

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 **October 20, 2020**
ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, 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;

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 6:30p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the September 15, 2020, County Board minutes. *A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Mike McClure to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF JUDGE

Chairwoman Edwards called upon Kimberly Koester, Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, to discuss the salaries of probation officers and Chief Managing Officers. Judge Koester described the process that uses a committee including her, Chief Management Officers, and comparison with other Circuits. The compensation plan is performance-based, encompasses the entire Fourth Circuit, and is pursuant to the State Legislature fully funding probation departments. Board member Venise McWard asked which of the two amounts provided to the finance committee were correct, \$9,978 or over \$12,000? Judge Koester responded that the raise is based on promotion, performance, based on merit, and longevity, depending on employee. Before the new compensation plan, was approved the salary of the Chief Probation Officer was \$66,447. She received a 10% raise because of a promotion due to the hiring of an additional pre-trial officer to supervise. She also received a 5% longevity raise for twenty years of service. Her new salary for those two increases is \$76,414. Effective December 1, she also receives a cost-of-living/merit increase and is eligible for an additional 5.2% based on her evaluation, but will only receive about 3% because the compensation plan has a maximum of 8% excluding promotions. After the other adjustments the amount will be \$78,707. The next 5% longevity increase is not available until 2029, which would be her thirty year anniversary. Chairwoman Edwards confirmed with Judge Koester that the 3% increase would be effective December 1, 2020, and evaluation are performed annually by the committee. Board member Mike McClure congratulated Judge Koester on her upcoming retirement. Judge Koester ended the discussion by stating that she is aware of the financial issues that the counties of the Fourth Judicial Circuit are facing and these steps would not be taken unless merited and full funding by the legislature.

CHRIS-MONT EMA UPDATE

Greg Nimmo updated the board with the latest statistics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The positivity rate has been increasing for the region. The full allotment of over \$424,000 of CURES funding has been applied for. The data for the public assistance FEMA program (75% reimbursement) is being entered now. Chairwoman Edwards asked if Greg could describe the additional restrictions that may occur with the increased positivity rate. He said restrictions on restaurants, bars, and gatherings would be increased and could reduce the current amounts by about half. Becky commented that she also sees many people out who are not wearing masks and she recommended all of the board members encourage everyone to wear masks. Greg also added

that he hoped everyone would try to avoid the virus as much as possible because of the limited treatment options available. Board member Ray Koonce asked Greg if he could provide the number of cases from the locked-down facilities that the general public would be able to access. Greg said about 150 of the current 994 were from those facilities and the rest were the general public. Ray then asked if there would be any type of disaster drill coming up. Greg said that the response to the COVID is being used since the other requirement had been waived for this year. There should be a Christian-Montgomery exercise next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards first called for public comments from the room.

Janet DeClerck:

- Some people testing positive are being told by their private physician that they can go out in public after 7 or 8 days without being retested. This is not consistent with the health department.

Remote participation:

Jeff Nolen:

- Jeff has not received answers to his questions that have been asked several times. Is the CEDS the only way to get grants because others are getting grants without it (Taylorville High School)?
- Could any energy company benefit directly or indirectly from the CEDS?
- The eminent domain law grants power to acquire property to achieve objectives of economic development projects.
- Why is this being pushed through by some board members without answering these questions?

Terri Thomas:

- Requested the board defer the vote due to many unanswered questions including the FEMA floodplain.
- Is there an inspector or manager on the county side?
- Concerned it's being rushed through.
- Concerns of Tovey residents and verbal stipulations that have not been completed.

Virgilyn Hayter:

- A sixty-year resident of Tovey who would also like the questions answered.
- Who will run the pump station when the power plant closes?
- How will it affect the drainage?

Jack Hanlon:

- Superintendent of the South Fork School District 14.
- It will provide much needed funding to the community and district.
- Many cuts have been made since the closing of Peabody Mine #10.
- The funds would allow additional teachers, building renovations, curriculum changes, and take care of existing teachers and staff.
- Thanked Swift Current Energy for choosing this community.

Lonni Curry:

- The upper portion of the project is surrounded by FEMA floodplain on three sides. This floodplain is an approximation and may extend farther. A base flood elevation study by a licensed engineer will determine the location of the floodplain.
- She created an overlay of the proposed solar farm layout and the FEMA FIRM panel. It overlaps the solar farm in some areas and is very close in other areas. Permit reviews should have been required by the county. The IDNR wetland study is not the same as a floodplain permit review.
- The submitted packet include the documentation mentioned here.
- IDNR denied a request for the developer to build on the easement around the lake. The map shows some areas overlap the easement.
- The manually controlled lake level is also addressed in the submitted packet.
- She requests the proper floodplain permits are obtained and base flood elevation studies are performed before the special use permit application is approved.

Ray Brunk:

- Asking for a 30 or 60 day deferral in approval of the solar farm. He works out-of-state and does not have time to do the research needed. The public could do the research themselves with the extra time.
- Flooding in front of his house is common. The nearby street corner is washing away. Afraid the flooding will get worse with the installation of the solar panels.
- This will affect the village for 30,40, or 50 years to come.
- Who would be responsible for flooding? What is going to be the traffic flow?
- Just asking for a deferral and not to deny the project.

Jody Aiello Carriker:

- A resident of Tovey and the project will be five hundred feet from her front door.
- Many village residents don't understand what's happening.
- They support the much needed revenue for the school district.
- The fenced off project will stop the wildlife from coming through.
- The power plant is going to shut down and it's not clear who's going to run the pump to keep the water away from Tovey.
- Magos Avenue is not passable after a good rain.
- How are panels going to be cleaned? If using water, how will that affect the drainage?
- The responsibility of protecting Tovey and its residents is in the hands of the Christian County board. Proper ordinance changes, regulations, drainage, eminent domain, and inspections have been taken before approving the project.
- Asking to defer the vote until the drainage issues are resolved and make this and any future project more transparent and protect the community.

Tom Snyder, Sr.:

- The CEDS has to come out of committee approved before it comes to the full board according to Robert's Rules of Order. It's on tonight's agenda and if approved tonight without a special finance committee meeting, you're totally violating Robert's Rules of Order, per your own attorney.
- Think about the can of worms you will be opening up. Everyone wants the CEDS approved, you just have to follow the rules. If you violate the rules this time, future board members could do the same.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

Chairwoman Edwards asked if someone from Black Diamond could address some of the concerns raised during the public comments. Daniel Sheehan with Swift Current Energy responded that a floodplain map was provided and the project did not fall into that area. The lake level is controlled by the power plant and if it shuts down, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources would designate an entity to care for the lake or take responsibility themselves. Mr. Sheehan also stated their project would not be within the recreational easement area around the lake. Board member Dale Livingston questioned if there was a floodplain and Mr. Sheehan said not according to the maps they have and nothing that has been identified in their engineering process. Becky also questioned that there was nothing through the federal or state government, or the Corps of Engineers showing a floodplain in that area and Mr. Sheehan said that it was his understanding there was not. Board member Brian Wilbur asked if the concerns about the flooding in Tovey could be addressed in the community benefit agreement. Mr. Sheehan said that it's hard to take on existing problems but they could do so ditch work to help with drainage. He also stated they would add the drainage work along the west road to the agreement with Tovey. Board member Phil Schneider expressed concerns about the drainage in the area as well. Mr. Sheehan stated that the topography had been reviewed by their engineers and the site vegetation plan has been designed for this location. It's designed for better surface water infiltration into the soil and to slow surface water drainage off of the project. Dale asked if the runoff would be less than if planted in corn or beans and Mr. Sheehan said it would be less. Mr. Sheehan also discussed the drainage of the Eggimann and Conner parcels. A condition of the Special Use permit is an agreement with the Eggimann's to install drainage tile. Board member Vicki McMahon expressed concern about the citizens of Tovey and not having a written agreement for them. A special meeting was supposed to be held but did not happen. Vicki also asked if some proposed changes to zoning code involving drainage should be addressed first and then the solar farm. An independent study may also be needed. Mr. Sheehan noted that their engineering firm is using methods viewed as best practices in the industry. He said that he was

not invited to any meetings that Tovey may have had, but has done his best to answer any questions asked. Vicki said that some residents had left messages with Mr. Sheehan and not received a response. Chairwoman Edwards asked if the issues discussed would affect the solar farm. Mr. Sheehan said it was to the benefit of the project to have the drainage work properly. Becky said that her experience included having to deal with property owners around a project that might require additional deals to complete. Mr. Sheehan mentioned the agreement with the Eggimann's; an amendment to their vegetative screening plan; and the community benefit agreement with Tovey. Board member Matt Wells asked Mr. Eggimann about the agreement with the solar farm to improve the drainage on approximately 300 acres of property, and it was stated that the agreement was in progress at this time. Chairwoman Edwards stated that the agreement is a conditional item attached to the approval of the Special Use Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals and she did not feel the county should be responsible for drainage. Kyle Berry, attorney for Black Diamond Solar, expanded on the agreement with the Eggimann's and Mr. Conner being with the solar farm and not with the county. The agreement has to be in place before a building permit could be applied for. Becky asked what would happen if there was an issue with the agreement and Mr. Eggimann sought remedies from the county. Mr. Berry responded that Mr. Eggimann's remedy would probably be a breach of contract remedy to enforce the terms of the agreement. Dale Livingston explained that the agreement was between the Eggimann's, Conner's, and the solar company and did not have anything to do with the county. Board member Craig Corzine had the same concern as Becky. Mr. Berry explained the ZBA condition that stated the project shall enter into an agreement relating to drainage issues etc. with the Eggimann's and Mr. Conner. They're still working on it with the land owners. No construction can begin until the agreement is in place. The terms of the agreement will be between the project, the Eggimann's and Mr. Conner. Matt Wells asked assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson about the county's position. Craig Corzine stated again his concerns and Vicki discussed other landowners without written agreements. Chairwoman Edwards asked Zoning Administrator Vince Harris if he was comfortable that the Zoning Board of Appeals has given the board a good opportunity to approve the Special Use permit and a building permit cannot be issued until the agreements are signed and those agreements do not include anything that is a responsibility of Christian County. Vince said the ZBA sent the Special Use to the board with the understanding the developer and the Eggimann's would enter into an agreement that had nothing to do with the county, but to protect them. He did not see anything that made the county liable for their agreement. Becky said that she wants conditions on when the building permit can be issued. Board member Brian Wilbur reminded the board that when the ZBA sends a recommendation to the county board it has to be acted upon at the next meeting. Mike Masterson, Mayor of Tovey, said that there was some paperwork that Mr. Sheehan would be bringing to him and that many of the questions asked were already discussed with Mr. Sheehan. Mike said that the Special Use should go through and agreements should be in writing before the building permits are issued. Vicki asked the Mayor if Tovey was protected based on the talks with Mr. Sheehan. Mike said that he needs to see everything in writing, but Mr. Sheehan has been great to work with so far. He also said that at their last two board meetings there were discussions of what was offered by the solar company, Mike also said that he is waiting for the final agreements so their village board can vote on them. Phil Schneider commented that he is not interested in voting on a project when several issues are still hanging. Mr. Sheehan responded that all of the requirements for a Special Use permit are done. Mr. Berry mentioned other items in the ordinance that are completed after the Special Use permit is issued and before a building permit is issued. Chairwoman Edwards stated that there are more benchmarks to hit in the ordinance after the Special Use permit is issued and additional conditions could be required prior to issuing a building permit. Matt Wells stated that tonight's approval is only for what the ZBA has provided and any other conditions need to go back through the ZBA. Becky confirmed with Vince that the ZBA agreed to move forward with the Special Use permit with conditions on the building permit approval. Becky continued that she disagreed with Matt and that additional conditions could be required before the building permit is issued. Several board members believe it has to go back to the ZBA. Mr. Berry said that the statute allows the county board to impose conditions on the issuance of a Special Use permit. Mr. Berry cited the statute as 55 ILCS 5/5-12009.5 (c) of the Counties Code where the issuance of the Special Use permit may be subject to conditions reasonably necessary to meet those standards.

A motion was made by Matt Wells and was seconded by Dale Livingston to pass the Special Use permit (O2020ZN009) as presented by the Zoning Board of Appeals. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (10) aye; Vicki

McMahon, Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Molly Alaria, Charles DeClerck, (5) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

Continuing in the discussion, Mr. Sheehan mentioned the ditch work they would do for the village, the donation of a four acre tract, and some additional monetary donations to assist Tovey. Mayor Masterson confirmed again that he has been working with Mr. Sheehan and looks forward to what will be presented before building permits are issued. Mr. Sheehan mentioned specifically drainage work on the west side of the road from the Thomas property to the drainage ditch and not be responsible for draining the entire village of Tovey. Mayor Masterson also stated that it was his understanding that the pump house is run by the power plant or the future owner or user of the power plant. Chairwoman Edwards stated the power plant announced a 2027 closure date but that is uncertain and she also mentioned it may be turned into a solar plant and storage facility.

A motion was made by Dale Livingston and was seconded by Brian Wilbur that there is an agreement to clean the ditch along the west side of Magos Street in Tovey to drain the parcel to the south before a building permit is issued. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

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 September 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 September 30th, 2020, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for September 2020 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The September 2020, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated October 5, 2020, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County August PCOM report was received from the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. The letter and attached report have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
7. A letter was received from the Senior Citizens of Christian County thanking the Board for the gift of \$2,500. Gifts such as this are utilized toward furthering the goals of the Christian County Senior Center. The letter was from Jennifer Verardi, Executive Director, and is on file in the Clerk's office.
8. A letter was received from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Madame Chairwoman will read the letter.

Chairwoman Edwards announced that the new Enterprise Zone now includes the City of Taylorville, City of Pana, City of Assumption, and Christian County. She thanked WRC Enterprises for preparing the winning application, the Christian County Economic Development Corporation leadership, and the participants in the municipalities that collected the necessary information. She ended by stating this was a major win for Christian County and encouraged everyone to approve the CEDS tonight.

APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Brian Wilbur 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

ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED

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

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE-October 13, 2020-Minutes read by Phil Schneider

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Mathon, the benefactor of the Courthouse fountain wanted to share some history as to the meaning of the "Tall Crane and Bittern Fountain". Around 1906, shortly after this courthouse was first built, a fountain was donated by the local Women's Club. Sometime during World War II in the 40's, it was removed for whatever reasons leaving the circle of concrete that held the water. From an old postcard of that fountain, Taylorville Tourism President Carol Alexander found the company that had the original plans of the casing mold. With little coaxing, Mayor Frank Mathon donated the money to resurrect it back to the grounds in November 2006. He did this in the memory of his parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Mr. Mathon recalls his father's memories of accompanying his grandfather to the courthouse to be an interpreter from French to English. All of Frank and his wife's immigrant relatives have been impacted by Taylorville and Christian County. It was his desire to honor all immigrants who found their way to Christian County. Recently, he noticed there were condition problems with the fountain. His request and desire is that the fountain be refurbished or replaced with an exact replica. He stated the fountain is a treasure and it needs to be refurbished.

Charles Smedley echoed that it needs to be refurbished as the fountain is a show piece at the Courthouse and finding the funds is important.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff Frye presented a professional services proposal from Hurst-Rosche, Inc., Hillsboro, IL to complete soil borings for the bridge projects approved in August. The total estimate is \$17,578 but will be billed based on actual depths drilled. The costs for these services are split 50-50 with the Townships. A motion was made by Charles DeClerck and seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche, Inc. A roll call vote polled all ayes.

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

Cliff Frye indicated that MFT funds can be used for the construction of a building for servicing, maintenance or storage of vehicles or equipment. Combining MFT with the insurance money from the building damaged by the 2018 tornado, we can upgrade the proposed replacement building to a steel framed structure and add facilities such as a lift for vehicle maintenance. This will provide a more functional building. Cliff will keep the committee informed as he gets more information from IDOT on the process using MFT funds.

All of our current projects under design are progressing. Cliff is pushing to get the Bear Creek Road recycling project on IDOT's January bid letting.

COURTHOUSE AND JAIL UPDATES-Bill Kennedy

- Courthouse boiler: It has passed the pressure test and the inspector is due here Thursday, October 15.
- Jail boiler: No inspection until 2021.
- Still looking for storage space to clear out boxes in the basement.
- Nothing yet for board room acoustics. TV and mount has arrived. He will work on mounting on the wall.

- The elevator phone is not working.
- A structural engineer is still being sought to approve ROE floor supports in order to move forward with south entrance support.
- Fountain: The Mexico foundry has not yet returned a call to discuss the fountain. In review; the fountain sandblasting and repainting is still being researched with options of removal and refurbish, look to recast in its entirety, or have it recast in aluminum. Mr. Mathon was requesting either the refurbish or to recast the fountain as long as the original pattern was maintained. Committee Chair Phil Schneider noted that the goal is to do just that and not to change the fountain or to rid of it.
- The leveling of the court reporters office on third floor was a success. The area was a smaller room so the process may not be valid for a larger area. He still wants to try another room-county board room or the circuit clerk's room.
- In a request for projects in the budget, Mr. Kennedy again repeated the wait for structural approval at the south entrance; to remove out of compliance equipment of the new air conditioning units and to repair the original or former air conditioning equipment; repair and reinstall the watch dog controls.

ANIMAL CONTROL/ZONING UPDATES-Vince Harris

- The Zoning Board of Appeals has sent a special use ordinance for a Solar Farm to the board this month.
- In November the ZBA will resume again to add text amendments to the Zoning and Animal Codes: hobby breeders, number of dogs/kennel license, drainage, personal solar panels, and others that will be presented at the December meeting.
- The Department of Agriculture veterinarian, Dr. Sloan and others will meet to discuss ordinances and policies.
- Currently the shelter has 15 dogs, 26 cats and 12 kittens ready on the 31st.
- On the 24th there will be a BARK a BOO drive thru for Crispy Crème donuts and pictures with your pet.

Vince Harris spoke about getting 300 dozen donuts for the event and that for \$15 you get a dozen donuts and a glossy 8"x10" photo of your pet. Today's meeting with the state veterinarian went well.

CEMETERIES

As referred from the Executive Committee, Chairman Schneider reviewed the three cemeteries with only one, Thomas Anderson Cemetery that had active burials and a board of trustees. He felt there was not action to be taken at this time.

COVID TESTING

Will take place on Friday, October 16 and Sunday, October 18 between 9-5 for drive through testing at the Taylorville Fire Department.

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE-October 5, 2020-Minutes read by Matt Wells

WEBSITE HAS APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS LISTED

Michael Gianasi reported he has put the listing of members of appointed boards on the website. They are listed under the County Board tab. At this time there is no contact information listed just names of the members appointed with their city of residency. He has contacted the webmaster for the means to create the "request" form and forwarding ability.

CEMETERIES OWNED BY THE COUNTY

Last month Matt Wells requested information on the cemeteries that were owned by the County and had active burials. It was reported there are three. Two cemeteries are not active and the Thomas Anderson Cemetery is active with trustees submitting the financials annually. In 2007 an additional parcel was deeded to the County. Currently it has not been developed but the trustees have been saving for that. It was noted the trustees have a few plots available and the development of the second parcel would be coming in the near future. The trustees (during a conversation prior to this meeting) have requested a sign on a county road coming from Palmer. Also discussed was the certification of an active cemetery which was last submitted by the County in 2016 and expires this year with a fee of \$150.00. The certification is every four years. Also discussed with the trustees was a fee to be added to the burial fee and paid to the County to

cover that certification fee. Their opinion was for the cemetery trustees to pay the fee and not collect an additional fee on services. A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Molly Alaria to forward the cemetery business to the building committee. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD/HR

Last month the committee tabled discussion about the job description and any changes to the position in preparation for the upcoming retirement of Jan Bland in March. It was their pleasure to invite the department heads to attend this month's meeting and share their thoughts and explain the need for the duties currently being done. A few questions were asked of Bland and the following is an overview of some of the duties.

- What percentage of time is spent on Board vs HR? Response: "It is difficult to say. It all depends on the day and the situations or issues happening at that particular moment. I guess if I had to say, at least 60% HR (but there is 100% of work in that area). There are so many other things that are not specifically county board, but things that are happening at all of the buildings at any given time. She checks payroll, timesheets, oversee maintenance, discuss and am a sounding board for animal control. The office of the board chairman has departments of maintenance, animal control, zoning, solid waste, ESDA under their purview. Most recently the task of coordinating and following up with sexual harassment TRAINING (required annually by law) that we must offer and make sure all employees have had the training (we have had to cancel the trainer three times however, the employees also have the opportunity to get the training online; the COVID situation with the employees and offices that have been quarantined and paperwork and explanations to and for the employees to get paid during their unplanned time away from work FAMILY FIRST ACT; of course, the preparation of MEETING NOTICES, research or gathering necessary information for committees or preparing worksheets past or future DATA FOR EVALUATION; PAYROLL AND CLAIMS AND INSURANCE BILLS—all are reviewed by me prior to payment; ASSISTING DEPARTMENT heads and employees with discipline or grievance issues or terminations. The many and varied duties have just seemed to accumulate over the years—the departments already have so many services to provide to the public or clients where as I provide services to the public, and department heads, employees and county board members. The importance of having one person able to coordinate, organize, be of assistance to all in order to be consistent with union contracts and to be a resource person to answer questions and advise is a service that cannot be overlooked. County board issues and HR issues often go hand in hand." [Some the descriptions have been expanded from the actual statements made during the meeting by the writer.]
- Chairwoman Edwards had sent a memo to the department heads asking them to join the committee meeting or send an email. She read a letter from Joe Stepping from Solid Waste Department. A few points: "I believe the HR position is critical to protect the county and its employees. There is seemingly no end to the rules and regulations governing employment in 2020.....This position also helps to ensure all offices are following the same policies....it can be labor intensive and confusing to many of us who do not deal with them on a daily basis."
- Julie Mayer commented that Joe absolutely summed up her thoughts as well. She is already very busy to add HR that is something so involved. It needs to be someone with the knowledge and time to attend continuing education and trainings.
- Cliff Frye sent a letter and also reiterated Joe's comments. We need consistency, a central location/person.
- Mike Gianasi also agreed with Joe with this changing environment: Family First, FML and collective bargaining so that we are all on the same page.
- Laura Cooper consults with HR to stay compliant and consistent with polices. Something that is very important is being part of every contract negotiation to help the County's union benefits mirror each other.

A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Molly Alaria to send the job description back to the finance committee. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vicki McMahon read a letter from the public to support the need for access to contact appointed persons on all boards and elected officials from the County's website. Additionally, McMahon noticed that Christian County Economic Development Corporation was not linked to our website. Chairwoman Edwards will see that it is included.

Chairwoman Edwards noted that the CCEDC website had been updated and Christian County was now on there.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-October 15, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and was seconded by Phil Schneider to approve the claims presented for October. 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.

PAYROLL/ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Mike Meyer of Computer Information Concepts (CIC) presented the proposal for software for the County Clerk and Treasurer Offices. CIC is a company that specializes in county business, servicing 25 counties in Illinois. He explained that both offices had been presented a demo of the software programs. The financial proposal is all inclusive with no minimum hours of training, on-site training, data conversion and on-site staff during the switch over. The process needs to begin quickly as the current payroll program ends in March. The proposal has a 10% down on a cost of \$61,977.00 and four subsequent years to pay with a 6% interest paid on \$55,779.30. After some discussion, Venise McWard made a motion with a second by Tim Carlson to approve the contract with CIC and pay the 10% down from contingency this year and to budget the payments for the next four years. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and was seconded by Dale Livingston to approve the CIC proposal (no minimum number of hours of on-site training and data conversion) and pay two payments of \$30,988.50. The first payment during this fiscal year will use general obligation bond funds. The second payment will occur when the system goes live (estimated March 2021).

Discussion:

Treasurer Betty Asmussen informed the board that an updated proposal from CIC was provided that had a 5% interest rate over 5 years. She provided an option to the board where half of the \$61,977.00 could be paid with general obligation bond money from the current fiscal year and half when the system goes live next year. Office 0 would pay it back to the general obligation bond fund in the next budget. The two payment option would save about \$7,000 in interest.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, (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 to increase hours and the rate of pay. Over the years the break/fix work and backup management has increased and created a backlog of tasks. Included in those tasks are the necessity of continuing to upgrade security. With the recommendation of increasing the hours to meet the needs of the employees in a timely manner and the importance of the backup, the proposed changes are 150 hours at \$50/hour or \$7,500/month and \$950/month for the backup plan. She also noted that the average contract increase is 3% and their normal hourly rate is \$95/hour. A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Mike McClure to accept the contract for 150 hours/month at \$50/hour and the additional backup service at \$950/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 polled: Ayes-Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Vicki McMahan and Nays-Venise McWard and Tim Carlson. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to accept the contract for 150 hours/month at \$50/hour and the additional backup service at \$950/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: Brian Wilbur, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, (4) aye; Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, (11) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion failed.

CURES REIMBURSEMENTS

EMA Director Greg Nimmo reported that he had submitted \$532,687.68 to the CUREs program for COVID expense reimbursement. The allotted amount for us was \$424,989.00. The difference of \$107,698.68 will be applied to the FEMA-PA funding. More documentation will be needed for some of the funding requests.

NON-BARGAINING SALARIES

The topic was sent back to committee to reevaluate as many felt as the management personnel they should at least receive more than the \$500 increase proposed last month. During discussion Chairwoman Edwards commented that these employees are appreciated and they do an awesome job. A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Mike McClure to add \$1000 to the base pay of the following non-bargaining employees which would exclude the two new assistant attorneys (State's Attorney and Public Defender; Greg Nimmo, Vince Harris, Joe Stepping, Jan Bland, Scott Woods, Brian Grundy, Sarah Carlson, Cindy Drea, Deb LeVault, and Billie Heberling. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.).

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Phil Schneider to add \$1000 to the base pay of the following non-bargaining employees which would exclude the two new assistant attorneys (State's Attorney and Public Defender; Greg Nimmo, Vince Harris, Joe Stepping, Jan Bland, Scott Woods, Brian Grundy, Sarah Carlson, Cindy Drea, Deb LeVault, and Billie Heberling.) 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, (14) aye; Matt Wells, (1) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

JAIL ADMINISTRATOR

The salary of the jail administrator was referred back to committee as well. Initially, it was requested he receive an 11% increase that was then reduced to a 5% increase. His salary could easily be exceeded by his staff members with little overtime. The salary was being reevaluated based on that and the positive changes he made at the jail. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahan to make a wage adjustment to the jail administrator's base salary of \$2,500. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Phil Schneider to make a wage adjustment to the jail administrator's base salary of \$2,500. 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.

BOARD ASSISTANT/HR

Earlier this month the Personnel Committee referred the job description back to the Finance Committee. They in turn sent it back to Personnel. The salary proposed has been submitted in the budget at the top of range of \$40,000 to \$60,000 salary. The motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Venise McWard to send the job description back to the Personnel Committee. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

FY2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer Betty Asmussen reported that she adjusted few new figures to this 2nd proposed version and presented the proposed budget. The salary changes will be adjusted as well. The proposed budget needs to be on file in the County Clerk's office 15 days prior to the November 17th County Board meeting when the Board votes on the budget. Venise McWard and Vicki McMahan motioned and seconded to put *the proposed FY 2021* (including changes at this meeting) *on file*. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Dale Livingston to put the proposed FY 2021 budget (including changes at this meeting) on file. 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.

SALE OF DELINQUENT TAX PROPERTY

A motion was made by Tim Carlson and seconded by Venise McWard to adopt the resolution R2020TR007 to sell the delinquent tax property in Pana Township: 11-25-22-123-003-00. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to adopt the resolution R2020TR007 to sell the delinquent tax property in Pana Township: 11-25-22-123-003-00. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

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 November 17, 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 McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

County board member Brian Wilbur requested the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy be presented again for approval. Chairwoman Edwards stated that this is a grant program of the Economic Development Administration of the federal government for municipalities within Christian County to apply for a 50/50 matching grant. It has nothing to do with wind or solar. Brian said that his intent was to go to the personnel committee but was told by the State's Attorney Mike Havera that it should be brought to the full board. Additional discussion included whether private entities could apply through the program or just municipalities. An example was the Taylorville Development Association was denied but the application was resubmitted through the City of Taylorville and approved. Brian said this was a benefit to smaller municipalities.

A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Mike McClure to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Discussion:

Board member Craig Corzine asked if there was anything in this that allowed eminent domain for municipalities. Becky responded that she has talked with other economic development professionals and it has nothing to do with eminent domain. Without this the municipalities will pay 100% of the costs for projects. Board member Matt Wells asked for comments from Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson because his understanding was this item was at the finance committee. Becky asked that everyone read the Rules of Order of the Christian County Board that do not require a topic go through committee first. Sarah said that if the item died at committee there was nothing to vote on. If it went back to committee and was revised, then this is different. Becky mentioned that the rules do not say anything about items that die at committee do not make it to the board. Board member Ray Koonce asked why are there committees if things can just be put on the board agenda. Becky responded that the committees should be considered a research situation and they should make recommendations to the sixteen person board who has been elected to make a decision. Brian asked Sarah if it died in committee and it's a new month, can someone bring it up on the regular board agenda. He feels that even if it died at committee it can be brought up if someone asks for it. Sarah thought he was correct. Craig also stated that failing at committee is different from being brought up under New Business. Board member Vicki McMahan asked if all of Mr. Nolen's questions were answered. Becky responded again that it's for municipalities to receive 50/50 matching funds for grants. Brian added that most of the time property has to be purchased before you apply for these grants. Board member Phil Schneider said that it was a legal question and an attorney from this area had not spoken with them.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Brian Wilbur, (7) aye; Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (8) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion failed.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT

A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Matt Wells to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of October 2020. 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.

<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	2
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	0
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	5
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	2
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Brian Wilbur	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Brian Wilbur to adjourn until **Tuesday, November 17, 2020** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.