

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 **September 15, 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 and Brian Wilbur did signify a quorum and was declared. Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, and Clark Pearce participated remotely. Brian Wilbur connected remotely (6:40) and Donna Hibbetts arrived after the meeting began (6:57).

ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the August 18, 2020, County Board minutes. *A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* 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, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (14) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, Brian Wilbur, (2) absent; The motion carried.

MOVE CHILLIFEST AHEAD ON THE AGENDA

Chairwoman Edwards called for a motion to move the Chillifest discussion ahead from New Business. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to move the Chillifest discussion ahead from New Business.* 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, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (14) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, Brian Wilbur, (2) absent; The motion carried.

Megan Bryant and Patti Hornbuckle (remote) from the Chamber of Commerce appeared before the County Board to ask for the use of the Courthouse lawn for the Chillifest. Megan said the Christian County Health Department is feeling good about the precautions being taken. Extra hand washing and hand sanitizing stations will be set up. CTI has donated masks. Many events from prior years that cause large gatherings have been canceled. HSHS (Hospital Sisters Health System) is taking over the children's program to make sure it has adequate space. Phil Schneider asked Megan if she had the support of the health department. She said that they went over everything on the phone with the health department and they were satisfied. *A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Dale Livingston to approve the use of the courthouse lawn for the Chillifest.* 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, (14) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried. Patti Hornbuckle thanked the Board and said they were going to make this the safest possible Chillifest ever. She added if anyone had questions to please call her.

MOVE PUBLIC COMMENTS AHEAD ON THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Linda Curtin and seconded by Matt Wells to move public comments ahead on the agenda. 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, (14) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts, (1) absent; The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards first called for public comments from the room.

Jim Griffin from the law firm Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz Ltd. spoke on behalf of City of Roses Wind Energy LLC, concerning the wind energy text amendments before the Board. He talked about the county board's discretion and the authority to adopt text amendments to the wind energy ordinance rests exclusively with the county board. The board can choose to adopt some but not all of the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendations or could choose to not adopt any of the recommendations. The ZBA is the recommending body, but the final decision rests with the county board. The decisions on the text amendments will determine whether wind energy projects are possible or impossible in Christian County. If the county board adopts the residence setback, property line setback, and shadow flicker limits applied for by the PCC and recommended by the Zoning Board, wind energy projects will be impossible in Christian County. No projects have been developed in Illinois or anywhere else that can meet those setback and shadow flicker standards. Other counties that wanted to stop wind energy projects from being developed have adopted the same or similar standards. Ultimately, it is up to the county board to determine whether or not this county will have the possibility for wind energy projects. Invenergy and Tradewind are in agreement with almost all of the ZBA proposed recommendations, except five key changes that must be made to make wind energy projects feasible. 1. For the residential setback, adopting the 1,600 ft. setback proposed by the zoning administrator, not the 3,250 ft. setback recommended by the ZBA. 2. For the property line setback, maintain the current county standard of 1.1 times turbine height, and reject the ZBA's recommendation of a 1,640 ft. property line setback. 3. For the shadow flicker standard, adopt the thirty hour annual limit as proposed by the wind energy companies and the zoning administrator, and reject the zero hour shadow flicker limit recommended by the ZBA. 4. Not approve the provision that requires road use agreements to be entered into and not approve the provision that participating land owners must sign a waiver when such a waiver is already contained in the lease agreement. These changes to the ZBA recommendations will allow projects to be developed.

Barb Miller, resident of Locust Township, thanked the board members for their service to the county and said that she was a leaseholder in the Rolling Farms wind project proposed for Tradewind. She has lived in Christian County for most of her life and lives within the project footprint. Just one wind project could bring in millions of dollars to our community and we are lucky enough to have two under development. Dr. Loomis, a professor from ISU has a report that shows Rolling Farms alone has the potential to bring in \$34.2 million dollars to the Pana school district. She has heard concerns about safety and she said she would not have leased her land if she did not think it was safe. She believes in wind energy but there are several problems before the board tonight. A large unworkable setback of 3,250 ft. is ridiculous. How is any company supposed to develop a project with these restrictions? A setback of 1,640 ft. from the property would be you, the board, saying to me and all other land owners that we cannot do what we want on our own property. Both sides should compromise, even if it means sending it back to the ZBA. She thanked Vicki McMahan for talking with her about shadow flicker. She did her own research about health concerns and did not find any issues health caused by shadow flicker. She was referred to a practicing medical doctor, Dr. Ellenbogen, who specializes his research towards wind turbines and health, and everyone should hear what he has to say. She ended by saying that more time should be taken some of these issues. It is important to the county that a well-educated decision be made tonight.

Michelle Pavan with Invenergy, representing City of Roses wind farm, spoke next. She has been working about two years on the project. She worked on a solar project that was approved by the board last year and is here working on a wind project. She said there are about 45 families and 16,000 acres in the project. They signed about 4,000 acres from the start of the ZBA until today. She is in negotiations with about ten other families with 5,000 acres that are also interested. She asked the board to allow the project to continue so she could return with a project application. She wants to show the board who the participating families are, where the turbines will go, and which turbines will be built. She wants to show the board how they can comply with the setbacks, but they need to pass something that she can comply with. There is no way the project can be designed with the proposed setbacks. Not a single turbine could be placed on the map. She wants the chance to return to show the board the project. She said that if the five points that Jim mentioned go through it makes the project impossible. She asked the board for a fighting chance to return and to not kill wind in Christian County.

Greg Vanderkamp, Invenergy regional manager for renewable energy development in the Midwest, thanked the board for the time and consideration put into the process. He also mentioned there are 45 participating families and they are working with an additional ten

families and 5,000 more acres. There continues to be interest and motivation to participate in the wind project. They've been a business partner in the community for four years and have a location on 2nd street in Pana. He said that their project, together with the Tradewind project, is expected to bring \$550 million dollars of investment into the community if constructed. \$95 million dollars of property taxes could come into Christian County over the life of the project; \$9 million to the county and \$56 million to local school districts. Four different text amendments are in front of you today. One by Invenergy and Tradewind; one by the zoning administrators group; one by the zoning board; and one by PCC which is against wind projects in Christian County. Our ask is to let us make these investments into the community, not to kill these investments and be business friendly in Christian County. If a restrictive ordinance is passed it shows that Christian County is closed for business and future projects, not only wind but battery storage, data centers, warehouses, and factories will look at Christian County as closed for business. I ask that the board consider the zoning administrator's text amendment and approve that and deny the zoning board recommendations to keep Christian County open for business. Tom Swierczewski, senior development director with Tradewind Energy and Enel Green Power. He said he runs development for the eastern United States, and Jeff Hammond and Vince Green were members on his team. He said this was about economic development and property rights. You've heard through other speakers and the zoning board hearings about how big of an economic engine these projects are - \$550 million dollar capital investment. This is about jobs, about downtown revitalization, helping family farms, additional rent to our landowners, better roads, better schools through taxes, jobs, and property rights. A 3,250 ft. house setback represents about a mile and a quarter circle around a house where that property owner essentially gets to dictate what can and can't happen on other people's properties. He understands the need for setbacks and 1,600 ft. is more reasonable and workable. The property line setback is 1,640 ft. and a quarter mile is 1,320 ft. The short end of an 80 acre farm is 1,320 ft. How can you have property line setbacks from each side that overlap by hundreds of feet? You literally take a map and obliterate the opportunity to place wind turbines anywhere in the county. This opposition group is the same as most opposition groups throughout the Midwest. Bureau County, Livingston County, McLean County to a degree, DeWitt County where we just got done, and now Christian County. This is a travelling road show and they have a playbook. This is a strategy they have to try and stop wind. They're not interested in compromise; they're not trying to be reasonable. If you adopt these regulations as-is, you are stopping wind in Christian County. We're here to ask for your support. Hopefully Christian County is willing to do business with us. We have big plans for Christian County and Illinois. It's really about economic development and property values.

Jeff Nolen agreed it's about property rights, but said it's about the property rights of the people the turbines are going to encroach over. They want to put the turbines with the 1,640 ft. safety distance over the top of a person's property. The person should own their property and be safe on their property no matter where they're at. The 3,250 ft. setback is not only for safety, but for sound, which is a nuisance. Nuisance is a part of your zoning code that you need to watch. On shadow flicker, I have a grandson that we've testified to that has a problem that could be affected by shadow flicker. I know the gentleman from Tradewind was not here for all of the testimony, but there was a lot of testimony of special needs kids and mothers. If you didn't have tears in your eyes after listening to them, you don't have a heart. They said please don't interrupt my child's world; we came out into the country to protect our kids in their little world. Talking about property rights, how do you have the rights to come onto my property with your shadows? These things are as tall as the St. Louis Arch. Another problem was they would not give the safety guidelines to the 660 ft. The ZBA had to go with the ones on the 450 ft. They've gotten by with a lot of muscling and it's all over money, and I want our property rights.

(remote participation public comments)

Joyce Throneburg stated the ZBA testimony examined and cross-examined over many days the past few months, many hours, a lot of testimony. Everyone had their chance to present their case and have their testimony cross-examined. The ZBA members listened, probed with good questions, they took their time, and I was impressed at the attention they gave to this important issue. She reminded everyone that with these regulations any property owner has the right to waive these if they choose. This package is a compromise. There are no caps on noise. There is nothing addressed on audible or inaudible noise. None of the existing Illinois towers are 660 ft. tall so we are entering uncharted territory with this. We don't have the funds to send out colored brochures like the wind company; we can't run huge ads in the paper week after week. We can only implore you through a phone calls, letters, and a few ads. The ZBA studied this and I feel it's a slap in the face to the time and effort they gave to open this up again. She thanked the ZBA

for the time they put into this and to the county board members going through a difficult decision.

Terri Nolen brought to attention that the wind companies said “could bring X amount of dollars” and the key word is “could.” She also said PCC is not anti-wind. They are pro-safety for setbacks and for the non-participating people in the community. She mentioned Barb would read things on websites and find out it’s from somebody who’s anti-wind and same thing for her, she’s reading things and sees it’s from somebody who is pro-wind. You have to look out because you talk with other communities that have these and they come in, they put these up, they make promises, and they’re gone. The county is left with all the tragedies that are really what’s left from the wind turbines. It’s not all sparkles and silver linings; there are some issues with the wind turbines, especially 660 ft. tall wind turbines. Thank you to the board for taking the opportunity to research and come up with good recommendations.

Tom Snyder, Sr. asked why CEDS was back on the agenda. Per Robert’s Rules, if it hasn’t passed out of committee, you cannot vote on it at the full board, which was also said by the county’s attorney. If it can’t be brought to the full board, why is it back on the agenda? When it comes to wind, I would like to hear a motion that public comments can happen after everyone talks so we can continue to hear both sides.

Susan Wise spoke about the use of the word “could” in previous comments. She said the wind companies say PCC has a playbook and they have a playbook as well. The setbacks for the 660 ft. towers as recommended by the ZBA are what it should be. You have to protect someone’s home and protect their property lines. Grain bins and sheds could be closer to the property line than the home. I don’t want to work on someone’s grain bin that is only 700 ft. from a turbine. You have to consider where the house is and where the property line is. Any landowner can sign a waiver. The wind companies say that if we go with what the ZBA recommends, it would kill the project. It could make it hard but they could pay the non-participating landowners to sign waivers. If they can come up with money to pay landowners to lease their land, they can pay people who don’t want them close, but money might make a difference. We have experience with wind companies near our properties in Iowa and we did not participate and infringe upon our neighbors just for the sake of money. The money that the county would get from the wind project is not nearly as much as they are saying it could be. If you talk to other counties that have them, you will understand what I understand.

Sean Schwab started by describing himself as a 4th generation taxpayer in Christian County. On behalf of the Schwab’s, Grathwohl’s, and Pitchford’s, we are strongly in favor of this rare opportunity. We believe that this opportunity circles around infrequently. We have townships in Pana, Assumption, and Lincoln to name a few. On financial impact, some of my relatives in the early to mid-80’s, don’t have an opportunity to increase their income, but here they do. The footprint of a turbine sits in less than a half-acre of space. The money you make off of that half acre in a cash rent situation versus the turbine project; you won’t make that money back for a hundred years with one year of the compensation of the turbine project. If this was left to the landowners, it’s a no-brainer. Unfortunately other people outside of the project want to play spoiler. He said listening to the meetings reminded him of a giant HOA meeting. I want to go ahead and support the clean energy movement and the turbine project. He said for the homes within the project that don’t get turbines, they’re going to make enough money each year to pay for their taxes. There are people that have lost their land because they couldn’t pay their taxes and this alone would go ahead and protect them. If we want to be less oil dependent and less reliant on offshore energies that aren’t U.S. based, we have to take regional steps like this. These regional steps become quantum leaps nationally. Throughout the country there are tremendous, successful wind projects that are out there. I’ve been on these projects before. I’ve had normal conversations right underneath these things; been in my car a mile away, half-mile away; been in structures, been out of structures. When people are speculating of what could be, use the science-backed figures and science-backed studies from the U of I. Our forefathers were businessmen and entrepreneurs. It they had an opportunity to lasso oil, they would drill for oil. If they had an opportunity to do their own mechanical work, they would fix their own tractors. They also had their own little turbines, their own little windmills. That’s why you have over 45 families jump on this. We strongly support the project and want to remind everybody that if any of the PCC suggestions or recommendations pass, it sounds like it will kill the project. I thank you for your time and support of the project. It would be nice if the landowners could choose what they want to with their own land.

Adrian Adcock asked the board to consider the hours the ZBA spent this summer in hearings. Experts testified to the dangers of wind if safe setbacks are not adopted. Wind’s response is it will kill the project. Wind claims the county will benefit from jobs but during finance committee last week, Mary Renner stated twice that wind would not bring jobs to Christian County. Wind

claims your taxes will be lowered yet the county assessor, in a letter to the editor to the Breeze, said there is no proof. The numbers are changing. Mr. Craggs, a respected Taylorville realtor, cautioned residents what wind could do to your home value and has done to others. Dr. Scheller, a physics professor from the University of Southern Indiana, encourages 8,500 ft. setbacks. I ask that you support the ZBA decisions in totality. If wind wants taller towers, there must be larger setbacks as a compromise. Thank you for your time and consideration.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

O2020ZN007 Text Amendment TX20-7; a-Amendment page update; b-Additions to the definitions of farm animal, residential grass; c-Add Inoperable Motor Vehicle Ordinance O2011ZN026 to be included within the Code from stand-alone ordinance.

Zoning Administrator Vince Harris spoke about having many issues with grass over the past two years. There is no grass ordinance and he believes we need a grass ordinance. This is only for R-1 and R-2 properties. It's for towns where we do their zoning. There are several people that don't cut their grass and we'd like to have some kind of mechanism to do that. This would handle that and fine the folks that don't want to cut their grass \$200 per week until they did cut their grass. Chickens have been a major issue in several areas, especially in Morrisonville, which is why we want to define what a farm animal is. He had one person call and say they don't mind chickens but I hate roosters. He sent a letter to the owner and the response was asking what is the definition of a farm animal and Vince had to say that he did not know. Vince asked the state veterinarian and was told if Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O. Vince added that would tell the judge that. He wants to update the code with chickens, horses, goats, ducks, and various other things that are all in the packet you received tonight. Vince continued and said that he would like to move the inoperable car ordinance that is a standalone ordinance into the code as Appendix C as was done with the WECS and the solar. The amendment page would go after the front page so if this gets passed tonight it would show that these got added on the 15th of September, 2020. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to adopt O2020ZN007 as presented.*

Discussion:

Venise McWard asked if you are grandfathered in if you already have horses and chickens now. Vince said that if you are in R-3 or AG-1 you're ok, but we're talking about inside city limits with this. Tim Carlson said that in Macon County you're allowed to have chickens but no roosters. Matt Wells raised a concern with the automobile ordinance that it says they have to be within a building if inoperable. The Sheriff keeps vehicles for evidence and fences are not included. He said the Sheriff may have vehicles for years that don't run but are kept for evidence for court cases. Matt strongly urged that fenced in areas be acceptable for vehicles that do not run. If the Sheriff keeps vehicles in a fenced-in lot, other should be allowed to do the same thing. Vince responded that the Sheriff's office is a special situation as a county entity but he thought an amendment could be made to the ordinance. Matt added that if they're inside or a fenced-in area, it makes a big difference. State's Attorney Mike Havera commented that an exception can be made for a tow facility or law enforcement. Phil Schneider asked if that needed to be addressed now or through a text amendment. Vince agreed a text amendment would be needed. Phil continued by asking if anyone in the county has a horse, for example, that would have to give it up if we passed this ordinance. Vince said again that if you're in R-3 with horses now there wouldn't be any problem. Phil then asked if you're in R-1 and on the edge of town. Vince said you can get a variance. Venise mentioned that some with horses are right outside Bertinetti's and are considered R-1. She asked if they are grandfathered in. Vince said that if they are R-1 it's wrong anyway because you can't have horses in R-1. Vince said his son lives just outside Taylorville and is in R-1 and cannot get chickens. Venise asked about rabbits and Vince said they are not something you have a problem with and are considered farm animals. Phil asked if they should vote no on this and bring it back since they want to add language and Venise agreed. Becky stated that if they wanted to add something to a text amendment it would have to go back to the ZBA and Phil agreed. *Phil Schneider withdrew his motion and Dale Livingston withdrew his second.*

O2020ZN008 ZBA ADVISORY REPORT FROM WECS TEXT AMENDMENTS: TX20-02, TX20-03, TX20-04, TX20-05, AND TX20-06

Chairwoman Edwards next brought forth O2020ZN008 for discussion. Ray Koonce began noting discussion with many residents. *A motion was made by Ray Koonce and was seconded by Clark Pearce to table O2020ZN008 until the December regular county board meeting.*

Discussion:

Ben Jacobi, representing the county in the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, started by describing the role of the county board and options going forward. The ZBA received evidence in their hearings and constructed an advisory report pursuant to the county zoning ordinance. According to the zoning code, the board is required to "act" on the proposed amendments submitted to the ZBA (TX20-2, TX20-3, TX20-4, TX20-5, TX20-6). Ben continued by clarifying what it meant to approve or deny what was presented. The vote is whether or not to approve the text amendments and applications, not the ZBA advisory report. The role of the board is to independently review the applications and proposed text amendments. The board can pick which, if any, to approve. The board may also reject any or all. The purpose of the ZBA is to help streamline the process for the board. The board cannot re-write a text amendment into something that has not been proposed yet. Adding language that has not been proposed would require a new application to the ZBA and through hearings just like the ones proposed. He also described the use of the word "act" in the zoning code and that this part of the code had not been interpreted by a court yet. Based on the context and this statement in the code, "The County Board shall act on every proposed amendment at their next regularly scheduled meeting following submission of the aforementioned advisory reports. The County Board may pass any proposed amendment by simple majority vote except as indicated below." Ben's opinion was that it made sense to him that the board needs to accept or reject the amendments at the next meeting, which is this one. He continued stating that if delayed, the board could be at risk of an applicant filing suit for mandamus and seek an order from a judge. Ben said the risk would go up the longer the board waited to act and waiting until December would probably draw a complaint in court for an order of mandamus ordering the board to act before that.

Matt Wells asked about the current motion and Ben said his opinion was to not table it until December.

Ray Koonce withdrew his motion to table O2020ZN008 until December.

Dale Livingston asked Ben if the board passed the text amendments, tomorrow someone could write another text amendment and go through the ZBA again. Ben said, the zoning code stands as it's posted online and yes, new text amendments could be submitted and they would also go through hearings. Dale then asked if what they passed tonight could be changed again in two months. Ben did not want to put a timetable on the action, but he said the zoning code is subject to the text amendment provisions. On a side note, Ben commented on the previous discussion of chickens and said that it's likely under the zoning code that if they are a permitted use now and an ordinance is passed to not allow chickens in that area, they would probably be considered a non-conforming use. Under the code, they are probably still allowed until the use is changed somehow. Most people are grandfathered in under the non-conforming use section of the ordinance.

Zoning Administrator Vince Harris said there were more amendments coming from a drainage district to both the WECS and solar ordinances.

Chairwoman Edwards asked Ben if the board waited until December and there was a court action, could they put it back on the agenda immediately. Stating that it was hard to know what the court action would be asking, the board runs the risk of a lawsuit asking the judge to order the board to decide the issues sooner. It might be the next meeting, a special meeting or something else. If the judge finds the ordinance requires that the board address the issue now and you don't, and the judge finds that it is a mandatory provision of the zoning ordinance, the judge could order the board to do it anyway. Chairwoman Edwards asked State's Attorney Mike Havera his opinion and he deferred to Ben because of his expertise in zoning.

A motion was made by Craig Corzine and was seconded by Venise McWard to adopt all of the WECS text amendments as presented by the ZBA (Accept the ZBA advisory report in full). Brian Wilbur asked for the motion again. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Charles DeClerck, (10) aye; Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Brian Wilbur, Linda Curtin, (6) nay; (0) 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 September Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
2. The August 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 August 31st, 2020, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.

4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for August 2020 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The August 2020, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated September 2, 2020, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County July and August PCOM reports were received from the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. The letters and attached reports have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.

APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Phil Schneider and was seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the communications as read*. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Donna Hibbetts, 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, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED

A motion was made by Matt Wells and was seconded by Dale Livingston to accept & file the committee reports as printed. 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, Donna Hibbetts, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

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

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE-September 14, 2020-Minutes read by Matt Wells

The Executive, Personnel, and Liquor Committee met on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:37 p.m. in County Board meeting room with a 19 person limit, 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. There was a quorum.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

A hold harmless agreement with Montgomery County was presented as an addendum to the previously approved intergovernmental agreement between the two counties for the sharing of the ESDA position, funding and duties. It is standard language to indemnify and hold harmless each county and its directors, officers, elected officials, appointed officials, agents, insurers, employees, and volunteers from and against any and all liability damages and expenses of any kind, including without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees arising out of the acts or omissions of the county and its directors, officers, elected officials, appointed officials, agents, insurers, employees, and volunteers including but not limited to those performing services pursuant to this agreement. A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to approve and forward to Montgomery County for approval and to include with the existing intergovernmental agreement. A roll call vote polled all ayes and the motion carried. *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve and forward to Montgomery County for approval and to include with the existing intergovernmental agreement*. 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, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Venise McWard had requested information on the Health Department website. She asked if there was a "request-response" option on the website that the public could ask questions and receive an answer specifically to respond to COVID questions. Michael Gianasi explained the Health Department has their own website. There is however, a link on christiancountyil.com to the Health Department. Greg Seiders agreed to check into the request for website responses.

COVID REPORTING STATUS UPDATE

EMA Director Greg Nimmo gave an update to the COVID reporting for reimbursements. The federal [FEMA] called Public Assistance [PA] runs through 4/20/21 and CARES [Illinois] runs through 12/31/2020. The first reporting period that will be claimed is 3/1/2020 through 6/30/2020 for both programs. We will then claim the period 7/1/20 through 8/31/20 and then monthly thereafter. Details as to what items can be submitted for salary/administrative leave reimbursement are still being evaluated and yet to be confirmed. Montgomery County has hired Bellwether to assist with CUREs funding eligibility to ensure we getting the maximum amount possible. Chris-Mont EMA being a consolidated agency will save the expenses of having to hire the company in both counties because of the knowledge gained through that partnership. FEMA-PA will reimburse allowable COVID expenses at 75% and CUREs will reimburse allowable expenses at 100%. Utilizing both programs will allow us to receive the maximum allowable reimbursements.

ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY BOARD/HR JOB DESCRIPTION

The job description was submitted as information of the many duties associated with the combination position. Acting committee chair Matt Wells was unclear for the need to address the topic at this time. Janet Bland responded that the personnel committee and board needed to know the duties and specifically the finance committee as the salary was increased significantly to fill the position with someone having experience in Human Resources. The many aspects of HR duties are all done in house. It was also suggested that other departments take over some of the duties. Becky Edwards commented that the department heads already have plenty on their plates. Julie Mayer agreed these are HR duties and that would require a lot of extra training and she is not interested in adding more to her office. Bland agreed a few duties could be redistributed, but the purpose of “central record keeping” is the continuity from each department in reporting and maintaining records, or the administration of policies, union agreements, labor laws and so much more. It was suggested the other department heads should have a say in how to proceed with any changes the Board considers. A motion was made to table the discussion and bring the department heads back into the conversation at the next committee meeting by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Ray Koonce. A roll call vote polled all ayes and the motion carried.

OCTOBER 5 NEXT PERSONNEL MEETING

With the next scheduled personnel committee being on a holiday, Brian Wilbur motioned to change it to the first Monday, October 5th. It was seconded by Ray Koonce and a roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried. *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Phil Schneider to change the date of the next Executive/Personnel committee meeting to Monday, October 5.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSE

The approval of the liquor license request was moved to the end of the meeting to allow the applicant Caplin Torres to attend. Brian Wilbur made a motion to table and with no second died. A motion was made by Ray Koonce and seconded by Matt Wells to approve the liquor license Class B – owner Caplin Torres and forward to the full board pending the review of the zoning officer if the car sales business and the gaming room could be in the same building. A roll call vote polled aye: Ray Koonce and Matt Wells and nay Brian Wilbur. The motion carried. Matt talked with Zoning Administrator Vince Harris and the property is zoned C-2, Commercial-2 and there are no zoning problems. *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Ray Koonce to approve the liquor license Class B – owner Caplin Torres.* 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, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A caller suggested that the Caps liquor license location was in the city limits and that the HR procedures were performed by other third parties and the department heads should manage their own employees time off and pay.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-August 27, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce

CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER SALARY INCREASE

There was a question about the large increase awarded to the Chief Probation Officer by the Chief Judge. In the description is was a promotion (making an adjustment in base salary) and an increase for this next year. Without a lot of discussion, it was noted that the full statute addressing who sets the salary for this position needed to be researched further. States Attorney Havera will research and follow up at the next meeting.

HR/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The salary proposed for a County Administrator/HR by title seemed a bit confusing. To clarify, a county administrator does not take the place of the County Board Chairman and cannot by statute. It is a different title for the current day to day duties, but to get someone with a degree and/or experienced the salary is suggested to be increased. Where to get the money was asked, but like any other budgeted item it must be evaluated. Jan Bland noted that at the next Personnel Committee meeting she will describe the many duties assigned to this position the reasoning behind the duties. It was noted that an associate start under HR starts at \$40,000. This position would be to continue with current duties.

OFFICE BY OFFICE WAS REVIEWED

There were no questions of most offices, however a few were called back for further discussion or explanation.

A few changes were reported to the committee both up and down.

- Sheriff's budget of the 11% increase for the new jail administrator and wonder what other cuts could be made to the largest county budget.
- ESDA's budget as the first year of the shared position has many just wanting a better understanding of the grants and splits between Montgomery County. The CARES grant amount and application needs more discussion.
- The GPS line item was discussed that if the general fund pays the bills, the GF should also receive the fees.
- The adult program from Probation should stay in the fee fund and wait for the reimbursement.
- The public defender budget did increase due to the new assistant PD, but the office supplies nearly doubled. A return discussion was requested with a \$2300 reduction in office supplies.

TENTATIVE BUDGET

Treasurer Asmussen will get levy info and any other changes inputted into the tentative FY 2021 budget and mail when ready to the committee members.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-September 10, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vicki McMahan made a motion immediately to move public comments to the beginning. Venise McWard seconded the motion and a roll call vote polled 3-2: aye Venise McWard, Vicki McMahan, Tim Carlson and nay Clark Pearce and Mike McClure. The motion carried.

Jeff Nolen from the audience distributed papers to committee members and spoke for three minutes contending the validation of eminent domain possibility with passing the CEDS plan. Committee member Mike McClure noted his understanding it was only a method to obtain a grant. Becky Edwards responded to the Nolen question that the speakers this evening could answer any questions.

Taylorville Mayor Barry spoke to the committee not as public comments but as a speaker. He commented that he has attended other county meetings and no wind farms were mentioned as being considered in the plan. Christian County was asked to join the other five counties in replacing the West Central Group. He urged the board to approve in order to give the other little towns in the county a chance to apply for EDA grants.

Another caller asked about the minutes of August 2019 and paying an annual fee. [Minutes were incorrect.]

Another caller questioned speakers getting more time than public comments and that this strategy was just being pushed through.

Committee Chairman Pearce read a letter just received from Congressman Rodney Davis in support of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy six-county consortium. A CEDS plan “is a vision for economic growth and to bring tax dollars back into the community.” “In 2018 the City of Taylorville and the Taylorville Development Association received a \$537,288 grant from the EDA to improve Taylorville Commercial and Industrial Park. To qualify a CEDS had to be in place.....It is important to note that adopting a CEDS does not usurp local planning and zoning decisions.”

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve the claims as presented for September. A roll call vote polled all ayes and the motion carried. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to approve the September claims as presented.* 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, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Evan Young, County Board Chairman from Montgomery County spoke to the committee to encourage their participation and approval of the CEDS. This is a useful tool necessary to obtain EDA grant funding. He gave the example of Litchfield federal funding for water and power to serve their industrial park. He noted that all other counties had approved the plan as of August 18th. Vicki McMahan objected to the speaker having more than three minutes to speak. [State's Attorney Havera clarified public comments are not on the agenda and speakers were invited to present information.]

Heather Hampton-Knoble, a former Montgomery County Board member, area farmer and area economic development volunteer and advocate spoke about the importance of the CEDS. This is the first check off on any application for funding that the CEDS is in place within a regional group of counties. The plan includes workforce creations; “it is how we will train our young people” to bring our young people back to the smaller communities. Montgomery and Christian counties need to work together as they share things like community colleges, roads, bridges, sewer and communication delivery systems.

- Again spoken, without this plan in place there is no opportunity to even apply for funding.
- Jersey County is in a hurry to complete this six-county process. If not approved soon, they may leave the group. Then a new plan would need to be compiled and a new region requested.
- Money to pay for the strategy plan is expensive. We have paid our share now.
- To stop participation would eliminate us from any funding until we started over again. There is an urgency to continue.

Mary Renner has been the county’s economic development director for many years and has brought funds back to the community.

- West Central failed to update the CEDS plan for many years. Several counties refused to pay the high dues when WC did not keep plans current.
- After the new plan has been established along with a region, an application can be made.
- During the public hearing for the project initiated by a local government, any negative comments from that hearing could cause the application to fail. The hearing would stop any proposal to move forward, so the citizens have a say so in the projects applied for.
- Additionally, new requirements to file for reimbursement for COVID money may include having a CEDS plan.

With no discussion, Mike McClure made a motion to pass the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan and was seconded by Clark Pearce. A roll call vote polled the

following: aye-Mike McClure and Clark Pearce; nay-Vicki McMahon, Tim Carlson and Venise McWard. The motion failed 3-2.

ACCEPT DONATION FOR 911 SYSTEM UPGRADE

Chief Deputy Scott Woods presented a resolution to accept a donation from the Macon County Public Safety Training Foundation to upgrade the 911 system. He explained that Mr. Howard Buffet has been a friend and an auxiliary deputy with Christian County for several years. The donation is to pay the Sheriff's portion (general fund) for the 911 system over a four to five-year period contract. It was noted that Mr. Buffet has purchased other things over the years that have been beneficial to the deputies and the committee was appreciative of his generosity. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Tim Carlson to approve R2020 SF 006 to accept the funds to upgrade the Sheriff's portion of the 911 system. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Craig Corzine to approve R2020SF006 to accept the funds to upgrade the Sheriff's portion of the 911 system.* 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, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEWS

Sheriff-An adjustment was requested for the new jail administrator at about an 11% increase. Cecil Polley was praised for his accomplishments and changes made at the jail since February. However, the adjustment was requested to allocate salary to the administrator that was at a higher rate of pay than a Correctional Officer with two days of overtime. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahon to increase the Jail Administrator's salary by 5% as an adjustment. The roll call vote polled ayes: Tim Carlson, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard and Mike McClure; nay was Clark Pearce. The motion carried. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to increase the Jail Administrator's salary by 5% as an adjustment.*

Discussion:

Dale Livingston asked if this wasn't part of the Sheriff's budget and the board has no control over it. Matt Wells stated he said the same about an assistant State's Attorney. *A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahon to table the increase of the Jail Administrator's salary by 5% as an adjustment back to the Finance committee.* The previous motion by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure was withdrawn. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, (12) aye; Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Brian Wilbur, (4) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

Public Defender-Tiffany Senger the new PD, explained that several items needed to be reorganized by type of expense. With a new assistant public defender, the caseload now peaks at 700 from a few years ago at 400. The supplies and office equipment were separated which created a different picture. The final budgeted dollars were the same.

The committee received a response from the Chief Judge concerning the Chief Probation Officer salary increase. The explanation still left an unanswered interpretation from the statute as to who sets the salary—Chief Judge or County Board. The committee has requested further discussion with Chief Judge Koester to clarify certain parts of the statute. The motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahon to table and then rescinded to move that the Chief Judge meet with the County Board to discuss the interpretation. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried. Laura Cooper noted that the increase is part promotion or an adjustment and part the longevity based on the comp plan. Additionally, all probation officers will now be reimbursed by the State and the last two awards will retro back to 7/1/2019. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Dale Livingston to table the discussion and meet with the Chief Judge at the next regular county board meeting to discuss the chief Probation Officer salary.* 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, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES

Options of salary increases which were like other employees had been distributed to the committee members. A question was asked as to what these employees received last year; the response was \$1000. A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahan to award \$500 to the non-bargaining employees as their FY2021 increase. During discussion there was a comment of the private vs. the public sector and people losing their jobs. The non-bargaining employees were the last group to be determined for the budget. This increase was the least amount of all employees. A roll call vote polled aye: Venise McWard, Vicki McMahan, Tim Carlson—Mike McClure, voted present and Clark Pearce voted no. The motion carried. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Mike McClure to award \$500 to the non-bargaining employees as their FY2021 increase.*

Discussion:

Chairwoman Edwards mentioned that Mike McClure described the \$500 increase as a gallon of milk a week. Becky also recommended that if the \$500 was approved, it be given in one lump sum. Ray Koonce called a point of order to state that during discussion an amendment and/or tabling supersedes the main motion if it's made during the discussion. *A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahan to table the discussion to the next Finance committee meeting.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, (11) aye; Brian Wilbur, Becky Edwards, Mike McClure, Clark Pearce, Matt Wells, (5) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

CEMETERY UPKEEP FUNDS-Read by Becky Edwards

Langleyville Cemetery is owned by the County. Each year \$300 is awarded for lawn care and upkeep of a cemetery property. For several years the Langleyville Cemetery has been the only one who asked for the assistance. A motion was made by Vicki McMahan and seconded by Venise McWard to pay Jason Eason the annual \$300 to care for the Langleyville Cemetery. A roll call vote polled all ayes and the motion carried. *A motion was made by Becky Edwards and seconded by Phil Schneider to pay Jason Eason the annual \$300 to care for the Langleyville Cemetery.*

Discussion:

Phil Schneider commented that he believed Mr. Eason had mowed the cemetery the entire time he has been on the board and he was very appreciative of him doing that. Matt Wells commented that the county owns a cemetery that is selling graves and the county should get part of the fee. He said they should approach the cemeteries selling graves and make them pay the fee for us. Chairwoman Edwards said this was an inactive cemetery. Matt clarified that other active cemeteries charge fees and no part of those are deposited with the County Treasurer. Mike McClure also stated that the Langleyville Cemetery is an inactive cemetery. He knew of one burial in the last 38 years of an indigent that was authorized by the coroner. Matt continued that the county may own two cemeteries and he doesn't believe the county has collected any money from them. Matt said that the fee should not be paid by the taxpayers but from the burials in the cemeteries the county owns. Mike McClure agreed that the county should get a fee for burials in those cemeteries.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Brian Wilbur to extend the Emergency Disaster Declaration to the date of the next county board meeting on October 20, 2020. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT

A motion was made by Linda Curtin and seconded by Dale Livingston to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of September 2020. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce,

Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) 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	1
Timothy Carlson	\$200.00	\$25.00	3
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	6
Vicki McMahan	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
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 Dale Livingston to adjourn until **Tuesday, October 20, 2020** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (16) aye; (0) nay; (0) absent; The motion carried.