim Carlson to adopt O2020CB010 Tax Levy Ordinance.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### FOUR RESOLUTIONS FOR THE SALE OF DELINQUENT TAX PROPERTIES

*A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to accept the sealed bids and to adopt resolutions: R2020TR008-South Fork Township parcel 15-12-08-312-005-00, R2020TR009- 6 Hannon Mobile Home Park, R2020TR010- 23 Hannon Mobile Home Park, and R2020TR011- 55 Hannon Mobile Home Park.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil

Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

### OCTOBER TAX SALE

Treasurer Asmussen reported that although anticipated a large number of properties would be on the list, it was a normal tax sale with no spike in unpaid taxes.

### ESDA UPDATE

Chairwoman Edwards was asked by Greg Nimmo to pass along this update.

- CUREs is now requesting follow up info. Montgomery County had their total approved yesterday afternoon using the same format we submitted. This is a different reviewer and they are requesting additional detailed info--individual reviewers to interpret things differently.
- CUREs allotment being requested from March-June 30 is \$424,989.
- Betty will get the additional information to Greg.

### NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

*A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Dale Livingston to extend the Emergency Disaster Declaration to the date of the next county board meeting on December 15, 2020. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.*

### MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT

*A motion was made by Molly Alaria and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of November 2020. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.*

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u># of Meetings This Month</u>
Molly Alaria	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Timothy Carlson	\$200.00	\$25.00	1
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	0
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	4
Vicki McMahon	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Brian Wilbur	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

### APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

None

### RECOGNITION OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

Chairwoman Edwards recognized each of the county board members that were leaving the board. She spoke of their service on the board, thanked each one, and asked them to speak.

- Brian Wilbur – September 2019; appointed
- Molly Alaria – December 2016; elected
- Phil Schneider – December 2016; elected

- Charles DeClerck – December 1988; elected; eight years on Zoning Board of Appeals prior to election in 1988 – Board member Ray Koonce presented Charlie with a card signed by the county board members.
- Becky Edwards – December 2016; elected – Chairwoman Edwards spoke of the accomplishments gained for the citizens of Christian County during their time on the board. She thanked the elected and appointed officials and the employees of the county with their help with the projects. She ended her comments by highlighting the continuing problem of COVID-19 in the county and asking the board to lead the way with stopping the spread of the virus.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Charles DeClerck and seconded by Molly Alaria to adjourn until Monday, December 7, 2020 for the reorganizational County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.